

# 12. Tourist attractions in the Australia and Oceania



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Předmět:

**The Tourist Attractions in  
the Czech Republic and in  
the World**

# Geography of Australia

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- ❑ Australia is extremely dry, with about 35 percent of the country receiving very little rain (if any). Almost 20 percent of available land is some form of desert.
  - ❑ The geography of Australia encompasses a wide variety of biogeographic regions being the world's smallest continent but the sixth-largest country in the world. The population of Australia is concentrated along the eastern and southeastern coasts. The geography of the country is extremely diverse, ranging from the snow-capped mountains of the Australian Alps and Tasmania to large deserts, tropical and temperate forests.
  - ❑ Neighbouring countries include Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea to the north, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the French dependency of New Caledonia to the east, and New Zealand to the southeast.
  - ❑ Australia is a country, a continent and an island. It is located in Oceania between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean.
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# The main tourist attractions in Australia

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- ❑ Mention "Sydney, Australia" and most people think of the Opera House. Shaped like huge shells or billowing sails, this breathtaking building on Sydney's Bennelong Point graces the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and is one of the world's great architectural icons. The location is stunning. Water surrounds the structure on three sides and the **Royal Botanic Gardens** border it to the south. One of the best sites to photograph the Opera House is **Mrs Macquarie's Chair** in the Royal Botanic Gardens or from aboard a harbor cruise.
  - ❑ Visible from outer space, the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef is one of the largest living structures on the planet. In 1975 the **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park** was established to protect its fragile ecosystems, which include more than 3,000 coral reefs; 600 continental islands, including the beautiful **Whitsunday** group; 300 coral cays; and inshore mangrove islands. One of the seven wonders of the natural world, the park stretches for 2,300 km along the state of Queensland, on Australia's east coast (that's about the distance between Mexico and Vancouver).
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- ❑ Deep in the heart of the Australia's Red Centre, **Uluru** (formerly **Ayers Rock**), is one of the most photographed natural wonders in the country. The striking red monolith forms the centerpiece of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, a World Heritage Area jointly managed by Parks Australia and the traditional landowners, the Anangu people. Uluru, meaning "shadowy place" in the local aboriginal dialect, rises to a height of 348 m from the surrounding plain with most of its bulk hidden beneath the earth's surface. Also in the park are the red dome-shaped rocks called **Kata Tjuta** (the Olgas).
  - ❑ Along with the Opera House, the **Sydney Harbour Bridge** is one of Australia's most famous icons. Affectionately called "the Coathanger", this impressive feat of construction is the largest steel arch bridge in the world. It was completed in 1932, 40 years before the Sydney Opera House. Rising 134 m above the harbor, the bridge spans 500 m connecting Sydney's north shore to the central business district.
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- ❑ A UNESCO World Heritage Site, beautiful **Blue Mountains National Park** lies 81 km west of Sydney and is a popular day trip from the city. Named for the blue haze emanating from the many eucalyptus trees, this stunning park protects more than 664,000 acres of bush land and encompasses dramatic gorges, waterfalls, aboriginal rock paintings, and 140 km of hiking trails. The most famous attractions in the park are the towering sandstone rock formations called the **Three Sisters**. Other highlights include the **Katoomba Scenic Railway**, the world's steepest, which whisks passengers down the Jamison Valley through a cliff side tunnel into an ancient rainforest.
  - ❑ **Melbourne**, Australia's second largest city, is a popular stop on many Australia itineraries. Galleries, theaters, restaurants, shops, and a distinctly European feel are the main draws of this sophisticated city on the Yarra River. Highlights of the city include the **Royal Botanic Gardens**, the **National Gallery of Victoria**, and the **Melbourne Cricket Ground** where sports fans can watch cricket in the summer and Australian Rules football in the winter.
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- ❑ Bronzed bodies, blond sand, backpackers, and surf - throw it all together and you get one of the world's most famous beaches. Only 15 minutes by car from the city center, **Bondi Beach** is home to one of the oldest surf life-saving clubs in the world. It's also a great spot for a seaside stroll or picnic.
  - ❑ A Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, Daintree National Park in Far North Queensland is among the most ancient ecosystems on earth. The park encompasses two main sections: **Mossman Gorge** where crystal clear waters gush over granite boulders, and **Cape Tribulation** where rainforest meets reef along the white sandy beaches of the Coral Sea.
  - ❑ World Heritage-listed **Fraser Island**, between Bundaberg and Brisbane off Australia's east coast, is the largest sand island in the world and one of Australia's most unique four-wheel-drive adventures. Along windswept **Seventy Five Mile Beach**, visitors can see the rusted hulls of shipwrecks, the colored sandstone cliffs of **The Cathedrals**, and the bubbling fish-filled rock pools called **Champagne Pools**.
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- ❑ **Kakadu National Park**, in the Top End or the Northern Territory, is a World Heritage Site and one of the planet's great wilderness areas. Covering more than 19,840 sq km, Kakadu is the largest national park in Australia and the second largest in the world. Within its borders lie monsoon rainforests, mangrove swamps, rivers, gorges, ancient rock paintings, wetlands, and waterfalls as well as an astounding diversity of wildlife. In addition to the many mammals and reptiles, more than 300 different species of birds make their home here, and visitors may spot saltwater crocodiles prowling the wetlands.
  - ❑ Every top tourist destination has a spectacular drive, and for Australia it's the **Great Ocean Road**. Built to provide employment during the Depression, the road stretches for 300 km along Australia's southeast coast from the surfing town of **Torquay** to the town of **Allansford**, near **Warrnambool** in the state of Victoria. The top attraction along the road is the **Port Campbell National Park** with the wind and wave-sculpted rock formations known as the **Twelve Apostles**, **London Bridge**, **the Arch**, and **Loch Ard Gorge**.
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# Geography of Oceania

