



travelmarvel
Premium Travel

INSIDER

ISSUE 6 2026



THE
JOY OF
THE WILD

TRAVEL, MY STYLE[™]

Jordan | Egypt | Canada | Sri Lanka | Portugal | New Zealand
Central Europe | Vietnam | Africa | Outback Australia | All Continents

WELCOME TO INSIDER, TRAVELMARVEL'S GUIDE TO DISCOVERING THE WORLD YOUR WAY.



“ AT TRAVELMARVEL, INSPIRATION IS ONLY THE STARTING POINT. OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE TRAVEL EASY, REWARDING AND GENUINELY MEMORABLE. ”

A new year brings fresh momentum — and for many of us, it also brings thoughts of where to travel next. As plans begin to take shape, I hope this issue sparks your imagination, whether you're actively planning your next holiday or simply considering what's possible. With so many incredible destinations and travel styles on offer this year, there is plenty to look forward to.

At TravelMarvel, inspiration is only the starting point. Our goal is to make travel easy, rewarding and genuinely memorable. Every journey is designed with your happiness in mind, delivering outstanding value without compromising on quality — from Insider Experiences and iconic sights to carefully chosen stays and great local cuisine — all while giving you the freedom to explore at your own pace.

With that in mind, this edition showcases those hallmark TravelMarvel moments. You'll get a closer look at two incredible days in Wadi Rum, part of a wider journey through Jordan and Egypt that includes an unforgettable cruise along the Nile. We also go behind the scenes with Cruise Director Janos Horvath, whose

deep expertise ensures our Portugal cruises run smoothly. And for those who appreciate a practical tip, stylist Nikki Parkinson shares a packing guide inspired by her river cruise through Central Europe.

As you explore these pages, I encourage you to take note of what resonates. Further details on each tour can be found toward the back of the magazine. Whether you've travelled with us before or are considering your first TravelMarvel journey, thank you for placing your trust in us.

Wishing you happy planning and exceptional travels ahead,

David Cox
TravelMarvel CEO

Explore more at travelmarvel.com.au Search for us on socials at @TRAVELMARVEL

ISSUE 6 | 2026

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Cover:
Tanzania, Africa

VALLEY OF THE MOON

Pause for an immersive stay in Jordan's Wadi Rum, where vast, sculptural desert landscapes, Bedouin hospitality and starlit skies take centre stage.

WORDS Alexander Simpson

Wadi Rum is the kind of place that quietly resets your sense of scale. Set deep in southern Jordan, this UNESCO World Heritage-listed desert valley is defined by soaring sandstone cliffs, vast open plains and shifting red sands. Also known as the Valley of the Moon, Wadi Rum is faintly, can't-quite-put-your-finger-on-it familiar. *Lawrence of Arabia* first cast the Hollywood spotlight here, and Rum's otherworldly terrain continues to serve as a favourite backdrop for extraterrestrial blockbusters, from *Star Wars* and *Dune* to *The Martian* and *Prometheus*. Sculpted over millennia by wind and water, this is not the work of a cunning backlot crew at Universal Studios though. Seeing Wadi Rum in person, for the first time, is genuinely breathtaking.

Arriving as part of *Hidden Jordan with Treasures of Egypt and the Nile*, the transition is seamless. One moment you're passing small clusters of Bedouin tents; the next, you're surrounded by monumental rock formations etched with ancient carvings. Light skims across the sand during the day, revealing unexpected colours and textures, while dunes subtly reshape themselves with the breeze. The sense of space is immense, and as the desert unfolds, everyday concerns fall away, replaced by the powerful pull of the here and now.

Exploring Wadi Rum by open-air 4WD is where the desert truly opens up. A guided Jeep journey





Open-air 4WDs cut a fine line through the vastness of Wadi Rum

carries you deep into the valley, skimming across wide flats before threading through narrow rock corridors. There's a raw, gut-level sense of fun as the vehicles pick up speed, eased by the occasional camel drifting past, entirely unbothered by the interruption. The rush of fresh air is liberating, and you're free to simply absorb the views without a second thought for navigation.

As afternoon slips into evening, the mood shifts. The sun drops lower and the sandstone cliffs begin to glow, deepening from ochre to deep rust red. The Jeeps pull up for a sunset stop, where sparkling wine and light snacks appear as if by magic. As the light softens, time seems to loosen its grip — the desert holding everyone in a memory-etching pause.

Back at camp, dinner is traditional Bedouin fare, slow-cooked beneath the sand and shared as generous grazing-style plates. A delicious atmosphere of relaxation sets in; staff serenade with impromptu live music and dance, and the faint scent of shisha drifts through the cool air, all within the colourful embrace of a woven Sadu tent. Later, the tranquil silence of night calls. For those who choose it, guided stargazing reveals an inky sky washed clean of artificial light, stars blazing with astonishing clarity — constellations so vivid they feel close enough to trace by hand, a final reminder of just how small, and how present, you are in this dreamy place, seemingly plucked from another planet.



Camels are the resting companions of Bedouin life

TRAVELMARVEL SIRIUS

Named after the night sky's brightest star, TravelMarvel Sirius, our new river ship, sets sail this year on the Upper Nile. Between daily explorations of ancient Egypt's most iconic sites — including Karnak, Luxor and Abu Simbel — life on board is blissfully unhurried. Cool off in the open-air swimming pool, then unwind at Ramesses Lounge & Bar. Savour a blend of locally inspired and Western cuisine at Nefertari Restaurant, or relax on the Sun Deck's Tutankhamun Terrace Café. With a high crew-to-guest ratio and just 62 spacious cabins and suites, our newest ship delivers a Nile river cruise truly fit for a pharaoh.



