HIT THE ROAD
Welcome to caravanning and camping

What’s my style?
Tent or a luxurious cabin? Campervanning or glamping? Discover what suits you best.

What can I do?
The sky’s the limit. From fishing to golfing and cycling to bushwalking, there’s no shortage of experiences.

Where can I go?
From Broome to Burnie, Perth to Port Stephens, Australia has countless inland and coastal delights.

New innovations, travel with pets, product reviews... it’s all inside!

It’s time to experience

Hit the road! Welcome to caravanning and camping.

New innovations, travel with pets, product reviews... it’s all inside!
Vanner, camper or glamper?

What’s my style?

For those craving some luxury, many caravan holiday parks offer a range of cabin accommodation ranging from 3 to 5 stars. Common features of caravan holiday park cabins includes balconies, ensuites with spa baths, plasma TVs with DVD players, air conditioning and modern conveniences like microwaves, dishwashers and laundries.

Staying in a cabin is a great option for people who want to stay in quality accommodation but still enjoy the camaraderie and lifestyle of caravan holiday parks.

But before you pack your bags, you need to pick a style. After all, one size doesn’t fit all for this type of holiday adventure.

While some get back to nature in a modest two-person tent, others glamp it up in a luxurious safari tent. Many choose a caravan, or drive a motorhome and stay in a holiday park, while others retain all their creature comforts by kicking back in a fully self-contained cabin.

So, what does it all mean? There’s a style to suit all comers!

Freedom, camaraderie, affordability, flexibility… Words that resonate with millions of people who love caravanning and camping.

Caravanning

Caravanning allows you to explore locations ‘off the beaten track’, particularly available to those with four wheel drives and recreational vehicles.

It’s an extremely comfortable way to camp, with facilities such as a toilet and shower, TVs, full size bed, kitchen appliances and a solid roof over your head... all the features that ensure your holiday will be as comfortable as it can be. Costs vary as there are several caravanning options (see Page 7). If you haven’t owned a caravan before, and you aren’t sure which caravan is right for you, consider hiring a caravan, trailer, motorhome or RV – the best way to find out what works for you and what doesn’t.

Cabins

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Keep it sweet with the one you love

Expectations

Set the expectations of your travelling adventure together before you go. Understanding each other’s expectations will ensure that they have the best chance of being met.

Planning

The ‘dreaming and scheming’ phase of an adventure is almost as much fun as the real thing, so plan your trip together.

Romance

Camping can be as romantic as you choose to make it. Take time to soak up spectacular sunsets, sleep under the stars, spend time talking and sharing, and make sure there’s room for spontaneity in your schedule.

Click here FOR MORE INFO
What's my style?

What is Glamping?

Tent camping

Self Drive

In our increasingly technology-driven work lives, many of us seek balance through simple, slow and down-to-earth holidays with the great outdoors in mind. If that is your preference, tent camping is perfect.

Both seasoned campers and beginners see tent camping as a great getaway, but to have a safe and fun time, preparation is essential. A quality tent with enough space is important, but “sleep” is what you really need to prepare for. Investing in a decent sleeping bag and a quality inflatable bed is highly recommended. Finally, it's important to ensure you have all the required equipment before leaving home.

Camping rekindles in us a desire to get close to nature, yet our busy lives can sometimes mean that preparing for a camping adventure can be stressful. However, getting back to nature just became a whole lot easier with glamping!

Glamping, which is also referred to as ‘Walk in Walk Out Camping’, offers tents known as safari tents (left), which give you a unique outdoor camping experience with several facilities, including large beds, self-contained kitchen with fridges, microwaves, toasters and kettles, ensuite bathrooms and flat-screen TVs.

Click here to join our FREE Experience Caravaning and Camping VIP Club and receive holiday ideas, prizes & much more!
Whether it be sitting on the banks of the mighty Murray River or listening to the waves lap the coastline, fishing is one of Australia’s favourite pastimes. There’s nothing quite like tossing out a line and catching the fish of the day.

It’s not uncommon to see families or couples dangling a line in, with dad (or mum!) passing down some expertise in what can only be called one of the great Australian traditions. Fishing isn’t about what you catch - it’s about the experience, relaxing and enjoying the tranquillity of the wide rivers, large lakes and deep blue seas.

Australia has some truly amazing fishing spots including the entire circumnavigation of our coastline, and many rivers, lakes, dams and ponds.

