

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PLACE BASED GUIDE

Learn about key Australian destinations through the lens of Indigenous history, storytelling and experiences of the world's oldest living cultures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Tourism Australia acknowledges the Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Custodians of the land, sea and waters of the Australian continent, and recognises their custodianship of culture and Country for over 65,000 years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and traditions are central to Australia's history and form an integral part in how Tourism Australia tells the nation's story.

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ADELAIDE / TARNTANYA



In recent years Adelaide has been voted Australia's 'coolest city', thanks in part to a proliferation of bars, restaurants, galleries and events, all wrapped in a laid-back vibe. Aboriginal cultures and communities are celebrated today including through the city's renowned festivals and events, and through the use of the traditional Aboriginal names alongside the English names, known as dual naming. A history of forced displacement of Kurna peoples from their camps along the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri and Adelaide Hills left many Aboriginal communities in limbo, with their rights over the land only reinstated and recognised in recent decades.

Southern Cultural Immersion Tours, South Australia

ADELAIDE / TARNTANYA



Traditional name: Tarntanya (pronounced tarn-dan-yah)

Geographical location: Adelaide Plains, Gulf of St Vincent, South Australia

Indigenous Peoples: Kurna (pronounced gar-nah)

How to say g'day: Niina marni



Adelaide Botanic Gardens, South Australia

WELCOME TO ADELAIDE / TARNTANYA

The River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri cuts through Adelaide, its banks lined with buildings and parklands. Indeed, this waterway was the main reason the Kurna favoured Tarntanya as a home for centuries, and why colonists settled in this part of Australia in 1836. Before they arrived, the water was pristine and an important source of fish and other foods, the Kurna's land-management skills ensuring conservation of plants and animals. They only used what they needed, and took nothing more.

Where the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is located today was the original Kurna campsite. But by the mid-1800s, any Aboriginal peoples remaining here were arrested for vagrancy.

While many Indigenous communities were forced off their land as a result, settlers established the Piltawodli Native Location along the banks of the river, a place they devoted to the 'civilising' and Christianisation of Aboriginal peoples. There was also a school here that taught in Kurna and recorded the language sufficiently to afford a Kurna language revival in the 21st century. But it wasn't until 1962 when a repeal in restrictive legislative provisions that had controlled the lives of South Australia's Aboriginal peoples for the previous five decades that Kurna people could choose where to live.

The birth of the flag

The Aboriginal flag was first raised here in 1971, created by Harold Thomas as a symbol of Aboriginal unity and national identity. Later that same year, the flag was flown at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra, and is now on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge next to the Australian flag and on all Government buildings across the country.

Creation story

As told by Aunty Margret Brodie, founder of the Kurna Womens Art Collective/Lartelare: "Tjilbruke was a Kurna man who belonged to the Emu People. They believed that they don't kill their totem or eat it. One day Tjilbruke and his nephew Kulutuwi were playing around. As they were playing, Kulutuwi accidentally killed an emu and the tribesmen speared Kulutuwi. Tjilbruke carried his nephew all along the coast. As he went, he stopped and rested while crying for his nephew and creating natural springs from his tears. The natural springs were warm like tears and tasted just like tears, too. Tjilbruke carried Kulutuwi to Rapid Bay where he laid him in a cave which became his resting place. The Kurna people believe that Tjilbruke then turned into an ibis bird and now we see him everywhere."



Living Kurna Cultural Centre,
South Australia

HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS ADELAIDE

1

Get your feet wet

Native plants and animals flourish at Warriparinga Wetlands, home to the [Living Kurna Cultural Centre](#), which interprets Kurna culture and heritage. Take a tour of the area with [Southern Cultural Immersion](#), or try one of their art and weaving workshops.

2

Take a deep dive into Indigenous cultures from the coast

Journey down Adelaide's southern coast on the [Kauwi Cultural Cruise](#), a collaborative tour between [Temptation Sailing](#) and [Southern Cultural Immersion](#). Explore the beauty of the coastline while discovering its significant aquatic and Indigenous cultural elements, hosted by an Indigenous guide and marine biologist.

3

Dine on native produce

Set amid the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, [Restaurant Botanic](#) spotlights native Australian ingredients in its menu. Many of the Indigenous plants served can be found in the grounds that surround, as you'll discover on an additional tour through the Gardens with Southern Cultural Immersion. Other places to get a taste for native ingredients include the [Adelaide Central Market](#) (Something Wild's stall here works with Indigenous communities to source game meats and native greens), [Red Ochre](#), where you can sample dishes like fried crocodile with desert lime, or sip some of the local Indigenous owned [Munda Wines](#) at wine bars such as [East End Cellars](#).

4

Visit a major cultural institution

The Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery within the [South Australian Museum](#) is home to more than 3,000 significant Indigenous cultural and artistic pieces, including some of the only bark canoes in existence.

5

Purchase art, ethically

Some 500 Indigenous artists are in the spotlight thanks to the APY Art Centre Collective (APYACC), a group of Indigenous-owned and governed art centres including Adelaide's [APY Gallery](#). [Ku Arts](#) also represents Aboriginal artists, with works purchased ethically from South Australian creative centres.

6

Go for a wander

Set aside three hours for the [Kurna Walk](#), exploring the impact of settlement on Aboriginal communities via 17 significant sites around the city. Download the map and wander at your own pace. Or go on a tour of the Botanic Gardens or the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery, SA Museum with [Bookabee Tours](#).

7

Visit an island

Ngarrindjeri Elder Uncle Mark Koolmatrie reveals the Indigenous history of Kangaroo Island, just south of Adelaide, on his [Kool Tours](#) day adventures.

8

Attend an event

[Tarnanthi Festival](#) (October) is a celebration of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, hosted at the Art Gallery of South Australia and galleries across Adelaide and the rest of South Australia. Adelaide's two major festivals, [Adelaide Festival](#) (February-March) and [WOMAdelaide](#) (March) celebrate Indigenous peoples and cultures through music, dance and performance.

ALICE SPRINGS / MPARNTWE



This is the heart of Australia with beautiful chasms, mountain ranges, vast swathes of conservation park – and more than 100 sacred Aboriginal sites. Today, more than 25 per cent of the population is Indigenous to the region. They are Traditional Custodians of more than 400,000 square kilometres of landscapes that have inspired some of Australia's most important Indigenous artists, giving Alice Springs the stature of an important Australian arts hub.

West Macdonnell Ranges, Northern Territory

ALICE SPRINGS / MPARNTWE



Traditional name: Mparntwe (pronounced M-ban tua)

Geographical location: Central Australia, Northern Territory

Indigenous Peoples: Arrernte (pronounced aran-da)

How to say g'day in Arrernte: Werte (pronounced wer-ta)



Alice Springs / Mparntwe, Northern Territory

WELCOME TO ALICE SPRINGS / MPARNTWE

Alice Springs / Mparntwe is a spiritual place, you'll feel the immensity of the landscapes and the Arrernte's long connection to Country as soon as you arrive. European settlers didn't make it here until 1862, when explorer John Stuart arrived on a north-south expedition of the country.

The influx of colonists continued when gold was discovered in the late 1800s. While many found their fortune, it didn't come without conflict, with many Aboriginal communities forced to work on The Ghan railway, connecting Darwin with Adelaide (Arrernte knowledge was vital in assisting settlers find water and food along the route). Other communities were driven into missions, including one on the grounds of the Telegraph Station as well as Hermannsburg mission on the outskirts of town, which became a refuge for Aboriginal people during the violent frontier conflicts with early pastoralists.

Alice Springs's remoteness was in many ways a curse (much of the rest of Australia were unaware of the ongoing conflict here) and a blessing, protecting the region's strong Aboriginal culture and connection to Country. It thrives to this day, with around 25 per cent of the population speaking Arrernte as a first language and the city acting as a hub for surrounding Aboriginal communities.



Creation story

As told by Vanessa Inkamala, a prominent artist from the Hermannsburg Community:

“These mountains and ranges here were created by Yeperenye, giant caterpillars, during the Dreamtime. They were in a battle with their enemies, the stink bugs. They lost the battle, and became the long ridges of the East and West MacDonnell Ranges when they were killed. The gaps in the ranges were created when caterpillars’ heads were bitten off by stink bugs.”

Simpsons Gap is one such place, cut through the towering cliffs of Simpsons Range. Lace up your hiking shoes and take a walk to the permanent waterhole, with plenty of opportunities to spot resident wildlife.



Araluen Arts Centre, Northern Territory

The birthplace of the Aboriginal Art Movement

Landscapes of the Central Desert region have always inspired creativity, and Alice Springs and surrounds have been the birthplace of some of Australia's most notable Indigenous artists. The city is where art from the Western Desert community of Papunya was first marketed in the 1970s. From humble beginnings, the artists of Papunya are now known as the founders and ‘masters’ of the Aboriginal Art Movement.

You can witness this evolution first-hand at the [Araluen Cultural Precinct](#), home to one of the most important collections of Aboriginal art in the country, tracing the history of Aboriginal art development in Central Australia and the beginning of the Western Desert art movement, including original artworks by renowned watercolourist Albert Namatjira and Papunya artists from the early 1970s.

Needless to say, there are dozens of other studios and galleries in and around Alice Springs, from [Tjanpi Desert Weavers](#) to [Bindi Mwerre](#), [This is Aboriginal Art](#), and [Ikuntji Artists](#), where you can purchase art [ethically](#) at each one.



HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS ALICE SPRINGS



1

Enjoy full immersion

The Larapinta Trail is immense, spanning some 220 kilometres through the MacDonnell Ranges / Tjoritja. Explore the east or west sections on seven-night hikes led by Aboriginal guides via [100% Finke Tours](#) or with [World Expeditions](#).

2

Visit a former mission

Lutheran missionaries established the Hermannsburg Mission in 1877, a National Trust-listed precinct of whitewashed German-style buildings now known as the [Hermannsburg Historic Precinct](#). This is the birthplace of Albert Namatjira, one of Australia's most renowned Aboriginal painters. Visit at your leisure or with [100% Finke Tours](#).

3

Take a walk

[Standley Chasm Angkerle Atwatye](#) is a marvel of Central Australia, where geological formations meet deep cultural significance. Wander through on a self-guided walk, or discover the history with an Aboriginal guide.

4

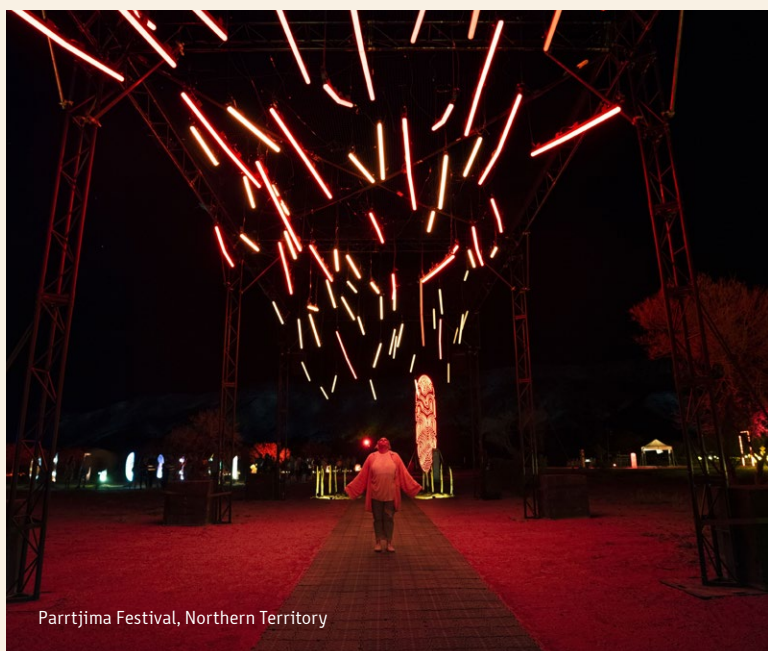
Get creative

Feeling inspired by Alice Springs's creative scene? Get hands-on with [Ayeye Atyenhe Art](#), giving you the chance to meet artists, discover traditional painting techniques, learn Arrernte language and create your own masterpiece.

5

Go off-the-beaten-track

A self-drive camping expedition allows you to immerse yourself in the raw beauty of the West MacDonnell Ranges / Tjoritja, [Ellery Creek](#) (a permanent waterhole enveloped by geological rock formations) and [Ormiston Gorge](#), with its towering red walls and permanent waterhole.



Parrtjima Festival, Northern Territory

6

Attend an event

[Parrtjima – A Festival of Light](#) (April) sets the MacDonnell Ranges aglow with illuminated Aboriginal artworks, light shows and a program of performances, interactive workshops, music and talks. [Desert Song](#) (September) celebrates musicians and dancers who showcase the region. And [Desert Mob](#) (September/October) is one of the oldest Aboriginal arts festivals, hosting everything from studio visits and curator talks to workshops and musical performances.

7

Taste bush tucker

Further out of town you can join a tour with [Karrke](#) to discover (and sample) edible trees and grasses, as well as witchetty grubs and honey ants.



BROOME / RUBIBI



Broome / Rubibi today is known as the ‘pearl capital’ of Australia, a place where visitors can pick up precious gems in a town lined with jewellery stores. How the town evolved is deeply intertwined with Aboriginal peoples, cultures and communities who are making Broome / Rubibi, and the Kimberley region, a destination rich in diverse Aboriginal cultural experiences.

Reddell Beach, Western Australia

BROOME / RUBIBI



Traditional name: Rubibi (pronounced Roo-bee-bee)

Geographical location: Kimberley Region of Northern Western Australia

Indigenous Peoples: Yawuru Ngumbarl, Nimanburr, Jabirr Jabirr, Nyul Nyul, Bardi, Jawi.

Traditional language of Rubibi: Yawuru

How to say g'day in Yawuru: Ngaji Gurrjin



Mabu Buru Tours, Western Australia

WELCOME TO BROOME / RUBIBI

The historic pearling town of Broome / Rubibi is revered for epic Indian Ocean sunsets and magnificent beaches bounded by red pindan scrub. Locals and visitors alike today descend on 22-kilometre-long Cable Beach to watch the day end, whether sitting on the sand or riding camels. The town was gazetted in 1883, but Aboriginal communities had contact with European and Asian traders cruising along the coast long before this. In fact, pearl shell has been traded by Indigenous communities for more than 22,000 years, making it one of the world's earliest forms of currency.

The colonists 'discovery' of pearl shell here made it even more valuable as a destination. Pearling camps sprung up, and fortune-seekers flocked to the region, attracting European, Chinese, Malay, Filipino, Afghan and Japanese entrepreneurs. This ethnic diversity is still one of Broome's many assets.

But getting to where we are today has been challenging.

Many Aboriginal peoples forced into slavery to work as pearl divers in harsh and dangerous conditions. Others were forced off their traditional lands and displaced into missions controlled by churches, including Lombadina, Sunday Island and Beagle Bay.

Today the pearling industry is not the only focus for Broome / Rubibi, with the region a significant destination for immersive Aboriginal experiences.



Creation story

As told by Bart Pigram, owner of [Narlijia Experiences](#):

“The Wandjina is the creator spirit of the Kimberley, but Ungud the snake helped create the region’s rivers, gorges and streams. The Kimberley is also famous for its diamonds, which came about when Daiwul, a giant barramundi, leapt from the water to escape an ancestral women trying to catch her in fishing nets. Her scales fell off when she jumped, and became diamonds.”



Wandjina Aboriginal rock art, near RaftPoint, Western Australia
Credit: Garry Norris Photography



Bart Pigram, Narlijia Experiences, Western Australia



A Broome pearl, Western Australia

Emblematic flora and fauna

Broome is Sea Country, and Aboriginal communities have lived off crabs, molluscs, pearl oysters, sea urchins and cockles for millennia. Along the coast you’ll discover middens, piles of shells left behind after a traditional feast. There’s a lot more to these sacred sites than meets the eye, with middens said to be the earliest form of conservation, alerting visiting communities as to what had recently been eaten, and what should be avoided to ensure the preservation of species as a result. It’s best to visit these destinations with an Aboriginal guide, like Bart Pigram from [Narlijia Experiences](#), to both understand them and respect their cultural significance.

HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS BROOME



1

Explore the mangroves

Take a deep dive into the mangroves of Roebuck Bay with local Yawuru Bart Pigram, who provides insights while you forage for mud crabs, mudskippers and molluscs on his [Narlijia Experiences tours](#).

2

Visit a mission

Established in the late 1800s, the Beagle Bay Mission on the Dampier Peninsula, 180 kilometres north of Broome, has a somber history, with many Aboriginal children forced to leave their communities and live here. Guide Robert Dann from [Kimberley Cultural Adventures](#) doesn't shy away from truth telling when you visit.

3

Take a deep dive into pearling history

[Borroron Coast to Creek Tours](#) offers a fascinating opportunity to discover how Bardi Jawi history is tied to the pioneering beginnings of the region's pearl trade. Wander coastal flats and savour oysters plucked straight from the rocks.

4

Go on a multi-day adventure

When one day of Indigenous culture isn't enough, join [Mabu Buru Tours](#) on an immersive adventure that includes traditional cooking demonstrations, hikes, cruises and performances.

5

Purchase art, ethically

Not-for-profit [Nagula Jarndu](#) unites more than 120 creative Aboriginal women, selling everything from jewellery to clothing. Broome is also home to a plethora of galleries inspired by the Kimberley, including [Black Stump](#) and [Short Street Gallery](#).

6

Camp with a Custodian

Spend a night camping in Lombadina on Aboriginal lands as part of a [Camping with Custodians](#) initiative. The campgrounds are open to the public and are owned and operated by the community.



Rosanna Angus, Oolin Sunday Tours, Western Australia

7

Take a women-only tour

[Jarndu Ngaank](#) offers a range of experiences around Broome, among them the Women's Talk Tours, an immersive experience to give you a better understanding of Aboriginal smoking ceremonies, bush-tucker tastings and open discussions.

8

Forage and feast

On a half-day 4WD tag-along experience, [Southern Cross Cultural Tours](#) guides you on a journey across Lullumb, the pristine coastal Country north of Broome, where bush meets sea. This relaxed journey unfolds through cultural stories, songs, hands-on experiences and culminates with a cook-up of bush tucker that has been collected during the tour.

9

Cruise to Sunday Island

Just off the coast of Broome, Sunday Island was home to another of the Kimberley's missions. Cruise out with Rosanna Angus from [Oolin Cultural Tours](#) to hear about life.