FLY FREE*

HIDDEN JORDAN WITH TREASURES OF EGYPT AND THE NILE

Amman → Cairo | 18 Days
Departs August 2026 to April 2028

FROM \$12,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Discover more Egypt and Jordan adventures on page 33

CANADA UNSCRIPTED

“ WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED OUR
TRIP THROUGH THE ROCKIES AND
ALASKA — WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND
TRAVELMARVEL. ”

MICHELLE MARZIANO,
TRAVELMARVEL CANADA AND ALASKA GUEST

(Left to right) Just another day for a grizzly in Canada's wilderness;
an elk at ease with antlers held high



REFLECTIONS OF THE ROCKIES AND ALASKA CRUISE

Victoria → Vancouver | 21 Days
Departs April 2026 to September 2027

FROM \$12,495 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Turn to page 31 for more
Canada and Alaska tours
full of wild wonder

Experience nature's grand show, where every moment is directed by the wild as grizzlies forage the forest floor in the Rockies and go fishing for salmon on Vancouver Island's untamed northern coast.

WORDS Jemma Glucina-Henderson

When it comes to rugged nature and wildlife, British Columbia's Grizzly Bear Valley has it in spades. On TravelMarvel's 21-day *Reflections of the Rockies and Alaska Cruise*, a Blue River Safari immerses you in the peaceful quiet of one of the world's only inland temperate rainforests. Explore a 12-kilometre stretch of this astounding wilderness, where glacier-fed lakes and towering waterfalls abound as you track moose and bears. Over 15,000 grizzlies are estimated to roam British Columbia, so keep your eyes peeled on the riverbanks.

In nearby Alberta, Jasper National Park boasts 11,000 square kilometres of ancient glaciers, turquoise lakes and scenic roads like the iconic Icefields Parkway. As night descends on the world's second-largest Dark Sky Preserve, the Milky Way freckles the inky sky above black silhouettes of jagged peaks. Opt for an evening wildlife discovery for the chance to encounter Canada's most majestic creatures under a blanket of twinkling stars. Led by a knowledgeable wildlife guide, listen for the distant bugle of an elk and the howling of coyotes in the dark of night. With patience, lucky travellers may even glimpse grizzly bears, mountain goats and moose.

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE – THE GREAT BEAR EXPERIENCE

For those seeking a truly wild encounter, The Great Bear Experience is an immersive five-day holiday extension, which can be added to your North America tour. Spend three nights at the floating Great Bear Lodge — only accessible by seaplane — in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, where bears significantly outnumber humans. Set at the mouth of a pristine river, marvel at the chance to witness grizzlies gorging on salmon or playful otters scurrying on the dock. Expert guidance from wildlife biologists, gourmet meals like freshly caught cedar-planked salmon, and hot showers mean all your creature comforts are close at hand. An adventure through Canada invites you to feel the pulse of the wilderness in all its glory.

DANCING LIGHTS IN YELLOWKNIFE

SEARCH THE SUMMER NIGHT SKIES IN NORTHERN CANADA

Yellowknife Return | 4-Day Extension
Departs August to April

FROM \$2,295 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Turn to page 31 to witness the northern lights and more in Canada

Venture to Yellowknife in Canada's remote north to witness the aurora borealis, a kaleidoscope of colour that has inspired legends for the ages.

WORDS Jemma Glucina-Henderson

Norse mythology described the northern lights as reflections of the Valkyrie warriors' armour, while Chinese legend marked the iridescent waves as celestial battles between dragons. For Canada's Dene people, the aurora is regarded as the spirits of ancestors dancing across the sky. As charged particles from the sun collide with oxygen and nitrogen in the Earth's atmosphere, radiant swirls of green, pink and purple undulate across the sky — a spectacle that has captivated cultures for generations. Set beneath the Aurora Oval in Canada's far north, the historic gold-mining city of Yellowknife is one of the best destinations in the world to experience this spellbinding phenomenon.

Thanks to its prime location, flat topography, and generally clear weather, spending three nights here gives travellers a 95 per cent chance of seeing the northern lights. A Yellowknife extension can be added to any Travelmarvel North America tour, where you'll chase the aurora at remote locations, then enjoy the chance to soak up its splendour from a lakeside cabin and Indigenous teepee. With up to 240 visible days a year — compared to 200 in other prime viewing destinations like Iceland — the aurora can be seen in Yellowknife both on an enchanting winter escape and in the glow of late summer. In every setting, catching this celestial show is pure magic.

SRI LANKAN SENSATIONS

Sri Lanka's teardrop-shaped island is easy to fall in love with. On the *Splendours of Sri Lanka* tour, discover why this tranquil paradise has captured the hearts of travellers since ancient Roman times.

WORDS Danielle Cowan

SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS

Climb Sigiriya, a fifth-century fortress carved onto a giant monolith. Vibrant frescoes line the ascent, and at the summit, you're rewarded with sweeping views from the water gardens and remains of King Kashyapa's palace — an extraordinary feat of ancient craftsmanship.



TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC

Beside Kandy's charming lake, this temple houses what is said to be a sacred tooth of the Buddha. Enjoy a special Kandyan dance performance accompanied by rhythmic drumming that brings the experience to life.



YALA NATIONAL PARK

Home to one of the world's highest leopard densities, Yala National Park offers the chance to spot these graceful creatures up close, as well as elephants, buffalo and the elusive Sri Lankan sloth bear.

ANCIENT CITY OF POLONNARUWA

Polonnaruwa, once Sri Lanka's second capital, is home to one of the country's best-preserved archaeological sites. Stone Buddha statues, palace walls and sacred pools sit almost frozen in time, echoing the power and faith that shaped this former royal city.



HOME COOKING IN KANDY

Experience Sri Lankan cooking in a Kandy family home. Coconut simmers and Ceylon cinnamon perfumes the air as you learn the secrets behind creating a meal that feels both homely and unmistakably Sri Lankan.



UDAWALAWE ELEPHANT TRANSIT HOME

A visit to this elephant refuge adds a rewarding layer to your holiday, offering the chance to watch adorable baby Sri Lankan elephants trot in for feeding ahead of their return to the wild.



SPLENDOURS OF SRI LANKA

Negombo → Colombo | 12 Days
Departs February to November 2026

FROM \$4,495 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Your next Sri Lanka adventure and more awaits on page 32

PORTUGAL PERFECTLY CRAFTED



“A WONDERFUL DOURO RIVER CRUISE. GREAT STAFF. GREAT SHIP. JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF ‘EXPERIENCES’. VERY GOOD CRUISE DIRECTOR.”