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- ❑ Oceania, the planet's smallest continent, is without doubt one of the most diverse and fascinating areas on the planet.
  - ❑ Oceania is the name of the region consisting of island groups within the central and South Pacific Ocean.
  - ❑ It spans over 3.3 million square miles (8.5 million sq km). Some of the countries included in Oceania are Australia, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Palau, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Nauru.
  - ❑ Oceania also includes several dependencies and territories such as American Samoa, Johnston Atoll and French Polynesia.
  - ❑ Because most of Oceania is tropical or temperate there is an abundant amount of rainfall which produces tropical and temperate rainforests throughout the region. Tropical rainforests are common in some of the island countries located near the tropics, while temperate rainforests are common in New Zealand.
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- ❑ **New Zealand** - A World Heritage Site, Fiordland National Park protects some of the most spectacular scenery in the country. Glaciers sculpted this dramatic landscape carving the famous fjords of **Milford**, **Dusky**, and **Doubtful Sounds**. Visitors here can explore gushing cascades, offshore islands, virgin rainforests, vast lakes, and craggy mountain peaks. Not surprisingly, the park is a haven for hikers with some of the country's best walks, including the famous **Milford Track**. Sea kayaking is a popular way to explore the fjords, and visitors can also enjoy a scenic flight over the park for a bird's eye view of its staggering beauty.
  - ❑ A three-hour drive north of Auckland, the beautiful Bay of Islands is one of the most popular vacation destinations in the country. More than 144 islands dot the glittering bay making it a haven for sailing and yachting. Visitors can sea kayak along the coast, hike the many island trails, bask in secluded coves, tour **Cape Brett** and the famous rock formation called **Hole in the Rock**, and explore sub-tropical forests where Kauri trees grow. The quaint towns in the area such as **Russell**, **Opuā**, **Paihia**, and **Kerikeri** are great bases for exploring this scenic bay.
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- ❑ Snuggled between the shores of shimmering Lake Wakatipu and the snowy peaks of the Remarkables, **Queenstown** is New Zealand's adventure capital and one of the country's top destinations for international visitors. Bungee jumping, jet boating, white-water rafting, paragliding, rock climbing, mountain biking, and downhill skiing are just some of the adrenaline-fueled sports on offer, and visitors can explore the stunning alpine scenery on the excellent network of hiking trails. It's also a great base for trips to the **Central Otago** region, where visitors can explore gold mining towns and the Middle Earth scenery from the popular "Lord of the Rings" movies.
  - ❑ In the center of the North Island, a few kilometers from glittering **Lake Taupo**, New Zealand's largest lake, **Tongariro National Park** is a dual World Heritage Site due to its spectacular volcanic features and its importance to the Maori culture. A highlight of the park is the **Tongariro Alpine Crossing**, one of the most popular day walks in the country.
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- ❑ On the tumultuous Pacific Ring of Fire, **Rotorua** is one of the most active geothermal regions in the world. This is a land where the earth speaks. Boiling mud pools, hissing geysers, volcanic craters, and steaming thermal springs betray the forces that birthed much of New Zealand's dramatic topography. Trout fishing is also popular, and Rotorua is the gateway to the ski fields of **Mt. Ruapehu**. Nearby **Wai-O-Tapu** is also a popular tourist attraction with colorful hot springs and the famous **Champagne Pool** and **Lady Knox Geyser**.
  - ❑ Among the most accessible glaciers in the world, **Franz Josef and Fox glaciers** are the main tourist attractions in spectacular Westland Tai Poutini National Park. Both of these rivers of ice flow from some of the highest peaks in the Southern Alps to near sea level where the gentle coastal climate makes it easy for visitors to explore them on foot.