10

Attend an event

[A Taste of Broome](#) (August) is a celebration of Broome's heritage, including Indigenous musical and theatrical performances, from some of the region's most talented creatives. [Shinju Matsuri – Festival of the Pearl](#) (August/September) hosts art awards and parades alongside foodie events and live music. [Kimberley Blak Pride Festival](#) (April/May) sees the region's SBLGBTIQA+ community unite during this celebration of cultures.

CAIRNS / GIMUY



Cairns / Gimuy is a place where two World Heritage Sites meet – the Great Barrier Reef and the rainforest of Queensland. Every year, thousands of people flock here to snorkel and dive over the world's largest reef system and explore rainforest that is the oldest of its kind in the world. It's also the traditional home to the world's oldest continuous cultures, and this fact is not forgotten, whether you're exploring the Coral Sea or wandering the Daintree Rainforest, the cultures of Indigenous peoples is strong here.

Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel, Queensland

CAIRNS / GIMUY



Traditional name: Gimuy (pronounced gee-moy)

Geographical location: Cape York Peninsula, Far North Queensland

Indigenous Peoples: Jabugay, Yirriganydji, Bulwai, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, Bundabarra and Wadjanbarra Yidinji, Mandingabay Yidinji, Gunggandji, Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji, Wanyurr Majay, Mamu and Ngadjonjii

How to say g'day: Goorin boongun (pronounced goo-rin boon-un)



Shine On Gimuy Festival, Queensland

WELCOME TO CAIRNS / GIMUY

When you gaze over the Great Barrier Reef today from Cairns / Gimuy, you'll spot luxury yachts and catamarans, speedboats and jet skis, ferrying some of the millions of visitors who come here every year to dive into this World Heritage-listed attraction. It's a pretty special part of Queensland, something the Traditional Custodians have always known. The bountiful food supply and tropical climate saw Indigenous hunting and gathering communities set up camps all along the Cairns coast, back then, at low tide, they could walk all the way out to Green Island to forage.

The tides turned in another way when gold was discovered in the region in the 1800s, leading to an influx of European settlers to what explorer Captain James Cook named Trinity Bay. There had been little colonial contact before this time, and the overwhelming infiltration had an enduring impact on Indigenous communities.

Fortune seekers promptly took over Aboriginal wells as a source of fresh water, and relied heavily on the Indigenous community to forage for food. Once Europeans had this knowledge, they forcefully removed many Indigenous populations off their land and into missions like Yarrabah, just south of Cairns, where speaking Language was prohibited.

Despite its tumultuous history, Cairns is today a thriving Indigenous cultural destination, with dozens of art galleries celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, some of Australia's most significant festivals and events, and Indigenous-owned and-operated tourism experiences that celebrate the world's oldest living cultures.

Creation story

As told by proud Kuku Yalanji man Jacob Williamson, a Master Reef Guide with Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel: “My Elders tell me of how the Great Barrier Reef was the work of Bhiral, The Creator. One day, two brothers went out fishing. Bhiral warned them not to catch a particular type of fish. We need to protect it, he said. The brothers ignored him, spearing the fish and catching more than what they needed. Bhiral was furious, and began throwing down lava and hot rocks into the ocean from the sky, over and over again, all up and down the coast. The heat and rocks caused the sea levels to rise. When it eventually cooled, it revealed what is the Great Barrier Reef today, all the beautiful coral bommies and fans and the marine life that call it home.”



Emblematic flora and fauna

For as long as Indigenous communities have lived along the Cairns coast, the dugong (kirkbaji) has been an important marine emblem, not only in indicating the health of the Coral Sea, but also as a source of food and nutrients, highly valued during ceremonial occasions. It features in Creation stories, myths and rituals. Want to see one? In recent years, dugongs have been spotted as close as Green Island, just 45 minutes by boat from Cairns. Divers and snorkellers across the reef report regular sightings.



HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS CAIRNS

1

Splash about

Take a deep dive into the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef on a [Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel](#) expedition from Cairns. Set out in a catamaran with Indigenous sea rangers to hear Creation stories of the reef.

2

Take a sunset cruise

Explore lakes and tributaries as the day ends on a cruise with [Mandalgabay Authentic Indigenous Tours](#), discovering the important work Aboriginal rangers are doing to rehabilitate the tropical ecosystem. Day experiences are also available, with short walks incorporated as well as bush tucker.

3

Dine on native produce

Wattleseed damper, kangaroo skewers with macadamia satay, emu wontons with Davidson plum sauce... every dish on the menu at [Ochre](#) restaurant overlooking Cairns Harbour comes infused with ingredients native to Australia. It's a similar story at lunchtime venue [Gumbu Gumbu](#), think macadamia muffins, and lemon myrtle slings.

4

Discover Aboriginal artefacts

If you're keen on learning how to throw a boomerang or spear, or want to see a didgeridoo and dance performance, visit [Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience](#) at Rainforestation Nature Park in Kuranda.

5

Purchase art, ethically


Cairns has a plethora of galleries and art centres where you can purchase Aboriginal art. Check out Indigenous-owned [UMI Arts Gallery](#), [NorthSite Contemporary Arts](#), [Doongal Aboriginal Art](#) and the [Cairns Art Gallery](#).

6

Attend an event

[Shine on Gimuy](#) (October) is an immersive Indigenous led festival uniting Indigenous storytelling, innovative arts, music, performances and showcase of cultural practices. [Laura Quinkan Dance Festival \(July\) is a three-day biennial event 300km north of Cairns, showcasing 1,000 performers from some 20 different Aboriginal communities. Cairns Indigenous Art Fair](#) (July) unites up-and-coming creatives with established and high-profile Indigenous talent from across Queensland. Art forms range from paintings to pottery and dance to song.

CANBERRA



Sailboats and kayaks glide over Canberra's enormous Lake Burley Griffin, and at sunrise hot-air balloons drift over it. It's a peaceful scene for Australia's capital city, the seat of the government and home to the country's most important political institutions, national monuments and museums. While the city itself was founded by European settlers in 1913, the city's bushy surrounds tell a story of the Ngunnawal people. Their land rights, and those of Indigenous communities across Australia, is a constant reminder at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy on the lawn of the Old Parliament House.

Richard Allan, Ngunnawal On Country Tour, Australian Capital Territory

CANBERRA



Traditional name: Canberra

Geographical location: Australian Capital Territory, Southeast Australia

Indigenous Peoples: Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri

How to say g'day: Yumalundi (pronounced yooma-loondi)



National Gallery of Australia, Australian Capital Territory

WELCOME TO CANBERRA

The valley Canberra sits in today made a perfect settlement area for Ngunnawal people thousands of years ago. It provided a haven of resources with a central river fed by the high peaks of the catchment, all surrounded by rock shelters for protection. The scar trees, middens and rock-art sites across the region bear evidence of just how important it was as a meeting place for Aboriginal communities around the region. It was similarly attractive to colonists, who settled here in the early 1800s.

By the mid-1900s, Indigenous land rights had been abolished across the region and Aboriginal children were forcibly being removed from families for 'whitewashing', a practice that went on for nearly a decade, long after Canberra was named Australia's capital in 1913. By the 1970s, the outrage among Indigenous communities reached a boiling point, and people united to set up the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in front of Parliament House.

Back then, it was just a single beach umbrella on the lawn, protesting land rights bills being passed around Australia. In subsequent decades, the number of activists gathered here grew to number more than 2,000. It hasn't been without controversy, with fires, fights and riots across the site. But to this day it remains a permanent protest occupation site, marking the longest continuous protest for Indigenous land rights in the world.

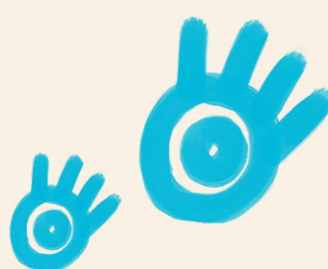
Creation story

As told by Paul Girrawah House, a Ngambri-Ngunnawal custodian of the Canberra region with Wiradjuri, Walgalu and Ngunnawal ancestry: "In the Dreaming, there lived a family of ducks on Narran Lake. The ducks swam freely in these waters and their bellies were always full from the bountiful food. The Elders set rules and expectations for the ducklings to keep them safe and out of harm. On the other side of the lake lived nasty bigun, the water rat, who was always watching the ducks. One day, gaygan the duck went swimming, and bigun took his chance to pounce. He held her in his cave until one day she had the chance to escape and return home, where she gave birth to ducklings that her friends called ugly. They weren't yellow, but brown and furry, and had long beaks the same shape as their tails. This is how biladurang (the platypus) came to be, and survived because of its thicker fur and form."

For your best chance to spot a platypus in the wild, head to the Sanctuary, a large wetlands area, at Canberra's Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

Emblematic flora and fauna

If you want to know what the endangered gang gang cockatoo sounds like, just say its name, given to it by Wiradjuri communities. It's the faunal emblem of Canberra, and an important part of Australian Indigenous mythology, recognised in the cycle of birth, death and rebirth of plants in the landscape, and as a symbol of illumination. For your best chance of spotting one in the wild, head to [Canberra Nature Park](#).



HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS CANBERRA

1

Visit a major cultural institution

The [National Gallery of Australia](#) is home to more than 7,500 works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, the largest collection of its kind in the world. Drop in on the First Nations collection at the [National Museum](#), where you can view the powerful Talking Blak to History exhibition.