Golfing

Every year, more and more people are travelling to play golf. Let’s face it, have a great round and you feel like you’re ready to take on the world.

Australia has stacks of superb courses in many diverse and interesting places. There are over 1500 golf courses in iconic and distinctively Australian places.

Why not combine a city break with the acclaimed sand-belt courses in Melbourne? Or the stunning cliff-hugging courses in Sydney? Otherwise enjoy the tropical sunshine on a golfing holiday in Far Northern Queensland or combine wine tasting and golf in South Australia’s wine regions. Then there is Australia’s first golf course in Tasmania or enjoy the beaches along WA’s Golf Coast?

Australia boasts some of the world’s leading golf courses, with the greatest number of World Top 100 courses of any country in the southern hemisphere. Golfing is a great way to stay fit, it’s social and one of life’s passions.
Stargazing

Remember when you were young, looking up at the stars and naming the constellations, making up the ones you didn’t know? That was stargazing at its best. Stargazing is as popular today as it has ever been and the fact is Australia has some of the clearest skies in the world.

In the Australian Outback on a clear night the naked eye can detect somewhere in the vicinity of 5,800 stars! There’s no need for high-powered devices, just bust out your hand binoculars and “hey presto”, you have all the equipment you need. Stargazing is a great for all ages.

Bushwalking

Nature is for everyone and bush walking (aka hiking, trekking, hill walking) provides opportunities for the young, the romantic, the kids, the retiree and even the solo traveller to enjoy it, offering you a lifetime of relaxation and stress-free times.

It also provides benefits such as improved fitness, opportunities to expand your social network and improve your knowledge of the land.

Fossicking

Have you ever wondered what it was like in Australia for the first settlers? The dust, the heat and the desperation to make a buck? Step back in time and discover one of Australia’s oldest occupations – gold mining or gem fossicking.

Fossicking is a great day out. It’s a chance to get your hands dirty and gives you the opportunity to discover the life and times of the early settlers. Many of Australia’s fossicking spots are surrounded by beautiful countryside and townships with a rich and diverse history.

Surfing

When you hear the words Gidget, Jan and Dean, or the Beach Boys, what do you think of? Surfing, of course, long boards and the hedonistic days gone by. Surfing really is a great Australian sport and having fun in the sun is really what Australian summers are all about.

Surfing can be enjoyed by all ages, the young and the young at heart. It’s an activity for the whole family, so hit the beach, ride a wave, run in the sand, flick a frisbee, or just enjoy the beauty of the Australian coastline.

Going on a surfing holiday will provide you with the chance to combine two great elements of the outdoors – the freedom of the open road along with the splendour of our Australian waters.

Cycling

Looking for a great way to keep fit and explore the countryside? Cycling could be just what you’re looking for. Anyone can plan an active outdoor adventure so take your bike for a ride and join the growing community of cyclists in Australia.

Whether you opt for advanced cycling technology, vintage style or a basic bike, you’ll discover cycle-friendly regions all over Australia. Choose a track that suits your needs, whether it be an easy riding experience or a challenging ride to really get the heart pumping.

Cycling is the perfect get fit, stay fit option. Pedal out of town and take advantage of the excellent network of trails and tracks linking the diverse towns around the country. Exchange knowing nods with passing cyclists as you cruise regional bike tracks and trails. One of the best things about cycling is that you get to experience some of the best sights, often unseen from major roads and highways.
What do I need?

Go your own way

When it comes to exploring Down Under there’s no shortage of ways to do it. So, what do you need? Here are some options to ponder.

**Caravans and Pop Tops**

Caravans and Pop Tops are most suitable for couples and smaller families. They are usually self-contained and allow you to take some home comforts on the road. Available in many shapes, sizes and levels of luxury, the great thing about caravans is there is something for everyone, from small, compact units through to deluxe palaces on wheels. Pop Tops have a foldable roof that is raised, transforming the flattened down caravan into spacious holiday accommodation. They are also easier to tow.

**Key features**
- Numerous styles
- Self-contained
- Tow vehicle can be used day to day
- Pop Tops have an extendable roof

**Price:** $20,000 to $120,000.

**Cabins in Holiday Parks**

Holiday Parks offer cabin accommodation for families, couples or singles. Cabin accommodation allows you to experience the camaraderie, friendliness, facilities and fun of a holiday park without the need of purchasing an RV, caravan or tent. You will find many styles available at most parks ranging from basic to luxurious. Most cabins come equipped with bathroom, kitchen and mod-cons.