JENNIE ZUGAJEV, TRAVELMARVEL PORTUGAL GUEST

Onboard chefs whisk up magic on the Douro River



From storied villages to family-run quintas, TravelMarvel Cruise Director Janos Horvath brings Portugal’s charm to life, carefully anticipating every detail to deliver a seamless journey on the seven-night *Douro Discovery* cruise.

WORDS Janos Horvath and Jemma Glucina-Henderson

Terraced vineyards cling to craggy mountains as the Douro winds through sleepy towns and rolling hills peppered with olive groves. A week-long voyage aboard the stylish MS Estrela river ship reveals the magic of this enchanting corner of Portugal. This is Janos Horvath’s office, where he masters the art of making holidaying effortless.

Preparations start long before guests even step aboard. “Often weeks of planning go into route design, excursion planning, and creating the seasonal menu cycle. By the time guests arrive, every detail has been carefully considered,” Horvath reveals. During the journey, he swiftly manages logistics and timing to ensure every day runs smoothly, from helping guests book museum reservations to navigating changing river conditions. “Guests usually don’t see how often plans change in the background — and that’s a good thing, because it means everything feels effortless for them.”

On board, the crew “is like a small travelling family, and that positive energy naturally carries through to the guests.” No two days are the same for Horvath, yet every moment is rewarding — often the most memorable are simple but heartfelt. He’s coordinated long-awaited reunions with family members living on opposite sides of the world, guided travellers through their first river cruise, and helped guests celebrate golden wedding anniversaries. “I try to make the ship feel like a floating home rather than a hotel — remembering names, sharing stories, and helping guests feel connected to each other, as well as to the destination,” notes Horvath.

With a love for the Douro’s romantic landscapes, the warmth of its people, and the region’s unhurried pace of life, Horvath is passionate about sharing Portugal’s authentic heart. “I love watching guests discover how much history and passion goes into Port wine — a visit to a small family-run quinta is always special. I like to introduce them to a local delicacy: almond biscuits made with Port wine and cinnamon, found only in a handful of hidden pastry shops.” Attentive to the smaller details, Horvath helps each guest experience the true spirit of the Douro.

LISBON WITH DOURO DISCOVERY

Lisbon → Porto | 11 Days
Departs June 2026 to October 2027

FROM \$5,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Your European escape
awaits on page 30

DOUBLE By Day

WORDS Terysa Vanderloo



(Left to right) Tiny doors and big adventures await at the Hobbiton Movie Set; Poi in motion, weaving stories of Māori culture and dance at Te Puia

Your New Zealand escape offers Tolkien fans the option to embark on a not-so-unexpected journey to the Hobbiton Movie Set, where Middle-earth was brought to life in the classic films.

Be swept away to The Shire, where undulating emerald hills are dotted with grazing sheep and charming hobbit holes are nestled in verdant mounds, framed in creeping vines and lush gardens. Make sure you've had your second breakfast, as you'll be meandering along winding pathways lined with miniature clotheslines and hobbit-sized workshops, before ducking into Bagshot Row to explore inside the humble hobbit dwellings. Here, every exquisite detail tells a story of meticulous craftsmanship, from overflowing pantries to welcoming writing nooks. Continue to the Party Marquee by the Green Dragon Inn, where you'll enjoy a feast fit for a hobbit, before heading back to Rotorua for your included evening experience at Te Puia.

DELIGHT By Night



INCREDIBLE NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch → Auckland | 15 Days
Departs April 2026 to April 2028

FROM \$6,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Follow the call of adventure with our New Zealand tours on page 35

Discover the geothermal wonders and enduring Māori culture of New Zealand's North Island at Te Puia, where steaming landscapes and ancestral traditions are woven together in a uniquely immersive experience.

As twilight descends, explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, where native bush frames steaming mud pools and erupting plumes of water, culminating at the magnificent Pōhutu Geyser, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. A delicious Māori dinner of fish, lamb and vegetables follows, traditionally prepared in earth ovens known as hāngī. Your experience is accompanied by stirring cultural performances — including a pōhiri (traditional welcome), waiata (songs), and the powerful haka — offering a moving expression of connection to this unique landscape. Experience Te Puia, Hobbiton, and more on our *Incredible New Zealand* journey.

A STYLIST'S GUIDE TO EUROPE

“ FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT TO THE MOMENT YOU STEP OFF THE SHIP, YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT A THING. IT'S SUCH A STRESS-FREE WAY TO TRAVEL. ”



(Left to right) Nikki Parkinson enjoying the crisp Budapest air; Amsterdam's canals are an enchanting sight in twilight

Fresh off Travelmarvel's *European Gems* river cruise, content creator and stylist Nikki Parkinson has a whole new appreciation for uncomplicated travel. From carefree days on the river to exploring Europe at her own pace, Nikki shares her favourite highlights from an effortless journey aboard Travelmarvel Capella.



Travelmarvel Capella cruising through the Wachau Valley

Tailored Travel

As someone who is usually the organiser of everything — at home and while travelling — cruising with Travelmarvel was a welcome contrast. From the moment you arrive at the airport to the moment you step off the ship, you don't have to think about a thing. It's such a stress-free way to travel. Along the way, you're kept informed about what's happening each day and evening, and if you have a question or concern, the staff truly go out of their way to help you. I also loved being able to unpack once — you feel settled for the entire journey.

Favourite Destinations

I don't like to play favourites, so I'm going to choose three: Budapest, Vienna and Salzburg. All were new to me, and each had its own distinct personality. Budapest felt like a bohemian Paris, Vienna was effortlessly chic and sophisticated, and Salzburg carried that same elegance but with a touch of nostalgia thanks to my childhood love of *The Sound of Music*.