2

Explore an Ice Age rock shelter

Tidbinbilla National Park provides you with a unique opportunity to picture the long and ongoing connection of Ngunnawal people with the land and local flora and fauna. Here, the [Birrigai Rock Shelter](#) is one of the oldest known inhabited rock shelters in the world, and shows Aboriginal use of shelters during the last Ice Age, dating back over 25,000 years.

3

Purchase art, ethically

Canberra's only Aboriginal-owned gallery, [Burrunju Art](#) is a not-for profit space where all proceeds from your purchase and channelled back to creatives. [The Aboriginal Dreamings Gallery](#) is also a great place to pick up works sourced directly from Indigenous art centres around the country.

4

Learn about Aboriginal politicians

Australia's Indigenous peoples are contributing to political change and the democratic process, as you'll learn on the Yeribee tour of [Parliament House](#). Gain insights into The Apology to the Stolen Generations, the Yirrkala Bark Petitions and a collection of artwork by Indigenous creatives.

5

Take a moment of silence

For Our Country is an Indigenous sculptural pavilion and shrine at the [War Memorial](#), recognising the military service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the contributions Indigenous Australians have made and continue to make in defence of Country.

6

Visit the Aboriginal Tent Embassy

Located in front of the Old Parliament House. It is the longest ongoing Indigenous protest in the world.

DAINTREE RAINFOREST



Every year, hundreds of thousands of visitors marvel at the oldest living rainforest on the planet. But until 2020 when it was officially called Kaba Kada ('the rainy place'), it was known only as the Daintree by most. This tropical Queensland UNESCO World Heritage rainforest holds Aboriginal stories and traditions that date back tens of thousands of years, and that are still thriving today.

Voyages Mossman Gorge, Queensland

DAINTREE RAINFOREST



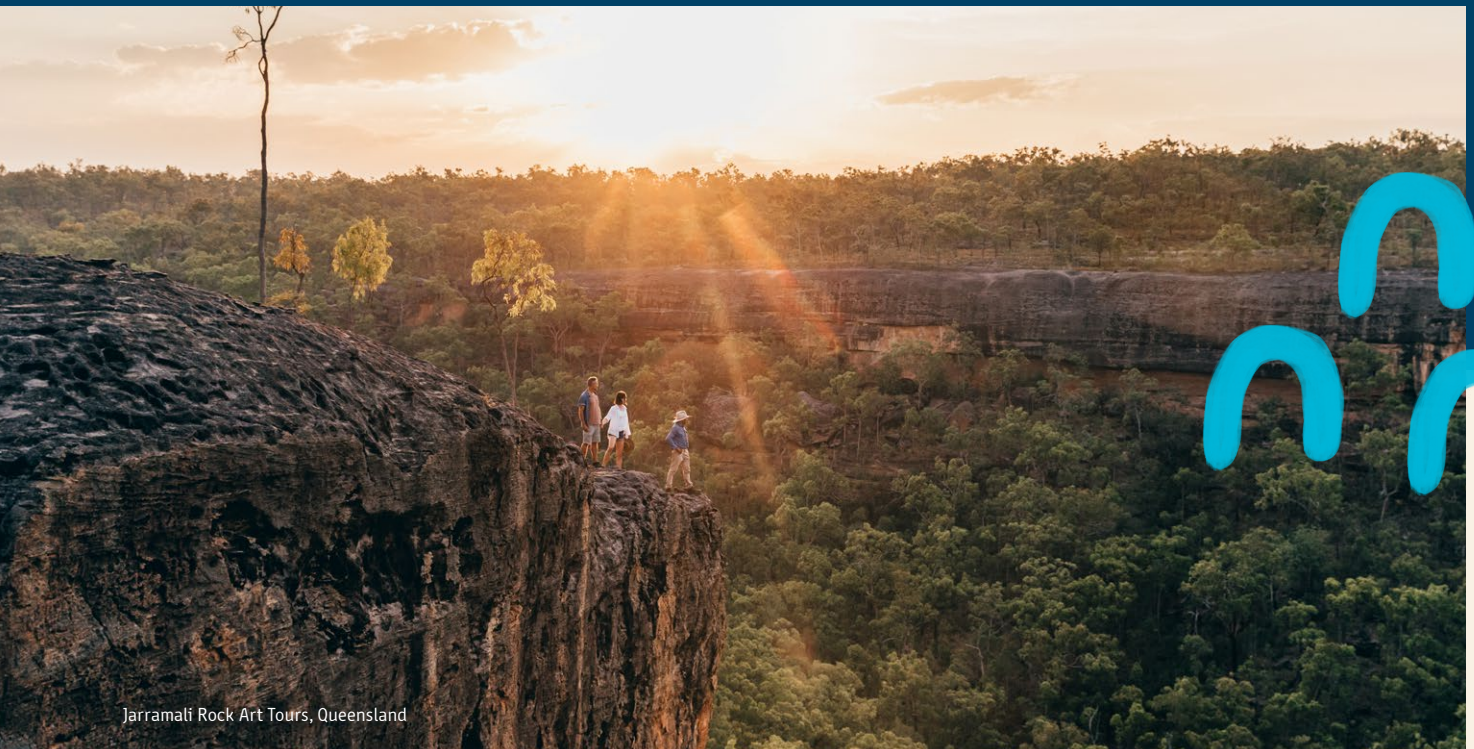
Traditional name: Kaba Kada (pronounced Gada Gaba)

Geographical location: Cape Tribulation, Tropical North Queensland

Indigenous Peoples: Kuku Yalanji, Guugu Yimithirr

Traditional languages of Kaba Kaba: Yalanji-Warra, Jalunji-Warra and Kuku Nyungkal

How to say g'day: Ngulkurr warngku (pronounced Nool-kore warn-koo)



Jarramali Rock Art Tours, Queensland

WELCOME TO THE DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Visiting the Daintree Rainforest, the largest tropical rainforest in Australia, will slow your pulse. This epic wilderness area has continued to evolve for more than 130 million years, surviving through cataclysmic events that wiped out dinosaurs. The Kuku Yalanji Traditional Custodians have lived here for tens of thousands of years, thriving off this bountiful landscape. A landscape that caught the eye of explorer Captain James Cook when he sailed by in 1770.

Cook beached his ship, The Endeavour, off the coast of the Cape York town now known as Cooktown. The boat limping to coast was an unprecedented sight for the Guugu Yimithirr, and one that would change the course of their lives. The visit ended in conflict, and would go on to shape Indigenous perceptions of Europeans until they landed again in the 19th century. The influx of colonists forced many Aboriginal communities off their land. By the late 1800s, Lutheran missionaries had sprung up to provide secure living spaces at Elim on the beach.

That was just the start of the hardship, WWII was to come next. Aboriginal communities at Hopevale and Bloomfield were forcibly removed, with most being taken south to Woorabinda, Central QLD. While some of the elderly people were sent to Palm Island, an island prison. Aboriginal peoples were not allowed to return to their homelands until 1949.

They would have to wait until 2021 to see the Daintree and its surrounds officially handed back to them, and have since been on a mission to rewrite the world's oldest rainforest through tourism and community projects like [Tropical ReGen](#), the latter of which includes planting red cedars, which were used by Aboriginal women for shelter and giving birth.

Emblematic flora and fauna

As told by Juan Walker, owner and guide of [Walkabout Cultural Adventures](#): “Gundy (the cassowary) is really important to Aboriginal communities in the Daintree. We talk about it in Dreamtime stories, songs and dances. The Dreamtime story talks about how the rainforest animals used to tease the cassowary, because it couldn’t fly. One day it was so upset it ran into a big rock, and part of that rock got stuck in its head. It’s a long story, but the cassowary started to realise this was an advantage, and he could use his new helmet to crack open things in the rainforest. The next day, all the animals that had been teasing him were being attacked by snakes. The cassowary came to the rescue, using his head and sharp claws. He became a hero in the rainforest, and was never teased again. Till this very day the cassowary still has his hard helmet on his head and is now the protector of the rainforest of Far North Queensland.”

You can glimpse them in the wild along the Dreaming Trail from Mission Beach through Djiru National Park. Summer (December through February) is your best chance to glimpse chicks, exploring for the first time with their fathers.



Juan Walker, Walkabout Cultural Adventures, Queensland

HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS CULTURES IN THE DAINTREE

1

Marvel at Mossman Gorge

More than 500 species of Australian native plants grow in the lowland tropical rainforests of [Mossman Gorge](#), as you’ll discover on a Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk from the Aboriginal-owned Cultural Centre. You’ll learn all about the ecosystems the Kuku Yalanji use for food and medicine.

2

Learn how to forage

Lunch doesn’t get any tastier than when you’ve caught it yourself. And that’s exactly what you’ll get the chance to do on an experience with [Walkabout Cultural Adventures](#) or [Down Under Tours](#). Both take you to Cooya Beach where you’ll explore mangroves scanning for mud crabs, forage for pipis, and learn how to throw a spear. You’ll also enjoy a guided rainforest walk learning about bush foods and medicines that characterise the Daintree.

3

Take an art class

If you fancy yourself as a budding artist and want to take home some new skills, drop in on [Janbal Gallery](#) where Kuku Yalanji artist Brian ‘Binna’ Swindley explains the intricacies behind Aboriginal art, then sets you up with your own tools to create a masterpiece to take home.

4

Experience ancient healing

Indulge in spa treatments that take Indigenous inspiration at [Daintree Eco Lodge](#). Each ritual is named by Kuku Yalanji Elders and combines cultural, healing, medicinal and spiritual elements native to the region.