**Key features**
- No ‘set up’ or ‘pack down’
- Self-contained and furnished
- On site activities and facilities

**Price:** $60 to $300 per night.

**Slide On Camper**

Slide On Campers are ideal for people looking for an off-road adventure. They are great for four wheel driving and are the “go anywhere” option. Slide On Campers are designed to turn the everyday ute into a recreational vehicle and are perfect for towing boats or trailers. There are several options from hard top to pop top and they can be custom made, and designed to suit both flat tray and full bodied utes.

**Key features**
- No towing required
- Suitable for towing another vehicle
- Vehicle detaches from camper

**Price:** $15,000 to $160,000.

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**Three things to consider when caravanning**

1. **Environment**
   - On-road vehicles are great for sealed roads only, which is fine if you don’t go “off the beaten track”. An off-road vehicle is required for rougher terrain, offering heavy-duty suspension and extra clearance from the ground, and provides more space for off-road essentials like spare wheels and extra gas.

2. **Layout**
   - Consider what layout is best for you and this is down to personal preference. Things to consider are dining area location, the work surfaces and sufficient headroom. Storage space is also a crucial requirement to consider.

3. **General purpose**
   - Consider what you will need the caravan for and how it should perform certain functionalities. For example, will you be using it for weekends away or for a couple of weeks or for a year long road trip? Knowing this info will help you decide what features you desire.

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Motorhomes
Suitable for families, couples and long distance travellers. They are made with year round holidaying in mind and are designed to be self-contained and comfortable. Motorhomes are often set out like small apartments and come equipped with facilities such as toilets, showers, air conditioners and a full kitchen.

Key features
- No towing required
- Easy to drive and park
- Self-contained

Price: $80,000 to $1,000,000

Campers
Camper Trailers are suitable for families, big or small. Camper Trailers can be custom made to suit your requirements. They provide comfort and convenience and tow smoothly behind almost any vehicle. They are relatively easy to set up and pack down and within minutes the flat trailer transforms into spacious holiday accommodation. Most camper trailers are equipped with all the essentials for a hassle free holiday including a gas cooker, refrigerator or cooler, table and sink.

Key features
- Easy to park, store and drive
- No set up or pack down involved
- Doubles as day-to-day transport when not in use

Price: $50,000 to $120,000.

Fifth wheeler
Ideal for families, couples and long distance travellers. The term 'Fifth Wheeler' came about because of an additional 'wheel' or turntable, which connects the motorhome to the towing vehicle. These vehicles offer additional living space and comfort. They are great to tow and it is easy to disconnect the tow vehicle.

Key features
- Connection point makes them easy to tow and stable
- Tow vehicle can be used day to day
- Self-contained amenities

Price: $80,000 to $300,000.
Australia ... a wonderland

Famously known as the “Land Down Under”, it’s easy to understand why Australians and international visitors love to travel around our great land to experience the people, the climate and its incredible vastness and natural wonders.

New South Wales

From its bustling and busy world-famous capital city Sydney to its pristine subtropical beaches and rainforest-clad ranges in the north, the red-sand deserts of the Outback in the west and the winter snowfields of the Southern Alps, New South Wales offers caravanners and campers a world of experiences.

Northern Territory

Northern Territory offers some of the world’s most stunning scenery and a rich Aboriginal heritage that is like no other culture. Within the Red Centre’s borders lie some of Australia’s best-known natural treasures, including the great landmarks of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the wildlife of Kakadu National Park. If you’re adventurous, don’t forget to go for a crocodile cruise or throw a line in and fish for those famously large barramundi for a scrumptious dinner back at base camp.

Queensland

Queensland is renowned for its sunshine and beaches, making it a No.1 destination for many caravanners and campers. From snorkelling in the colourful reefs of the Great Barrier Reef to bushwalking in the beautiful slopes of the Daintree in Tropical North Queensland, you will be spoilt for choice in the Sunshine State where there’s as much to do inland as there is along the coastline.

Victoria

From the extensive waters of the Murray River to the breathtaking coastline of the Great Ocean Road, not to mention the gourmet trails of Beechworth and the picturesque wine regions of the Yarra Valley, Victoria serves up countless tourist destinations, mostly within a few hours drive of its character rich capital, Melbourne.