The Freedom to Explore My Way

I loved having the flexibility to shape each day, whether that meant joining a walking tour, wandering at my own pace, or staying on board as the ship sailed to the next destination. The morning I chose to stay on board was perfectly timed, it was about halfway through the cruise and an ideal moment to sit back, read my book, and watch the world drift by.



Moments to Remember

My favourite experience on tour was the optional Enhance Your Journey experience in Salzburg. Even the coach trip from the ship to Salzburg was beautiful, winding through country roads towards the famous town in the foothills of the Austrian Alps. Our local guide was incredibly knowledgeable, and the walking tour gave me a great sense of direction so I could explore on my own afterwards. And coffee and cake at Café Tomaselli? An absolute must.

Designed to Delight

The communal areas on board Travelmarvel Capella are beautifully designed and help make the most of the exceptional views. The French Balcony Suites are the perfect size, and I loved sitting by the window — lowering it whenever the weather allowed. There's something so calming about travelling this way, gliding along the water with something new to see every day.

NIKKI'S WINTER SUITCASE STAPLES

PUFFER JACKET OR VEST

Light, warm, and perfect for windy days on deck.

KNITWEAR

Cosy jumpers, fine merino layers, or lightweight turtlenecks.

BASE LAYERS

Wool long-sleeved tops provide warmth without the bulk.

WEATHER-READY OUTERWEAR

Waterproof or water-resistant layers for rainy days.

ACTIVEWEAR

For any scenic walks or optional activities.

THERMAL TIGHTS OR LEGGINGS

Perfect under dresses or layered under pants if needed.

EVENING OUTFITS

For ladies, a silk maxi skirt or tailored pants paired with an elegant blouse or asymmetrical camisole makes a chic, smart-casual look.

GLOVES

Touchscreen-friendly are handy for quick photos.

(Bottom left) Style Tip: A warm, mid-weight coat pairs perfectly with wide-leg jeans.

(Right) Style Tip: Add a statement hat and scarf to keep you warm and looking fabulous in photos. Don't forget sunglasses — winter sun can still be bright. And a cross-body leather bag is perfect for hands-free and secure city exploring.

For more styling tips, follow Nikki on Instagram: [@stylingyou](#)

EUROPEAN GEMS

Budapest → Amsterdam | 15 Days
Departs April 2026 to December 2027

FROM \$4,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Follow in Nikki's footsteps and discover more Europe tours on page 30

A TASTE OF VIETNAM

Four iconic dishes capture Vietnam's culinary landscape, where generations of cultural influence come together with fragrant herbs, lively spices and refreshing textures.

WORDS Danielle Cowan



GỎI CUỐN

goy coo-uhn. Say "goy" like "boy" and "coo-uhn" like "soon".

Light and endlessly refreshing, gỏi cuốn are rice-paper rolls packed with prawns or pork, vermicelli, vegetables, and herbs like mint, delivering an instant burst of colour and crunch. Dipped into hoisin or a fish-based sauce, they're the perfect no-fuss bite.

BÁNH MÌ

bahn mee. Pronounced like "bun me" with a soft, quick "n".

A French-Vietnamese favourite, bánh mì's crispy baguette and signature fillings have inspired countless modern interpretations, cementing its status as a lunchtime favourite. It's a delicious grab-and-go delight that has transcended its humble beginnings to become a celebrated marker of Vietnam's culinary identity.



PHỞ

fuh. Rhymes with "duh," but way more delicious.

This ubiquitous noodle soup is a Vietnamese staple, and with countless restaurants dedicated to the aromatic dish, there are plenty of places to try it. A rich broth is poured over flat rice noodles, beef, onion, ginger and fresh herbs to create the comforting classic.



BÁNH XÈO

bahn say-oh. Imagine "bahn" as in "bun" and "say-oh" like "say oh!".

Named for its cheerful sizzle, bánh xèo, meaning sizzling cake, is a crispy, savoury pancake filled with shrimp, pork, bean sprouts and fresh herbs. Often served with lettuce and dipped in a tangy fish sauce, it offers a burst of flavours and textures.



WONDERS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Hanoi → Siem Reap | 20 Days
Departs March to November 2026

FROM \$7,395 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Taste your way through
Vietnam and Cambodia on page 32

SAFARI SANCTUARY

Overlooking Zimbabwe's Zambezi National Park, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge pairs the cosy comforts of a grand treehouse with animal encounters that come to you.

WORDS Alexander Simpson



(Clockwise from left) The lodge's MaKuwa-Kuwa Restaurant; your private retreat; the neighbouring waterhole provides game-viewing at your doorstep



GRAND AFRICAN JOURNEY

Cape Town → Kilimanjaro | 28 Days
Departs July 2026 to November 2027

FROM \$30,195 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Discover more African adventures on page 33

“DAYS UNFOLD WITH A WELCOME KIND OF LICENSED LAZINESS, WHERE DOING VERY LITTLE IS ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED.”

At breakfast, the clink of cutlery on the terrace pauses as someone spots movement below. An elephant steps into view at the waterhole, followed by another, then another — and suddenly, the day is alive, and no one is checking their phone. Guests linger over coffee as binoculars are grasped mid-sentence, monosyllable alerts of “look”, “there” rippling across the terrace faster than the caffeine.

Built of timber and thatch, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge rises breezily across levels, its vast A-frame silhouette resembling an open-plan treehouse. From almost every vantage point, the landscape takes centre stage. Decks, walkways and gathering spaces are oriented towards a wildlife-rich waterhole.

As part of Travelmarvel's *Grand African Journey*, days here unfold with a welcome kind of licensed laziness, where doing very little is entirely justified and each moment arrives with barely a lift of your finger. A morning visit to the mighty Victoria Falls is pleasantly relaxing, the thundering walls of water invigorating

and the misty spray refreshing, inviting an easy switch back into full leisure mode as you return to the lodge.

Afternoons stretch by the two-tiered swimming pool or on your private balcony with sweeping views of the bushveld. The animal kingdom sets the agenda below: impala wander in without ceremony, warthogs trot through like they own the place, and elephants arrive with unhurried authority.