5

Taste bush tucker

A native-produce-inspired banquet dinner served under a silk canopy is your entrée to an Indigenous cultural experience at [Flames of the Forest](#), held alfresco amid the rainforest. Kuku Yalanji hosts share music, ceremony and storytelling, as well as inviting guests to spend some time sitting quietly, listening to the sounds of the night.

6

Be dazzled by ancient rock art

A [Jarramali Rock Art Tour](#) from Laura, part of Queensland’s Quinkan rock art sites that are touted by UNESCO as being one of the top-10 rock art sites in the world. [Culture Connect](#) also offers visitors exclusive access to the rock-art-rich Normanby Station near Cooktown. The only way to see this art is on a tour with Aboriginal guides.

7

Attend an event

[Laura Quinkan Dance Festival](#) (July) sees some 1,000 performers from 20 different Aboriginal communities gather to celebrate culture through music, storytelling, art, dance and workshops.

HOBART / NIPALUNA



Touch down into Hobart on the island state of Tasmania / lutruwita and breathe freely, with the southern island state having the cleanest air in the world. Tasmania / lutruwita also boasts picturesque waterways with an abundance of seafood, wild ancient forest and atmospheric landscapes.

It was the arrival of the British, when this pristine pocket became a battleground between the British and local palawa Aboriginal communities. Communities were forced into remote camps and dangerous work conditions, killed on mass by disease and colonists, and ordered to only speak English. But the palawa peoples of Tasmania / lutruwita have shown their strength by reviving their languages and traditions, and creating world class cultural experiences.

kunanyi / Mount Wellington, Tasmania

HOBART / NIPALUNA



Traditional name: nipaluna (pronounced nipa-loonah)

Geographical location: Derwent River, Southern Australia

Indigenous Peoples: muwinina and palawa/pakana

How to say g'day: yah!



palawa kipli, Tasmania

WELCOME TO HOBART / NIPALUNA

Despite being a place of immense natural beauty, Hobart / nipaluna and the state of Tasmania has a history of conflict and violence for the Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples. While Dutch explorer Abel Tasman was the first European to map parts of Tasmania, naming it Van Diemen's Land in 1642, the first documented contact between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans wasn't until 1772. Relations between the two peoples were hostile, with colonists trading in Aboriginal women and kidnapping children for hard labour on ships and as sealers.

In the mid 1800s, the 'Black War' began, the most extensive and violent conflict in Australian history. Settlers removed Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples from their lands, murdering many, with officials ordering thousands of able-bodied settlers to form what became known as the 'Black Line'. This human chain crossed the state in an attempt to intimidate, capture, displace and relocate the remaining Aboriginal peoples, many to Wybalenna: a so-called 'Aboriginal settlement' on Flinders Island where they were to be 'civilised and Christianed'.

This devastated the Aboriginal population as communities were forced to stop using their language. But the Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples survived due to their strength, resilience and knowledge of Country. Today there is a thriving culture with language being revived and cultural practice being renewed and celebrated through food, music and art.

The strength of their language is evident with the dual naming of places and geographic locations across the state including Hobart / nipaluna and kunanyi / Mt Wellington, with the English and palawa kani names alongside each other.

Creation story

As told by Nunami Sculthorpe-Green, a palawa/warlpiri storyteller and entrepreneur. "This story is passed down from the chief and storyteller Wurati. The story tells how our island was formed by ancestral creator spirits and how the star spirit muyini, made Palawa, the first man. Muyini made palawa from the Earth at the same time he cut the rivers and made the mountains. All Tasmanian Aboriginal people today are Palawa's people, made from our Country.

This story tells us how our people and our Country are one in the same creation. Made at the same time by the same Creator beings. This story tells us how we are to relate to our country. How we are born into this landscape, as part of Country itself.

The kangaroo, tara, is a metaphor for palawa identity in Tasmania. It's a Creation spirit and ancestor of palawa the 'first man'. It bound Aboriginal people to the land and gave us an identity as descendants of a creation spirit."

Emblematic flora and fauna

Native to Australia, the short-tailed shearwater (aka mutton bird or yula), is an important cultural symbol to Tasmania's Aboriginal community, celebrated in contemporary culture through art, theatre and song. It has also served as a major source of protein for locals for tens of thousands of years. Remains have been found at archaeological middens across the state – and to this day annual gatherings are held to undertake mutton birding while passing down traditional hunting and cultural practices.



wukalina Walk,
Tasmania

HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS TASMANIA

1

Discover Hobart / nipaluna through the eyes of a Custodian

The takara nipaluna walk by [Blak Led Tours](#) follows the route taken in 1832 by members of the Aboriginal resistance, retracing their steps as they progressed to the old Government House to negotiate an end to the state's Black War.

2

Visit a major cultural institution

More than 12,000 global works comprise the Indigenous collection at the [Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery](#) in Hobart / nipaluna, with two permanent spaces dedicated to Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and history.

3

Purchase art, ethically

Celebrated Aboriginal artist Allan Mansell's retraces his history through dramatic works that you can browse and purchase at [Black Ant Art](#). Other galleries hosting significant Indigenous collections include [Art Mob](#), Bett Gallery and [Blackspace Creative Arts and Cultural Hub](#).

4

Discover bush foods

[palawa kipli's](#) bush-tucker tours explore Risdon Cove / piyura kitina Cove along the River Derwent and discover how native flora and fauna are used in Indigenous diet and as medicine before a feast prepared by your Indigenous guides.

5

Go for an immersive walk

Lace up your hiking shoes for a four-day exploration of Tasmania's scenic Bay of Fires / larapuna on Tasmania's East Coast, a few hours from Hobart / nipaluna, with award-winning [wukalina Walk](#). By day, explore national parks and unpeopled coastlines with Aboriginal guides, learning palawa stories; by night, bed down in architect-designed eco-pods and dine on local (and foraged) foods.

6

Attend an event

[Putalina Festival](#) (January) is held in the southeast of the state at Oyster Cove / putalina, a significant Indigenous historic site home to an ex-convict government settlement that once housed, by forced residency, an Aboriginal community. [Ten Days on the Island](#) (March) is a biennial event (next in 2025), and the only one to unite the state, that celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.

MELBOURNE / NARRM



Turn back the clock some 200 years, and European colonists called Melbourne the “most ideal place for a settlement they have ever seen”. They were preaching to the converted as the Wurundjeri people had been living along the city’s Yarra River / Birrarung for millennia, catching eels in swamps and lagoons and using funnel-shaped pots to catch fish. Around this bountiful waterway, where freshwater flows into the sea, Melbourne / Narrm celebrates both traditional and contemporary Indigenous cultures, storytelling and enterprise.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Victoria

MELBOURNE / NARRM



Traditional name: Narrm or Naarm (pronounced Naahm)

Geographical location: Port Phillip, Victoria

Indigenous Peoples: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung Peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation

How to say welcome: Wominjeka



Koorie Heritage Trust store, Victoria

WELCOME TO MELBOURNE / NARRM

Melbourne / Narrm is undeniably beautiful from any angle, with the curves of the Yarra River splicing between skyscrapers and parkland. The Wurundjeri have always appreciated the waterway's significance, knowing it as Birrarung and an important source of food and shelter. They first saw colonists row up the river in 1835, and their lives changed forever when a settlement was established on its banks.

Settlers approached Indigenous leaders with a contract (or 'treaty') to 'buy' their land, despite the fact that this European concept of ownership was completely foreign to the Wurundjeri – for them, land was not about possession, but belonging. The treaty was almost immediately declared invalid, however. Those in leadership declared they owned the entire land of Australia, and didn't need a treaty to live there. Colonists walked away with 240,000 hectares of prime farming terrain, almost all of the Kulin Nation's ancestral land.

Over the following decades, the Yarra River's course was significantly altered by land clearing, which led to the widening of the river in certain areas, and straightening of bends. The transformation of the city into Melbourne / Narrm as we know it today forced Wurundjeri communities into new territories, away from Birrarung.

Today, the First Peoples' Elected Assembly of Victoria is working on another treaty between Victoria's Aboriginal peoples and the Victorian Government. The Government has already established the Yoorrook Justice Commission, the first of its kind in Australia, to investigate and address injustices against the state's Aboriginal peoples.



Creation story

As told by Rob Hyatt, Manager of Cultural Experiences for the Koorie Heritage Trust:

“Birrarung was created when two boys were playing in the bush one day. One climbed up a wattle tree to find some wattle gum, throwing it down to his friend on the ground. But when it hit the Earth, the gum disappeared. They poked a spear into a hole in the ground, thinking it had rolled in there. It woke an old man who had been sleeping underground, and he picked up one of the boys and began to carry him away. As he moved he made a furrow, which deepened into a gutter, then into a creek, and lastly became the Yarra River.”

You can hear this story in person when you join a guided walk along the waterway with the [Koorie Heritage Trust](#), visiting scar trees and rock art along the way.



Koorie Heritage Trust,
Victoria



Budj Bim, Victoria

Emblematic flora and fauna

Stroll along the banks of the Yarra River today and you'll see boaters out in full force and diners lounging in waterside restaurants. But long before it became a leisure hub, the waterway was one of the most important food sources for local Aboriginal peoples.