Crazy for Campervans

In 2010, campervans in Australia alone travelled about 607 million kilometres, which is equivalent to driving to the moon and back 790 times, or around Earth 15,172 times! In the past two years 7 million visitors aged over 18 years stayed in caravanning or camping accommodation and, contrary to belief, the largest user group is the 35-49 age group and not the 50 and over population.
South Australia

South Australia offers travellers a range of exciting holiday experiences. Adelaide is famous for its cultural treats, and within easy reach of the capital city are the state’s famous wine regions, the Barossa Valley to the north and McLaren Vale to the south. Also not to be missed is the breathtaking Flinders Ranges, in the north of South Australia, a must-do for caravanners and campers.

Tasmania

Lush farmlands, wild rivers, historic villages, temperate climate, pristine beaches, and mountain wilderness awaits allcomers in Tasmania. In Devonport, you will find some of Tasmania’s best national parks, food and wine, as well as regions steeped in a rich and fascinating history. Travelling distances are usually short in Tasmania, always providing a smorgasbord of tourist hotspots nearby to visit.

Western Australia

Australia’s biggest state is one of the most botanically rich regions in the world, its fascinating flora and fauna is unique to the region. An incredibly diverse state which offers it all from its picturesque capital Perth to the fine wines and gourmet indulgence of Margaret River, and everywhere else in between and beyond, including the otherworldly Broome, famous for its pearls. Caravanners and campers always find it hard to leave Western Australia behind.

Aussie fast facts

1. The Great Barrier Reef has a mailbox. You can ferry out there and send a postcard, stamped with the only Great Barrier Reef stamp.
2. The Sydney Harbour Bridge was opened in 1932 and is the widest steel arch bridge in the world.
3. The largest cattle station in the world is Anna Creek Station in South Australia at over 34,000 square kilometres.
4. Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world.
5. Melbourne has the largest remaining tram public transport system in the world.
6. From 1897 to 1905, Kings Cross, Sydney, was called Queen’s Cross.
7. The Nullarbor Links golf course spans 1,365 kilometres with one hole in each participating town or roadhouse along the Eyre Highway, from Kalgoorlie in Western Australia to Ceduna in South Australia.
8. The longest fence in the world is the Dingo Fence and is approx. 5,400 kms starting at Jimbour in Queensland and continuing on to the Great Australian Bight in South Australia.
Aussies may be tightening their belts in tough times, but many are rediscovering the simple pleasures of time spent together on the road, caravanning and camping.

Caravan holiday parks have long been places where holidaymakers have enjoyed each other’s company: friendly faces waving hello, sharing a beer during happy hour, mums and dads chatting about where they’ve been and where they’re going, and kids running off to explore together.

All these experiences are the most memorable aspects of a caravanning and camping holiday, and ones you simply can’t put a price tag on.

If you haven’t ventured into a caravan or motorhome lately, you’re in for a surprise. Thirty years ago, caravans were merely ‘boxes on wheels’, but these days they come with entertainment systems, flat-screen TVs, DVDs, large fridge, reverse-cycle air conditioner, and even a reversing camera.

Caravan holiday parks have upgraded too, adding top-of-the-line cabins, swimming pools, playgrounds, internet kiosks, tourist information centres, conference centres, and playgrounds.

Many caravan holiday parks also offer activities that provide guests with more opportunities to make new friends, including outdoor movies on warm, clear nights, bushwalking and bird watching groups, learn to surf lessons and free morning teas.

There are more than 2500 caravan holiday parks throughout the country, each offering something unique and prices to suit all budgets.

The look may be new, but the caravan holiday park experience remains unchanged. People come to relax, get back to nature and get-together with family and friends and make new friends along the way.

CAMPING: KEY FINDINGS

80% of kids who camp feel that their parents are less stressed when camping and 76% say their parents shout less.

96% of kids said that they feel happy when playing with their friends outdoors.

84% of campers said that camping is good for a child’s health.

79% of kids who have never camped said they would like to.
What's it all about?

Power to the parks

Caravan sites
Caravan sites can come with powered and unpowered options for your caravan and normally have a full concrete slab for your annex, allowing you to set up and take shade from the sun.

Price: $15 - $55 per night

Ensuite caravan sites
Ensuite sites come with a private bathroom adjacent to your site with a toilet, vanity and a shower.

Price: $30 - $60 per night

Cabins
Experience the camaraderie, friendliness and fun of the holiday park without purchasing an RV. With most caravan/holiday parks provide many on site cabins of varying sizes and facilities, ranging from the basic to luxurious, all travelling groups can be accommodated from singles to couples and even large families.