As evening settles, lanterns flicker on and the lodge's sundowner watering hole, the Buffalo Bar, comes to life. Dinner follows at the award-winning MaKuwa-Kuwa Restaurant, or perhaps at The Boma, where an open-air feast beneath the stars brings culture, rhythm and colour before the night softens once more. As bedtime beckons, within the cosy quarters of your treehouse setting, the savanna's trademark lullabies rise around you — grunts, whoops and distant roars. Tomorrow's cast of characters is already pottering about below, long before dawn breaks over the waterhole.

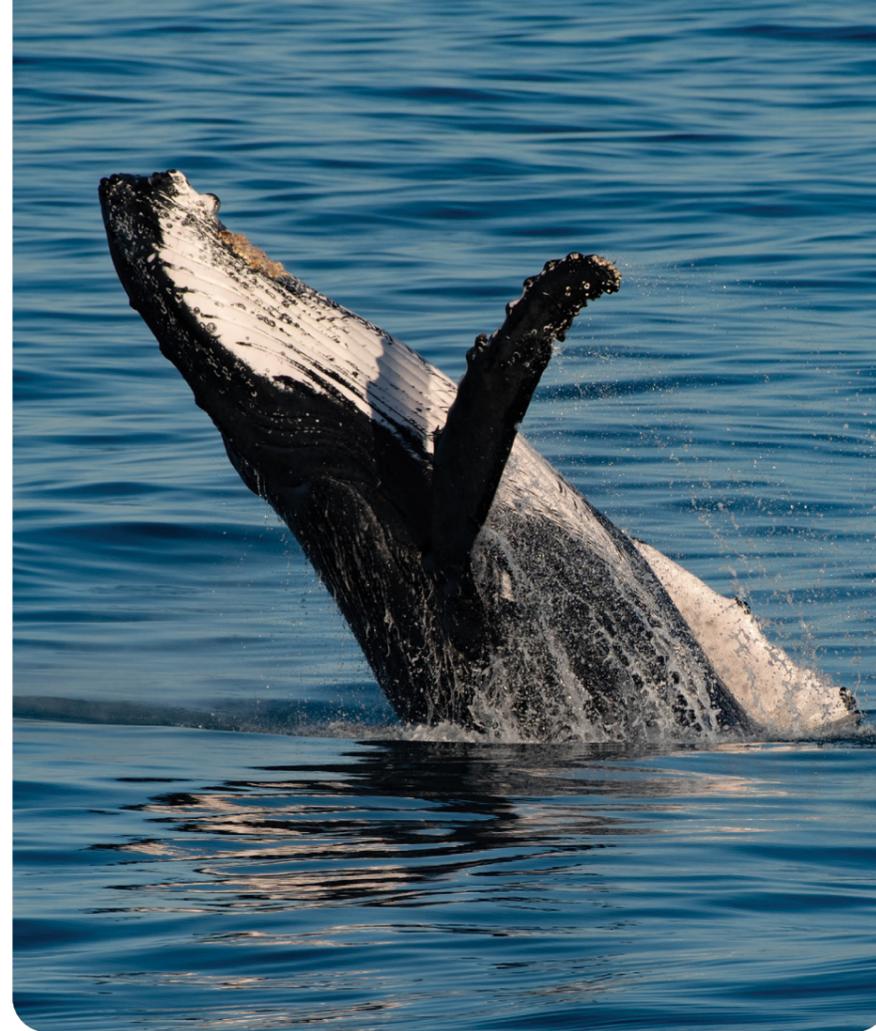
AUSTRALIAN ICONS

From Tasmania to the Top End, meet five local legends, shaped by Australia's extraordinary environments and forever marching to the beat of their own drum.

WORDS Alexander Simpson

1 COMMON WOMBAT – CRADLE MOUNTAIN

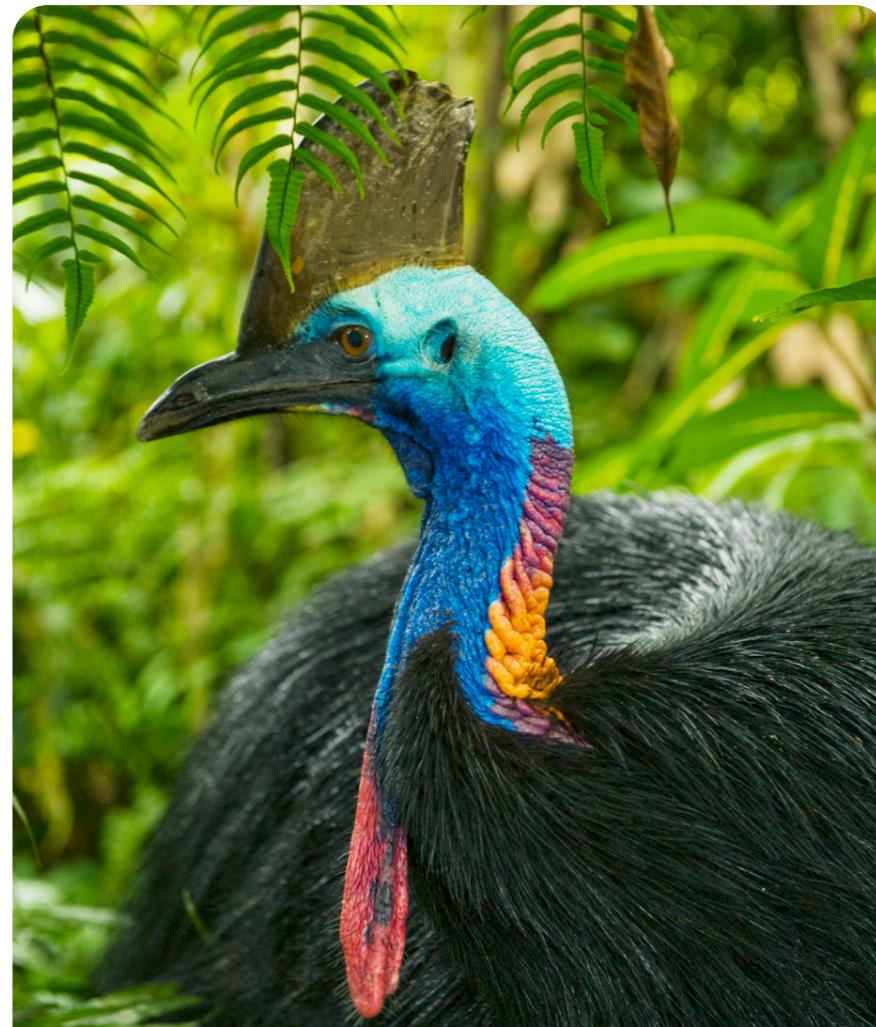
At Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park, common wombats are the park's unhurried custodians. Stocky, purposeful and unfazed by passing walkers, they graze through button grass plains as if on a timetable of their own. Their cube-shaped droppings, a curious evolutionary quirk, mark territory without rolling away on sloping ground. Guests staying near Cradle Mountain often spot wombats at dusk, when the air cools and the park softens into evening. Legal protections and active mangle treatment programs continue to support healthy populations here, safeguarding a species deeply tied to Tasmania's alpine landscapes.