Eels (kooyang) were a vital resource, and Aboriginal communities developed sophisticated aquaculture systems to farm and preserve them. Head 350 kilometres southwest of Melbourne and you can see it for yourself at Lake Vondah (Budj Bim), where archaeological and cultural evidence reveals that for thousands of years, Aboriginal people cultivated eels as a food source and a valuable trade item. The eels were smoked, which preserved them for some time so they could be a regular part of their diet.



HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS MELBOURNE



1

Dine on native produce

In the heart of Federation Square, Indigenous-owned Big Esso by [Mabu Mabu](#) celebrates native bush tucker in every dish and drink, whether finger lime or marron, kangaroo or Davidson plum.

2

Take a deep dive into Indigenous plants

Visit the [Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria](#) to discover just how important native plants were (and are) to Indigenous communities as a source of food and medicine. Guided walks reveal this bounty, and give you a taste of its healthful properties.

3

Visit a major cultural institution

Melbourne is home to galleries and museums with important collections of Indigenous art. Check out the [Birrarung Gallery](#) at Melbourne Museum, [The Ian Potter Centre](#): NGV Australia and [Koorie Heritage Trust](#) at Federation Square, and learn about the important contribution of Indigenous peoples have made in sport at the [Australian Museum of Sport](#) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

4

Support Aboriginal Enterprise

A collaboration between Aboriginal visual artists, [Kinya Lerrk](#) creates beautiful homewares that celebrate Indigenous culture through colourful designs. Aboriginal social enterprise [Clothing the Gap](#) sells garments that celebrates Aboriginal peoples and cultures.

5

Travel further afield

Just 90 minutes from the heart of Melbourne you can take a deep dive into Dja Dja Wurrung Country on a [Dumawul](#) tour around the city of Bendigo. Visit significant spiritual sites (including ancient rock art), be cleansed during a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, and discover how communities are working with the government on inspiring Culture-preserving projects.



Dumawul Tours & Cultural Experiences, Victoria

6

Meet wildlife

Wurundjeri Elder Murrindindi is quite the story teller, as you'll discover on one of his [Wominjeka tours](#) around Healesville Sanctuary, a vast wilderness preserve dedicated to the conservation of native plants and animals.

7

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed site

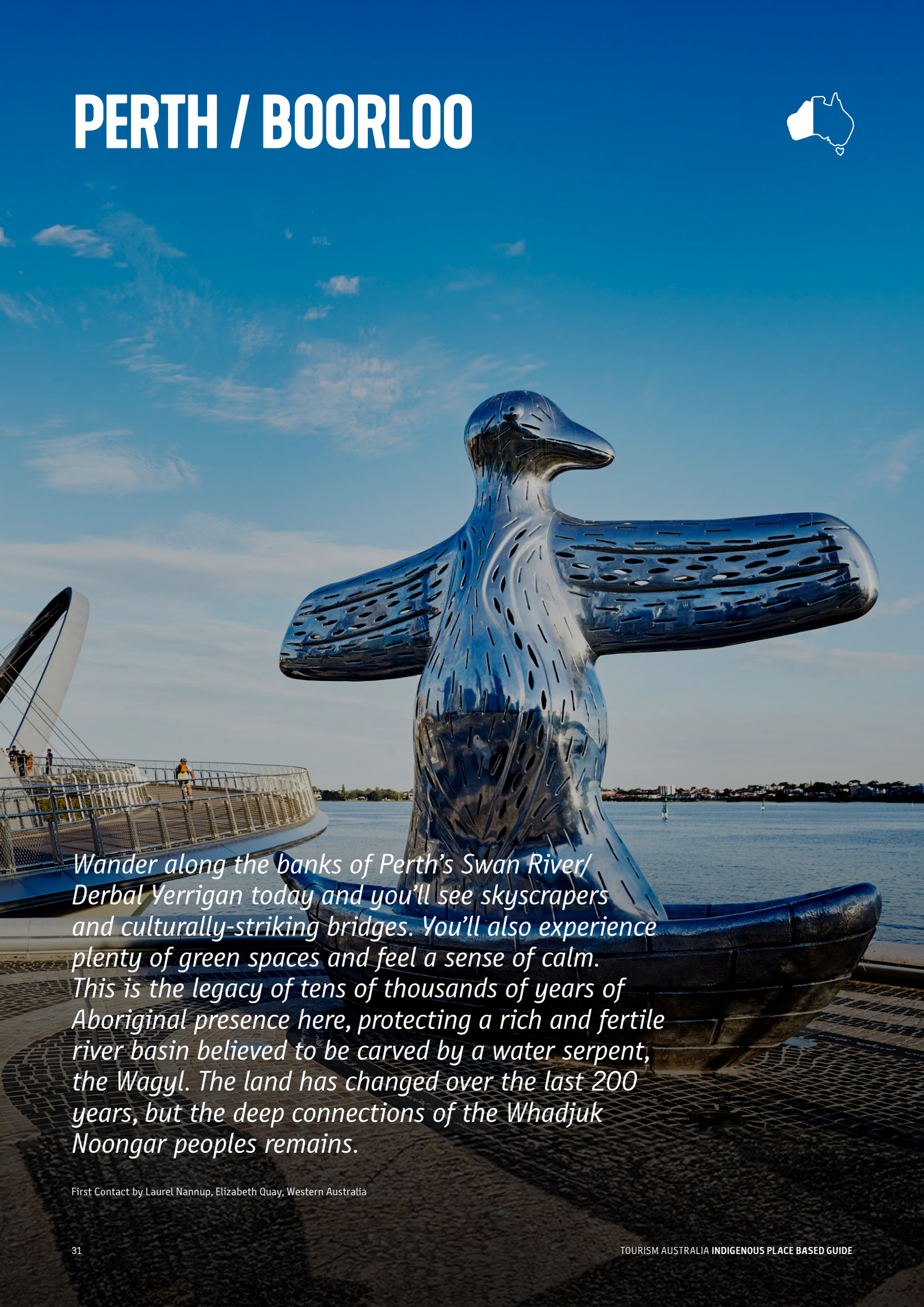
[Budj Bim](#) approximately 4 hours west of Melbourne. See and hear from traditional owners about traditional eel farming practices and see the remains of ancient stone homes. Stop in at [Tower Hill](#) and see and hear stories of the Eastern Maar people and see kangaroos, koalas and birdlife.

8

Laugh until it hurts

[The Melbourne International Comedy Festival](#) is regularly rated one of the most hilarious of its kind in the world, not only for the big-name acts it attracts, but also for the diversity of comedians taking to the stage. On the calendar is Deadly Funny, a competition spotlighting Indigenous comedians across the country.

PERTH / BOORLOO



Wander along the banks of Perth's Swan River/ Derbal Yerrigan today and you'll see skyscrapers and culturally-striking bridges. You'll also experience plenty of green spaces and feel a sense of calm. This is the legacy of tens of thousands of years of Aboriginal presence here, protecting a rich and fertile river basin believed to be carved by a water serpent, the Wagyl. The land has changed over the last 200 years, but the deep connections of the Whadjuk Noongar peoples remains.

First Contact by Laurel Nannup, Elizabeth Quay, Western Australia

PERTH / BOORLOO



Traditional name: Boorloo (pronounced Boo-rr-loo)

Geographical location: Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia

Indigenous Peoples: Whadjuk Noongar

Traditional clans of Noongar Nation of South West Australia: Amangu, Yued/Yuat, Whadjuk/Wajuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup, Wardandi, Balardong, Nyakinyaki, Wilman, Ganeang, Bibulmun, Mineng/Goreng, Wudjari and Njunga

How to say g'day: Kaya (pronounced kai-ya)



Dale Tillbrook Experiences, Western Australia

WELCOME TO PERTH / BOORLOO

Perth / Boorloo today dazzles, its high-rises following the course of the snaking Swan River / Derbal Yerrigan. It attracted the eye of Captain James Stirling in 1829, who established Australia's first free-settler colony here. The first European colonists viewed Western Australia through the prism of the doctrine of Terra Nullius, as 'unoccupied', despite the obvious presence of Aboriginal people. And from 1850, convicts began to arrive in droves to build roads and other public infrastructure.

While there were times when Noongar and colonists co-existed, the Aboriginal community was gradually driven out of this fertile land including Kings Park. The site today was once a sacred place for Noongar women to give birth, and men to forage supplies to nurture their wives. Noongar people were sent to places such as Moore River Native Settlement which was featured in the film *The Rabbit Proof Fence*, and Rottnest Island / Wadjemup, which was first a prison and then a forced labour camp.

While this history is by no means celebrated today, it is certainly preserved and retold through Perth's list of Aboriginal Heritage Sites, not to mention the community's passion to embrace Noongar culture in a leading way, whether in the arts, Aboriginal-guided tours, public art and infrastructure projects that are inspired by Noongar culture and storytelling.



Creation story

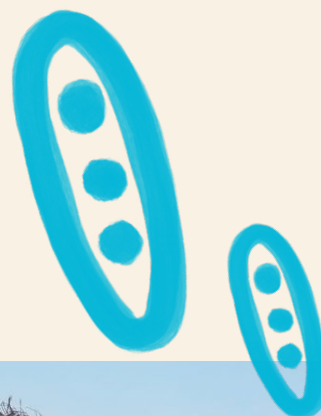
As told by Noongar Elder, performer and campaigner Uncle Richard Walley OAM: “The land here was formed by a giant serpent named Wagyl, who emerged from the sea creating the Swan River and the surrounding landscape with her movements; the hills and valleys were formed by its scales, and the waterways by her path through the land. It was a mother looking for her young, creating the landscape while she searched. Underground springs were created by the young ones going back to their heaven, the ocean. As they went, underground water supplies were restored throughout the land once more. The old people believed that when the young of the Wagyl became water, the bush got more moisture, more sap, and the sap flowed into the animals, and the animals became fat and tender. The six seasons of the people started working again, and the land was green once more.”