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- ❑ The Abel Tasman Coast Track in Abel Tasman National Park is one of New Zealand's **Great Walks**. Winding along sparkling **Tasman Bay**, from Marahau to Separation Point, this scenic 51-kilometer hike lies in one of the sunniest regions of the South Island. Along the way, hikers can snorkel in secluded coves; spot fur seals, dolphins, penguins, and a diverse range of birds; hike through cool forests; and enjoy panoramic views from the rugged coastal cliffs. Photographers will also enjoy the many weathered rock formations, especially **Split Apple Rock**, a giant granite boulder sliced in two.
  - ❑ In the heart of the Southern Alps, New Zealand's highest peaks rise above the alpine landscapes of Aoraki National Park, also called Mount Cook National Park. More than 40 per cent of the park is covered in glaciers, and the country's tallest mountain **Aoraki/Mount Cook** and longest glacier, the **Tasman Glacier**, lie within its borders making this a top destination for mountaineering. **Mount Cook Village** is a great base for exploring the park and organizing activities such as scenic flights, ski touring, heli-skiing, hunting, hiking, and stargazing trips.
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- ❑ In the sunny region of **Hawke's Bay, Napier** is famous for its gourmet food and Art Deco architecture. After a powerful earthquake destroyed the town in 1931, it was rebuilt in the Spanish Mission style and Art Deco design for which Miami Beach is also famous. Along the **Marine Parade** seafront promenade lies the town's famous statue from Maori mythology called **Pania of the Reef**. Napier is also a haven for foodies. Gourmet restaurants here specialize in using fresh produce from the region, and the town plays host to popular farmers' markets. Nearby attractions include hiking trails and the gannet colony at **Cape Kidnappers**.
  - ❑ Blessed with two sparkling harbors, **Auckland**, the "City of Sails," is New Zealand's largest city and the most populous Polynesian city in the world. Blond- and black-sand beaches, rainforest hiking trails, picturesque coves, islands, and volcanoes surround the city making it a perfect base for day trips and wilderness adventures. To appreciate Auckland's stunning location, visitors can zoom up the 328-meter **Sky Tower** for spectacular views across the city and hinterland.
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- ❑ Must across the **Hauraki Gulf** from Auckland, the rugged Coromandel Peninsula seems a world away from the city's hustle and bustle. Craggy mountains cloaked in native forest form a spine along the peninsula offering excellent opportunities for hiking and birding. Visitors can also relax on the golden beaches, sea kayak around the offshore islands, sky dive, and visit the many galleries and art studios. At **Hot Water Beach**, a dip in the bubbling hot pools is a great way to end a busy day of sightseeing.
  - ❑ Birders, wildlife enthusiasts, and seafood aficionados will love the charming coastal village of **Kaikoura**. Tucked between the **Seaward Kaikoura Range** and the Pacific Ocean, Kaikoura offers excellent coastal hikes and popular whale watching tours. In addition to sperm whales and humpbacks, passengers may spot fur seals, dolphins, and a wide variety of birds including the graceful albatross. Kaikoura is also renowned for its fresh-caught crayfish, mussels, and other seafood delights
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- ❑ **Bora Bora, French Polynesia** - Cloaked in green and encircling an impossibly radiant turquoise lagoon, Bora Bora is the beauty queen of the South Pacific. Glimpsed from afar, the lush peaks of Mount Otemanu and Mount Pahia perk up out of the sea, with arms outstretched as if to welcome you into their seductive embrace. Top it all off with mouthwatering French-inspired food and romantic resorts, and you have the ultimate honeymoon escape. Bora Bora's sister island, Moorea deserves special mention and also boasts a beautiful lagoon, slices of white-sand beach, and plunging emerald peaks.
  - ❑ **Aitutaki, The Cook Islands** - Presiding over another of the most beautiful lagoons in the South Pacific, Aitutaki is an underrated jewel. Closely linked to New Zealand, the Cook Islands lie between French Polynesia and Samoa. Aitutaki is the second-most visited island in the chain and lies about a 45-minute flight away from Rarotonga, the most popular island and location of the international airport.
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- ❑ **Tapuaetai (One Foot Island) Tour, The Cook Islands** - Fringed by gently curving coconut palms, beautiful Tapuaetai, or One Foot Island as it is more commonly known, is the most visited of Aitutaki's motu, and for good reason. This stunning island is worthy of most people's wildest tropical fantasies.