2

HUMPBACK WHALE – KIMBERLEY COAST

From June to October, the sheltered waters of the Kimberley coast become a nursery for the world's largest humpback whale population. More than 35,000 humpbacks arrive seasonally, breaching and tail-slapping in warm northern waters after long migrations from Antarctica. From the ship's deck or a Zodiac, sightings feel wonderfully unscripted, a sudden surge of energy against red cliffs and endless blue. Once heavily hunted, these whales are now a conservation success story. Watching a calf surface beside its mother is a powerful reminder of why protected marine zones matter.



3

SOUTHERN CASSOWARY – DAINTREE RAINFOREST

In the rainforests of Far North Queensland, the southern cassowary moves like a prehistoric secret. Tall and glossy black, with a fabulous shock of blue and red at the neck, it is both striking and elusive. Despite its imposing presence, this solitary bird mostly keeps its distance outside of breeding season, gliding silently through dense undergrowth. As vital seed dispersers, cassowaries help maintain rainforest health with every measured step. Spotting one, even briefly, feels quietly extraordinary.



4

SALTWATER CROCODILE – TOP END

The Top End's waterways demand attention, and the world's largest living reptiles command it. Sunbaking on riverbanks or drifting with barely a ripple, salties are masters of stealth. Once hunted to near extinction, saltwater crocodiles have bounced back under full legal protection since 1971, and their presence is now a sign of healthy waterways. On wetland cruises in Kakadu, guests learn how these apex predators anchor the ecosystem. There's a thrill in seeing one up close, balanced by experienced guides who keep the encounter calm, safe and grounded.

GULF SAVANNAH DISCOVERY BY 4WD

Cairns Return | 8 Days
May to August 2026

FROM \$4,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Discover more Australian journeys on page 34

5

SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO – GULF SAVANNAH

Melodramatic, clever and unmistakable, sulphur-crested cockatoos bring a big burst of personality to Queensland's coastlines and bushland. Uninterested in subtlety, their raucous calls and theatrical crest displays turn each moment into show biz. Highly intelligent and deeply social, they mate for life and adapt easily, thriving where land and sea meet. Watching them go about their day, screeching, scheming and approaching everything with unhinged enthusiasm — it's impossible not to smile.



EUROPE

EUROPEAN GEMS

Budapest → Amsterdam | 15 Days
Departs April 2026 to December 2027

- ✓ Step back in time with a visit to the World Heritage-listed Augustusburg Palace in Brühl
- ✓ Take a guided tour of the Hungarian State Opera House in Budapest and be treated to a private opera recital
- ✓ 14 nights aboard a contemporary Travelmarvel river ship
- ✓ 41 meals – 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners



FROM \$4,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search EUTCRL5 on travelmarvel.com.au

RHINE AND MOSELLE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Basel → Amsterdam | 8 Days
Departs December 2026 and December 2027

- ✓ Ride the Winzerexpress mini-train into Rudesheim and discover the magic of the town's enchanting Christmas market
- ✓ Savour Moselle wines at a historic family-run winery nestled in the hills near Cochem
- ✓ Seven nights aboard a contemporary Travelmarvel river ship
- ✓ 20 meals – 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners



FROM \$3,795 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

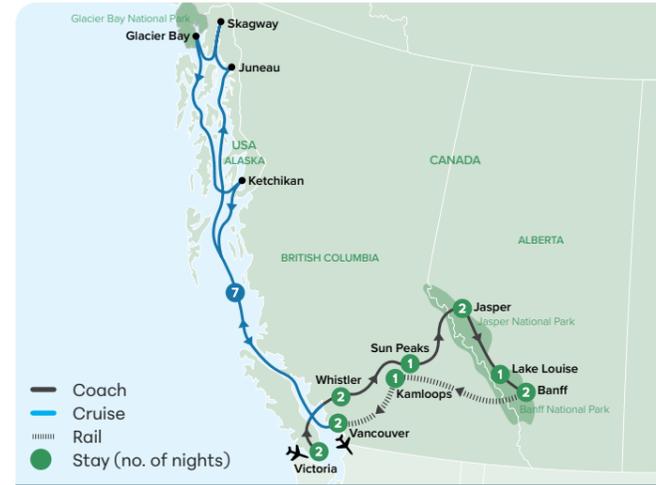
Find out more: search EUTCRL08 on travelmarvel.com.au

CANADA AND ALASKA

REFLECTIONS OF THE ROCKIES AND ALASKA CRUISE

Victoria → Vancouver | 21 Days
Departs April 2026 to September 2027

- ✓ Embark on a spectacular two-day Rocky Mountaineer rail journey in SilverLeaf Service
- ✓ Stay at the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise
- ✓ Seven-night Holland America Line Alaska cruise in a guaranteed Ocean View Stateroom, plus 13 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 40 meals – 20 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 12 dinners