Kings Park view,
Western Australia

The Six Seasons

Unlike the European calendar, there are six Noongar seasons in Western Australia's South West region. The Indigenous community has always followed signs in nature as to which animal and plant resources were plentiful at those times. “Each season has a plant indicator that flowers in advance of each change,” says [Koomal Dreaming's](#) Josh Whiteland. “Plants, animals and weather patterns coincide with each season, which runs for the duration of every second full moon. This determines where to forage, gather, hunt and camp.” Josh explores the seasons on his tours around Yallingup a few hours drive south of Perth.



Josh Whiteland, Koomal Dreaming, Western Australia

HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS PERTH



1

Visit a major cultural institution

Perth celebrates Indigenous art like few other cities in Australia, particularly via the [Art Gallery of Western Australia](#) (AGWA) and [WA Museum Boola Bardip](#) and Nyumbi, the Museums' free Noongar cultural event every Saturday at 11am.

2

Purchase art, ethically

[Fremantle Arts Centre](#), [Creative Native Perth](#) hosts exhibitions showcasing Indigenous talent, while there are thousands of pieces on display at [Fremantle galleries](#), [Japingka Aboriginal Art](#) and [Artitja Fine Art Gallery](#).

3

Go for a wander

Kings Park, the largest inner-city park in the world – holds spiritual significance for Noongar communities, as both an important source of food and also a birthing ground. Follow the [Boodja Gnarning trail](#) on your own to discover its significance, or join a walking adventure with [In Culture Tours](#).

4

Taste bush tucker

Chefs at [Wildflower](#) restaurant curate menus based on the six Noongar seasons. Just 30 minutes north of Perth in the Swan Valley, [Dale Tilbrook Dale Tilbrook Experiences](#), a Wardandi / Bibbulmun Noongar woman hosts bush-tucker talks and tasting experiences on the grounds of Mandoon Estate, while Noongar owned [Gather Foods](#) host events with native food tasting.

5

Visit an island

Rottneest Island / Wadjemup holds a connection for the Whadjuk Noongar people. Learn about the island's significance in Dreaming stories and cultural beliefs and later as a prison where Noongar people were incarcerated in the early days of colonisation with [Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours & Experiences](#).

6

Experience culture in wine country

Drive a few hours south to the Margaret River wine region to take part in Josh Whiteland's [Koomal Dreaming](#) tours.



In Culture Tours Kings Park, Western Australia

7

Channel your inner creative

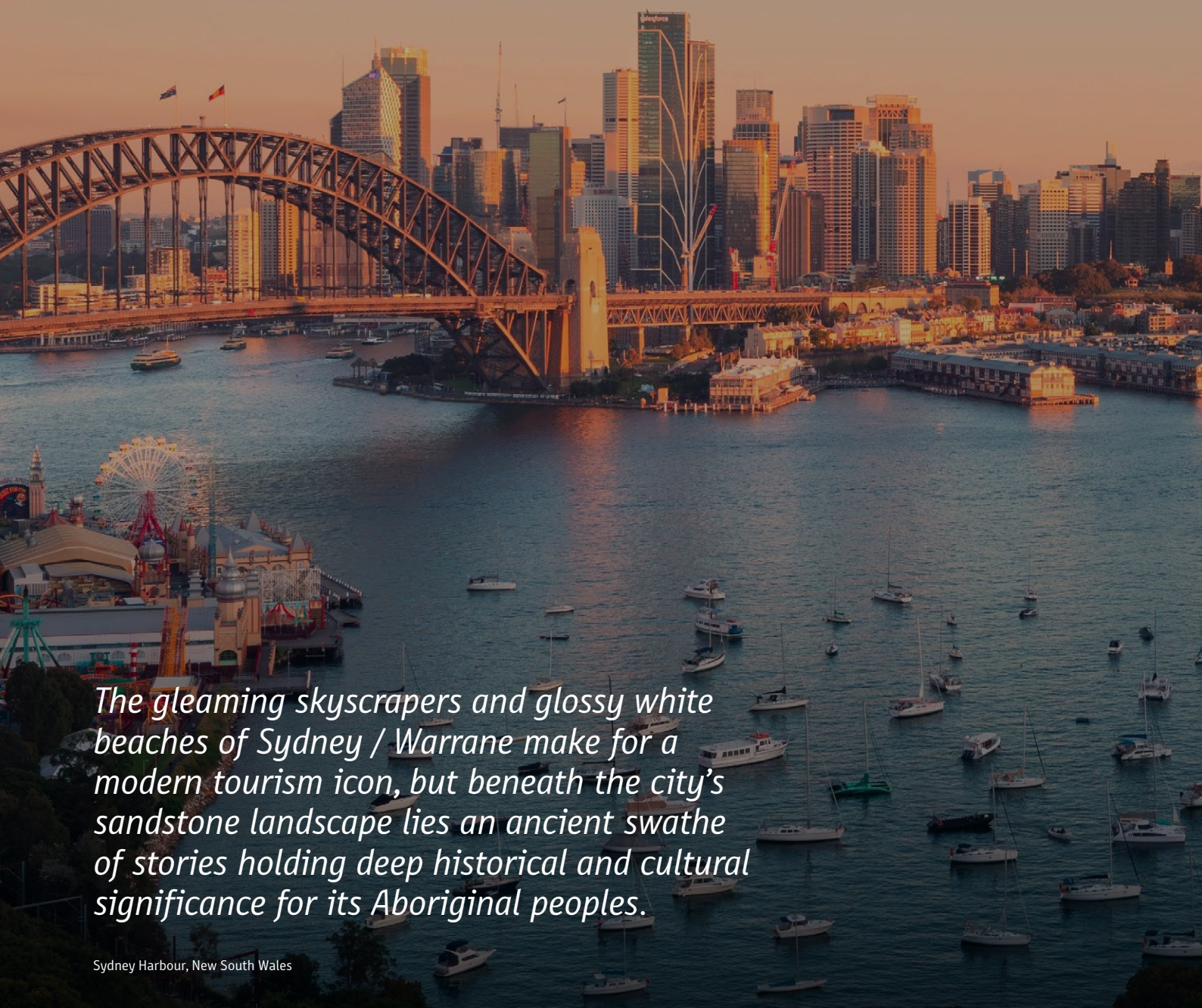
Take a deep dive into artistic Dreamtime stories during a [Djurandi Dreaming](#) workshop, learning traditional symbols, stories, language and colours.

8

Attend an event

[EverNow](#) (October) celebrates the Noongar season of birth and renewal (Kambarang) via exhibitions, interactive installations and Song Circle, a showcase of Indigenous song and dance. [Boorloo Heritage Festival](#) (April) is a month-long homage to Perth's Noongar, colonial and multicultural history and heritage via walks, talks, exhibitions and performances. And [Perth Festival](#) (February/March) spotlights the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions and contemporary arts practices.

SYDNEY / WARRANE



The gleaming skyscrapers and glossy white beaches of Sydney / Warrane make for a modern tourism icon, but beneath the city's sandstone landscape lies an ancient swathe of stories holding deep historical and cultural significance for its Aboriginal peoples.

Sydney Harbour, New South Wales

SYDNEY / WARRANE



Traditional name: Warrane (pronounced War-rang)

Geographical location: Sydney Cove, aka Circular Quay

Indigenous Peoples of Central Sydney: Gadigal people

Traditional lands of Greater Sydney: Eora Nation

Traditional languages of Central Sydney: Gadigal language

How to say g'day in Gadigal: Budyeri kamaru (pronounced bu-deh-ri kam-a-ru)



WELCOME TO SYDNEY / WARRANE

Cast your eyes across Sydney / Warrane's iconic waters, and you'll see it: the same horizon that greeted the Gadigal people on the fateful day when British ships first sailed into the harbour in 1788.

Sydney is often recognised by history books as the birthplace of modern Australia, but for the estimated 100,000 Aboriginal peoples who already called this place home, the colonialists' arrival or invasion, coupled with their infamous Terra Nullius declaration ("land belonging to nobody"), shepherded in a time of bloodshed, loss and deep tragedy. Aboriginal communities were forced out and banned from speaking their languages. It fractured identities and left populations decimated.

Much has been done to reconcile this dark history, with the progressive attitudes of its residents. Walk the Sydney Harbour Bridge and you'll see an Aboriginal flag, proudly flying at its very top. Even the Sydney Opera House, often considered an architectural emblem that transcends the boundaries of Australian identity can be reimagined. Each sunset, a spectacular illuminated light show, [Badu Gili](#), splashes the building's pristine white sails with the work of two female Indigenous artists: a six-minute daily show for Sydneysiders that is a celebration of the worlds oldest living cultures.

History through the eyes of a local

Sydney's Indigenous heritage shines today, with many political and tourism pioneers to be thanked for heralding the spotlight it deserves. Including Auntie Margret Campbell, a proud Djunghutti-Djirringanj Elder whose family was banned from Sydney and from speaking language until the 1940s. In the decades after, she lived through some of Australia's most turbulent political decades of racial injustice, inequality and discrimination.