  - ❑ **Titikaveka Beach, Rarotonga, The Cook Islands.** On the southwest coast of Rarotonga, pretty **Titikaveka Beach** and lagoon is one of the island's best areas to swim and snorkel. The water is often so clear that swimmers need only stand in the lagoon to spot colorful fish.
  - ❑ **Te Vara Nui Village Tour & Cultural Show, Rarotonga, The Cook Islands** - fun way to learn a little about the history of the Cook Islands and traditional island life is a visit to the Te Vara Nui Village. The excursion begins with a two-hour guided tour of the village. Coconut husking, cooking, fishing, dancing, carving, weaving, and Maori bush medicine are just some of the activities you can learn about on the tour.
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- ❑ **Cross-Island Hike to Te Rua Manga (The Needle), Rarotonga. The Cook Islands** - Hiking the cross-island track is a great way to explore Rarotonga's lush scenery. The trail leads from the north coast up to the distinctive pinnacle rock **Te Rua Manga (The Needle)** and then via **Wigmore's Waterfall** to the south coast. The falls are beautiful after heavy rain, with a pool at their base, but the cascades slow to a trickle during the dry season.
  - ❑ **Aroa Marine Reserve, Rarotonga, The Cook Islands** - Sheltered by the outlying reef on Rarotonga's west coast, the crystal clear waters of the Aroa Marine Reserve are excellent for snorkeling. Not far from Aroa Marine Reserve, **Cocoputt Cook Islands** is an 18-hole mini-golf course with a fun dinner package that's especially popular with families.
  - ❑ **Arorangi, The Cook Islands.** Is a small village on the west side of the island. It was the first missionary village on Rarotonga. Today, you can visit the **Cook Island Christian Church** dating from 1849 and view a monument to the island's first missionary, Papeiha. **Arorangi Beach** is a beautiful spot to bask on the sand by day and watch the sun sink into the sea at dusk.
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- ❑ **The Mamanuca Islands, Fiji**-Dazzling beaches, serene blue seas, and plenty of sunshine make the Mamanucas among Fiji's most popular island group. Coral reefs shimmer in the clear waters around these 20 tropical beauties, and the famous Cloud Break, a world-class surf break, lies a short boat ride away.
  - ❑ **Samoa** - Samoa is one of the South Pacific's best kept secrets. Unassuming, unsullied, and stunningly beautiful, it lies in the heart of Polynesia, about half way between New Zealand and Hawaii. Adding to all this natural beauty is the warm hospitality of the locals, who still fiercely cling to their traditional values and customs, called "Fa'a Samoa." **Savai'i** and **Upolu** are the two main islands. Most visitors stay on Upolu, where Apia, the capital, is home to the **Robert Louis Stevenson Museum**. But Savai'i offers its own sleepy South Seas charm. On land, you can bask on **Lalomanu Beach**, hike the rainforest trails, take a 4WD or bicycle tour, and photograph some of the South Pacific's most beautiful waterfalls. Don't miss taking a dip in the To Sua trench, about a 1.5-hour drive from Apia.
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- ❑ **Palau** is one of the world's top dive destinations, and for good reason. From the air, the 500 plus islands of Palau are a study in topographic beauty, jutting out of the sea like a maze of jungly blobs, but beneath their limpid turquoise waters lies a fish-rich wonderland. Palau is also known for its WWII wreck diving and the Ngemelis Wall, or **Big Drop-Off**, reputedly one of the best wall dives in the world. One of the top things to do in Palau is take a boat trip to the **Rock Islands**, where you can snorkel in crystal clear waters, paddle around them in sea kayaks, and bask on their slivers of white-sand beach.
  - ❑ **Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu - Champagne Beach** is a must-visit with its powdery sands and crystal-clear waters, and you can snorkel and dive fertile coral reefs as well as famous wrecks like the **SS President Coolidge** from WW II. Landlubbers will also find plenty of adventures. One of the island's top adventures is a visit to **Millennium Cave**, which involves a jungle trek, crossing bamboo bridges, descending deep into a cave, and a swim through a pond and a series of jungly rapids.
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