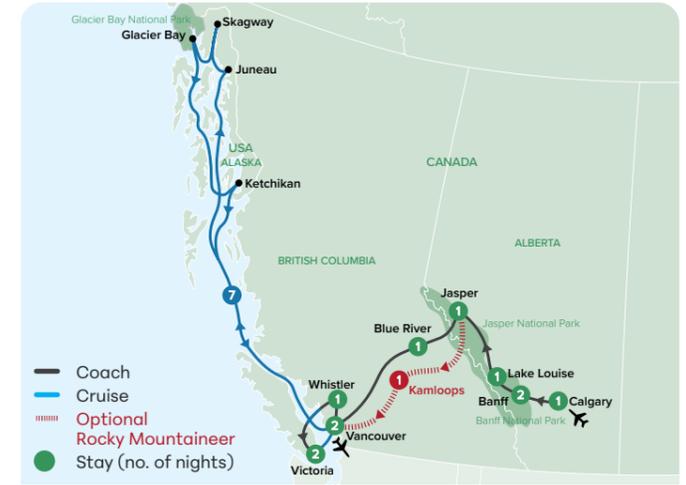
FROM \$12,495 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search URBWIV21 on travelmarvel.com.au

PASSAGE THROUGH THE ROCKIES AND ALASKA CRUISE

Calgary → Vancouver | 19 Days
Departs April 2026 to September 2027

- ✓ Soak up breathtaking alpine scenery on a river safari through Grizzly Bear Valley
- ✓ Visit Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary
- ✓ Seven-night Holland America Line Alaska cruise in a guaranteed Ocean View Stateroom, plus 11 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 35 meals – 18 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 11 dinners



FROM \$9,395 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search URJWCV19 on travelmarvel.com.au

LISBON WITH DOURO DISCOVERY

Lisbon → Porto | 11 Days
Departs June 2026 to October 2027

- ✓ Savour traditional Portuguese fare at a local quinta in Pinhão
- ✓ Enjoy a captivating flamenco show and lunch in the Spanish city of Salamanca
- ✓ Seven nights aboard the MS Estrela, plus three nights' premium accommodation in Lisbon
- ✓ 23 meals – 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners



FROM \$5,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search EUTCOP11 on travelmarvel.com.au

MOROCCO, SPAIN AND DOURO DISCOVERY

Casablanca → Porto | 29 Days
Departs May and September 2027

- ✓ Stay at a tented camp in Morocco's Sahara Desert under a star-studded sky
- ✓ Indulge in Andalusian tapas in Seville
- ✓ Seven nights aboard the MS Estrela, plus 21 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 57 meals – 28 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 19 dinners



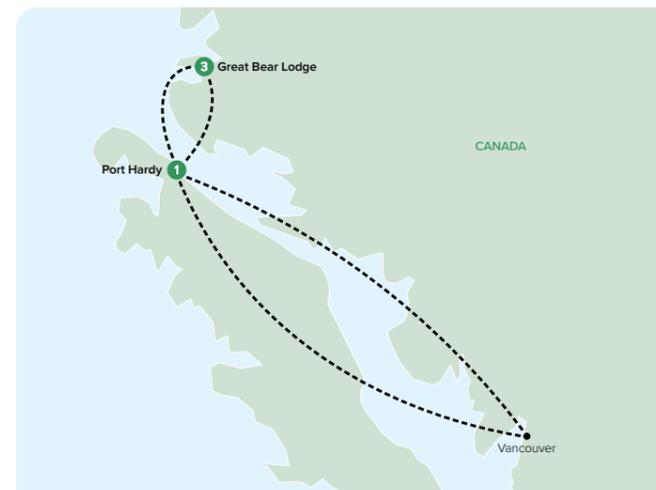
FROM \$18,495 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search EUTCOPSG29 on travelmarvel.com.au

THE GREAT BEAR EXPERIENCE

Vancouver Return | 5-Day Extension
Departs May to October

- ✓ Enjoy scenic seaplane flights to and from the lodge, soaring over the pristine Queen Charlotte Strait
- ✓ Escorted wilderness excursions via boat or land
- ✓ Three nights at the floating Great Bear Lodge in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest, plus one night in Port Hardy
- ✓ 9 meals – 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners



FROM \$5,595 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search STOGB5 on travelmarvel.com.au

SEARCH THE SUMMER NIGHT SKIES IN NORTHERN CANADA

Yellowknife Return | 4-Day Extension
Departs August to April

- ✓ Enjoy the chance to witness the ethereal northern lights from a lakeview cabin and a teepee at an Indigenous camp
- ✓ Chase the aurora borealis at different locations
- ✓ Discover over 20 key sites on a guided city tour
- ✓ Three nights' accommodation at Chateau Nova Yellowknife



FROM \$2,295 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search STONLS4 on travelmarvel.com.au

ASIA

SPLENDOURS OF SRI LANKA

Negombo → Colombo | 12 Days
Departs February to November 2026

- ✓ Set out on a safari through Minneriya National Park to spot Asian elephants in the wild
- ✓ Travel with no more than 24 guests for a more intimate and personalised experience
- ✓ 11 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 21 meals – 11 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 6 dinners



FROM \$4,495 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search TS12
on travelmartel.com.au

IMPERIAL CHINA

Beijing → Shanghai | 13 Days
Departs April to November 2026

- ✓ Visit the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China
- ✓ Travel with no more than 24 guests for a more intimate and personalised experience
- ✓ Three-night Yangtze River cruise and nine nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 26 meals – 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners



FROM \$5,895 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search CHTY13
on travelmartel.com.au

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

HIDDEN JORDAN WITH TREASURES OF EGYPT AND THE NILE

Amman → Cairo | 18 Days
Departs August 2026 to April 2028

- ✓ Traverse Wadi Rum's desert landscapes by open-air Jeep
- ✓ Visit the iconic rock-cut tomb of Al-Khazneh in Petra
- ✓ Seven-night Nile River cruise aboard Travelmarvel Sirius and 10 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 36 meals – 17 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 12 dinners