Price: $60 - $300 per night

Unpowered & powered tent sites
Tent sites are normally located on a grassy area, have parking for one car and are the most affordable real estate for setting up camp. The only difference is, one site will have power and for that you can expect to pay a little more.

Price: $15 - $55 per night

Cabins put the ‘c’ in comfort
More and more people are discovering that cabin accommodation in parks is fast becoming one of the most comfortable, value-for-money and feature-rich getaway experiences in Australia.

Wrap-around balconies, spa baths, plasma TVs with DVD players, air conditioning and all the modern conveniences of home (think microwaves, dishwashers and laundries) are a few of the common features of modern cabins.

Also, don’t forget all of these comforts are found at some of Australia’s most scenic destinations ranging from beachfront to Alpine environments throughout Australia.

When considering your next holiday, why not consider a luxury cabin experience without sacrificing any of the creature comforts of home!
Hitting the road with your furry friends is becoming more popular every month. Dr Chris Brown, the famous Bondi vet gives us the lowdown on what's important to remember if taking your pets on holiday.

**Stick to routine**

“Try to re-establish the routine they had at home. If they usually go for a walk with you in the morning and then have breakfast, sleep during the day, then dinner at night, then try to do the same thing and they will find that a lot more relaxing if they know they can predict what’s going to happen.”

**When you get there**

“Keep them on the leash, first of all. They’re like us in that situation; they’ll want to explore and they will be extremely excited. The problem you have is that sometimes that excitement will boil over and your pet will go a little bit too far by running off and exploring their new location. That can obviously sometimes lead to trouble.”

**Before you go**

“Do a test drive. The worst thing would be if you’re setting off on holiday and five minutes into the trip your pet is simply not handling the journey, either through being car sick, fretting or they’re barking, or are losing bladder control. You need to know if you’re going to have trouble before embarking on the trip, so go for a test drive one or two days before it for an hour or so.”

**Food**

“Don’t feed them too much before you leave because the more they eat and drink, the more they’re going to want to go to the toilet. I’d be giving them a good walk or run before you leave in order to burn a bit of energy. That way, when they get into the car they’ll be more inclined to relax or sleep.

**The holiday parks**

“Some of them cater so well for pets these days and your pets really do have the opportunity to have a fantastic break away with you. It’s important to investigate before you book in and really make sure the park you’re going to can help make sure your pet is going to enjoy it there.”

Dr Chris Brown, the famous Bondi vet from The Living Room screening on Channel 10.
Innovation station

Sun worshippers rejoice, it’s never been easier to power up with solar panels.

Energy and how we acquire it is a hot topic these days, but you can’t go past solar panels, which are becoming a common sight in the world of caravanning and camping.

Solar panels are an environmentally friendly and economical means of generating electricity to recharge batteries and power minor 12V electrical goods. They are available to permanently affix to a roof using Camec’s unique installation kit or simply purchase as folding panels that come with a carry bag and regulator, enabling the panel to be located in the most advantageous position relative to the sun.

Camec’s solar panels are available in various outputs and the folding panels can be linked via a cable kit to boost power output further. Visit www.camec.com.au

Phone a friend - 3 ways your smartphone doubles as a caravanning and camping survival tool

Here are some useful Smartphone apps for road trippers.

Map
TomTom Australia (iPhone, iPod touch and iPad) and Navigon (Android or iPhone and iPad) both use preloaded maps and your phone’s GPS to track your current location. Also set a path to track your movement.

Compass
Thanks to a simple magnetometer within your phone (which doesn’t require an Internet connection), you can find your direction quite easily. Spyglass (iPhone, iPod touch and iPad) is a powerful app, essential for the every outdoorsman as its’ packed with the many useful tools.

Flashlight
The aptly named Flashlight (iPhone, iPod touch and iPad) and Brightest Flashlight (Android) are simple apps that use your phone’s tiny LED flash to illuminate, as well as any small modern flashlight you’ll find in the camping aisle of your favorite retail store.
**TRAKMAN GPS TRACKING DEVICE**

**TRAKMAN** is a GPS tracker that reports on the location of a vehicle and the route it has travelled over a set time frame.

**TRAKMAN** can be used for vehicle management or track unauthorised movement. Ideal for Cars, 4WD's, Buses, Trucks, RV Vehicles (inc Caravans), Trailers and Boats etc; just about anything that moves! So if the vehicle is stolen you can trace it.

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