"The people leading the charge back then [in the 1970s] inspired me to become a teacher and a leader, and to tell our story in a passionate but also compassionate way through tours around Sydney. And today, our culture is becoming stronger every day. I'm so proud to share it with visitors."

Auntie Margret's [Dreamtime Southern X](#) tours, in The Rocks, showcase how the city has changed over her lifetime, to evolve from a place of racial discrimination to one that embraces Indigenous cultures and celebrate the landscape, flora and fauna.



Auntie Margret, Dreamtime Southern X,
New South Wales



The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney,
New South Wales

Creation story

As told by Ray Ingrey, a Dharawal man from Sydney's coastal La Perouse Aboriginal community and chairperson of the Gujaga Foundation: "The story of Buriburi was told to me by senior women in my community when I was a little bit younger. And told to them when they were children.

In our Dreaming, the islands of Sydney Harbour and all the way along the coast to Shoalhaven were created by Buriburi, the humpback whale. But this fella didn't begin his life as a whale, he became one after a fight with his friend over a barangga [large vessel] that people stole to travel across the sea to Dharawal country in search of food. While they were in the fight, Buriburi's friend pierced him in the top of his head with a stick. Buriburi jumped into the sea in pursuit of his barangga. As he swam, he turned into the humpback whale.

In the barangga, the people had turned into a koala and a crane. The crane was so excited seeing land that it danced, and pierced the boat. Water flooded in, so they pushed it away and it became a large island. We always know where Buriburi and his ancestors have been by the islands on our Country (harbours and bays), created while he continues to search for his barangga."

Emblematic flora and fauna

Sydneysiders are sometimes treated to a sight of whales playing in the ocean and harbour. Whales are more than a joyous sight for the Aboriginal peoples of Sydney/Warrane: these animals are a significant part of local cultural lore, and clans used them not only as a source of food but to varnish spears and boomerangs, and to create tools and shelter. For this reason, whales also feature in much of the city's iconic Aboriginal rock art. Find it in outdoor locations across the [Royal National Park](#); around [Botany Bay](#) and at [Balls Head](#) in North Sydney; and even at iconic [Bondi Beach](#).

HOW TO EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS SYDNEY



1

Visit a major cultural institution

The First Australians galleries at the [Australian Museum](#) house a collection of more than 40,000 pieces. Meanwhile, the future meets the past at the [Art Gallery of New South Wales](#), where the Indigenous Yiribana Gallery, which offers guided tours, sits within the new Naala Badu wing. First Nations cultures are also explored via Aboriginal artists at the [Museum of Contemporary Art](#). [The Australian Maritime Museum's](#) Eora First People exhibition honours the Gadigal connection to the sea and those of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

2

Climb a bridge

Join a [Burrawa – Aboriginal Climb Experience](#) and you'll not only scale one of the world's most recognisable modern icons, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, but also discover the Indigenous significance of the city's destinations in the company of an Indigenous storyteller.

3

Discover performance art

Watching a performance at [Carriageworks](#) or [Bangarra Dance Theatre](#) is like a convergence of the city's eras: Ancient Dreamtime stories told through the beat and movement of contemporary dancers, musicians and storytellers.

4

Taste native flora

At [Barangaroo](#), the precinct has been designed with 70,000 native trees enveloping a foreshore named after Cammeraygal woman Barangaroo. You can take an [Aboriginal Cultural Tour](#). Native flora also stars within the Cadi Jam Ora Gardens at the Royal Botanic Garden on an [Australian Bush Tucker Tour](#).



Barangaroo Aboriginal Cultural Tour, New South Wales

5

Savour native produce

Indigenous chef Mark Olive pays homage to native Australian produce through his restaurant [Midden](#), in the Opera House forecourt.

6

Explore on a private tour

Visit Berry Island on Sydney Harbour with [Splendour Tailored Tours](#) to take a deep dive into Cammeraygal culture, with a bush tucker tasting and sustainability talk by Aboriginal guides.

7

Attend an event

[The National Indigenous Art Fair](#) (June) is a place for Indigenous creatives from around Australia to tell their stories through both traditional works (like dot painting) and contemporary interpretations. [DanceRites](#) (October) is held at one of Sydney's most significant Aboriginal locations (Bennelong Point, aka the Opera House forecourt), and hosts a competition to showcase emerging Indigenous performers.



ULURU



You can't take your eyes off the ochre soils that envelope Uluru, the world's largest monolith, and as you gaze across a landscape where the stunning rock formations were created 500 million years ago, before dinosaurs. The Anangu people have called it their home for tens of thousands of years. While under European settlement it was known as Ayers Rock, the land was handed back to the Traditional Custodians and is now officially known in Anangu language as Uluru. Today it's an epicentre for Aboriginal culture.

Uluru, Northern Territory

ULURU



Traditional name: Uluru (pronounced oo-lau-roo)

Geographical location: Southwestern Northern Territory

Indigenous Peoples: Yankunytjatjara and Pitjantjatjara, aka Anangu

How to say g'day: Palya



Wintjiri Wiru, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, Northern Territory

WELCOME TO ULURU

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and its neighbouring lands are, for many Australians, an unsurpassed destination for an Aboriginal cultural experience, owing to its multi-layered relationship with the Traditional Custodians, the Anangu.

It's undeniably the most iconic cultural site in Australia. It's often a place where Indigenous communities from around the nation meet to discuss matters of national importance. Needless to say, many Dreamtime Creation stories were born here.

It was officially named Ayers Rock after Sir Henry Ayers, the chief secretary of South Australia at the time. Despite the fact that certain rock outcroppings represent ancestral spirits, to this day the Anangu believe that by simply touching the rocks they can communicate with Dreamtime and receive blessings from ancestors.

After 35 years of campaigning, in 1985 the Anangu people were finally recognised as the Traditional Custodians of the park – 2025 marking 40 years since this landmark decision was passed. There were many achievements in the years following: becoming a World Heritage Site in 1987, then being renamed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in 1993.

But it wasn't until more than 15 years later that Uluru was protected with a ban on climbing the rock officially enforced in 2019, following decades of petitioning from Anangu communities. This has led to a groundswell in sustainable tourism experiences around Uluru around.

Creation story

As told by Sammy Wilson (Djama Uluru), the former chair of the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation, the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management, and the Central Land Council. "My Elders told me there lived two tribes of ancestral spirits. They were invited to a big dinner, but they forgot to show up because they were distracted by the Sleepy Lizard Women. The hosts were angry, and they sang evil into a mud sculpture, which came to life. There was a big fight, and people from both tribes died. Due to the amount of bloodshed, and remorse felt by the Earth itself, it rose in grief, becoming Uluru."

Emblematic flora and fauna

The hare wallaby (mala) became extinct in the Central Desert region back in the 1990s, thanks to wildfires and the introduction of feral predators by European settlement. Today, its numbers are back on the rise thanks to the largest rewilding project in Australia. Long before this, it was, and still is, an important ancestral figure in the mythology of the Indigenous communities. There's a sacred Dreamtime story about the Mala People meeting the Wintalka (mulga seed) People at Uluru, and leaving behind ancestors in caves and footprints in the rock during their fighting.



HOW TO EXPERIENCE ULURU

1

At sunrise

Watching the day begin over the Red Centre is worth getting up early for. Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia's [Sunrise Journeys](#) add an additional sparkle, using the vast desert as an artistic canvas. A union of Indigenous art, music and storytelling, the experience was created in collaboration with three Anangu artists, depicting their deep shared connection to culture and Country.

2

At sunset

Watching the day end is just as spectacular, from every vantage. Take the dusk experience to new heights at [Wintjiri Wiru](#), illuminating the Central Desert with a spectacle of lights, projections, lasers and more than 1,000 drones, shining a light on the Mala ancestral story of the Anangu community. [The Field of Light](#) installation's 50,000 spindles of light created by artist Bruce Munro, known as Tili Wiru Tjuta Nyakutjaku ('looking at lots of beautiful lights' in local Pitjantjatjara). Catch it at sunrise as well. Both are operated by [Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia](#) operates from [Ayers Rock Resort](#).

3

Dine on native produce

Dine under the stars at a [Sounds of Silence](#) dinner, an atmosphere-laden evening of bush-tucker inspired food, culture and Indigenous astronomy, held amid sand dunes. Alternatively, book a [Tali Wiru](#) experience to enjoy fine dining on a private dune with magnificent views of Uluru. Each dish in your four-course meal presents native produce in an innovative way. At [Ayers Rock Resort](#) you can also partake in native high tea and bush tucker foraging.

4

Chill out

Set among the spinifex and the red sand of the outback, Spa Kinara at [Longitude 131°](#) is a cool, calm retreat reflecting the clever design of a traditional Aboriginal shelter, or wiltja. This cocoon offers spiritually grounding treatments that use bush medicines and botanicals.

5

Purchase art, ethically

[The Gallery of Central Australia](#) celebrates creativity and culture through revolving exhibitions and showcasing art from the Central Australian Desert Regions.

6

Take a deep dive into Aboriginal lore

[SEIT's Patji tour](#) takes you beyond the main park's boundaries to the homelands of Uluru's traditional family. Sit with Anangu communities to hear stories of their epic fight for land rights in Central Australia.

7

Wander around the rock (and see rock art):

The trek around the base of Uluru covers some 10 kilometres. Join a tour with SEIT or [Maruku Arts](#) at sunrise to embrace the Anangu culture, geology and environment that is the essence of this amazing monolith.