FROM \$12,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search EGTJ18R
on travelmartel.com.au

TREASURES OF EGYPT AND THE NILE

Cairo Return | 11 Days
Departs September 2026 to April 2028

- ✓ Stand before the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx
- ✓ Discover sacred burial grounds at the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens
- ✓ Seven-night Nile River cruise aboard Travelmarvel Sirius and three nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 25 meals – 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners



FROM \$8,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search EGT11
on travelmartel.com.au

WONDERS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Hanoi → Siem Reap | 20 Days
Departs March to November 2026

- ✓ Witness the sun rise over the magnificent Angkor Wat in Siem Reap
- ✓ Two-night Ha Long Bay cruise aboard the Au Co, seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the RV Lotus, and 10 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 46 meals – 19 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners



FROM \$7,395 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search VTMR20
on travelmartel.com.au

DISCOVER VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Hanoi → Ho Chi Minh City | 17 Days
Departs February to November 2026

- ✓ Glide through Hanoi's vibrant Old Quarter on a tour aboard a cyclo
- ✓ Two-night Ha Long Bay cruise aboard the Au Co, seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the RV Lotus, and seven nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 39 meals – 16 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 12 dinners



FROM \$6,595 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search VTM17
on travelmartel.com.au

GRAND AFRICAN JOURNEY

Cape Town → Kilimanjaro | 28 Days
Departs July 2026 to November 2027

- ✓ Embark on up to 22 exciting game-viewing experiences
- ✓ Witness the mighty wonder of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe
- ✓ 27 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 63 meals – 27 breakfasts, 17 lunches and 19 dinners



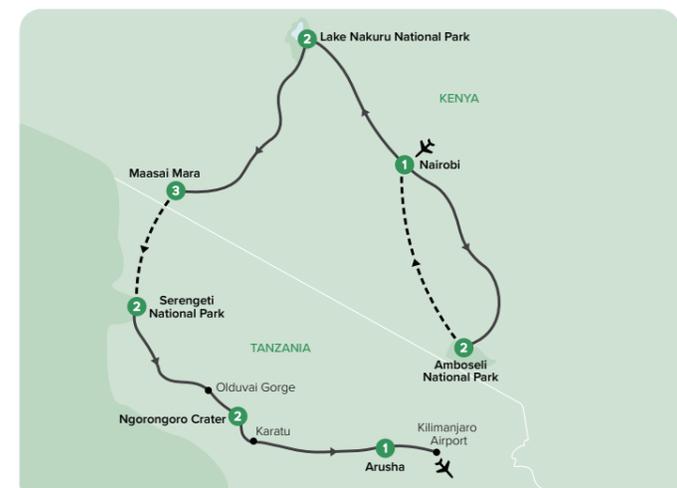
FROM \$30,195 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search AFTKT28
on travelmartel.com.au

KENYA AND TANZANIA ADVENTURE

Nairobi → Kilimanjaro | 14 Days
Departs September 2026 to October 2027

- ✓ Enjoy plenty of chances to spot the Big Five on up to 15 exciting games drives
- ✓ Visit a Maasai village in Amboseli National Park and be immersed in traditional culture
- ✓ 13 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 37 meals – 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 12 dinners



FROM \$18,395 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search AFTKT14
on travelmartel.com.au

AUSTRALIA

TOP END ESCAPE WITH KIMBERLEY COAST ADVENTURE

Darwin → Broome | 16 Days
Departs August 2026

- ✓ Explore Horizontal Falls and King George Falls up close on a Zodiac
- ✓ Admire ancient Wandjina and Gwion Gwion (Bradshaw) rock art in the caves of Swift Bay
- ✓ Nine nights aboard Heritage Adventurer and six nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 35 meals – 14 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 13 dinners



FROM \$15,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search GTKKCDD16 on travelmarvel.com.au

KIMBERLEY COAST ADVENTURE

Darwin → Broome | 10 Days
Departs August 2026 to August 2027

- ✓ Explore Montgomery Reef on a Zodiac expedition as the reef emerges from the ocean
- ✓ Experience King George Falls and Horizontal Falls at sea level aboard a Zodiac
- ✓ Nine nights aboard Heritage Adventurer
- ✓ 26 meals – 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 dinners



FROM \$10,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search GTKKCD10 on travelmarvel.com.au

GULF SAVANNAH DISCOVERY BY 4WD

Cairns Return | 8 Days
May to August 2026

- ✓ Discover the mysterious Undara Lava Tubes and the unique Talaroo Hot Springs
- ✓ Enjoy a cruise and tour of Cobbold Gorge, and a sunset cruise in Karumba
- ✓ Seven nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 22 meals – 7 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners



FROM \$4,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search GTOCK8 on travelmarvel.com.au

GRAND TASMAN

Launceston Return | 10 Days
Departs April 2026 to April 2027

- ✓ Discover the awe-inspiring landscapes and wildlife of Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park
- ✓ Enjoy a Gordon River cruise, including an exploration of the ruins of Sarah Island, Tasmania's oldest penal settlement
- ✓ Nine nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 17 meals – 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 7 dinners



FROM \$3,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search TXT10 on travelmarvel.com.au

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND GETAWAY

Auckland → Christchurch | 15 Days
Departs April 2026 to May 2028

- ✓ Set sail through Milford Sound/Piopirotahi and soak in the spectacular views of towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls
- ✓ Ride the TranzAlpine train through the Southern Alps and experience one of the world's greatest scenic rail journeys
- ✓ 14 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 22 meals – 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 7 dinners



FROM \$6,995 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search NT15 on travelmarvel.com.au

INCREDIBLE NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch → Auckland | 15 Days
Departs April 2026 to April 2028

- ✓ Admire breathtaking views of Aoraki/Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak
- ✓ Visit the Waitomo Glowworm Caves and gaze up in awe at a cavern illuminated by hundreds of tiny glowworms
- ✓ 14 nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ 22 meals – 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 7 dinners



FROM \$6,695 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE*

Find out more: search NT15R on travelmarvel.com.au



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