

# COASTAL wonders

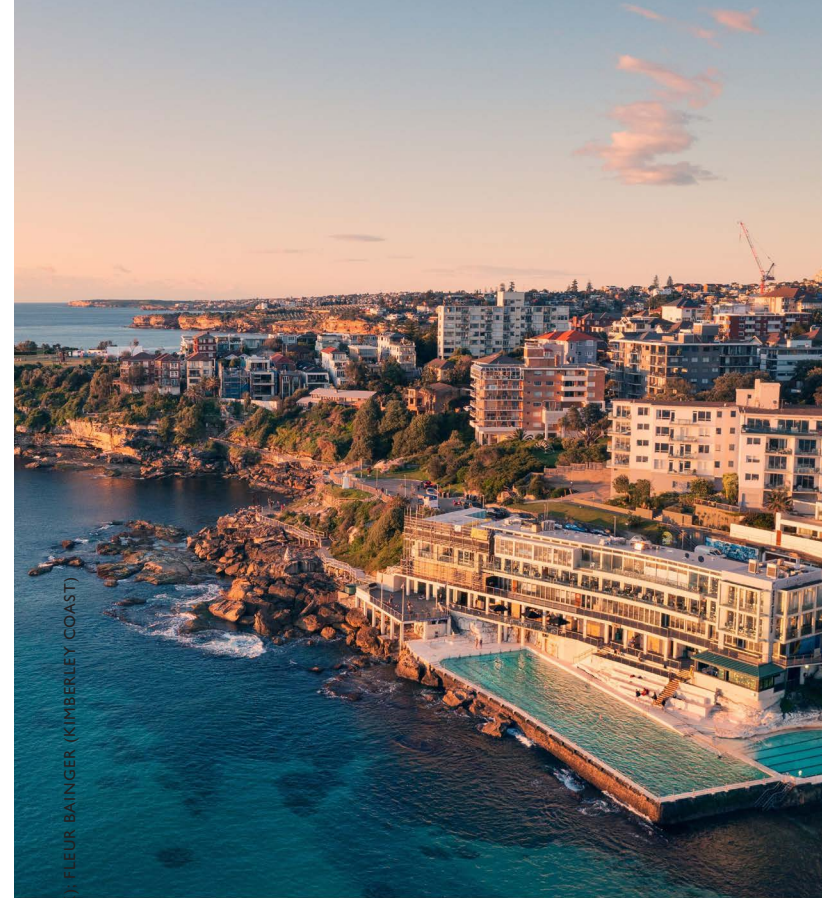
From the country's prettiest OCEAN POOLS, set like *GEMS* into sandstone ROCK shelves, to the copper tones of the *KIMBERLEY* on the frayed *EDGES* of WA, our coastline inspires ENDLESS awe.

## 61 Kimberley Coast, WA

A cruise taking in the Kimberley's cinnamon-red cliffs, crocodile-dotted rivers and diamond-scatter of islands remains one of life's great trips. The combination of incomprehensible age, beauty and wonder on water is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime experience, especially when reaching name-drop destinations like Horizontal Falls, the rising-from-the-ocean Montgomery Reef and the 80-metre-plummet of King George Falls. It's not the only way to reach the Kimberley's extremities, of course. With the Broome to Cape Leveque Road now fully sealed, remote coastal escapes can be accessed via 4WD and in some cases, 2WD. Aboriginal-owned Mercedes Cove Exclusive Coastal Retreat, which maxes out at 18 guests, beckons with cliff-top safari tents. Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm's new safari tent circle is hotel-standard and lures with Aboriginal-led tours of the tidal flats and otherwise-inaccessible islands.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOURISM WESTERN AUSTRALIA/FROM MILES AWAY (ROEBUCK BAY); KANGAROO ISLAND TOURISM ALLIANCE (SEAL BAY CONSERVATION PARK); IMOGEN EVESON (SEA LION); DESTINATION NSW/DANIEL TRAN (BONDI ICEBERGS AND SURROUNDS); DESTINATION NSW/LAWRENCE FURZEY (COASTAL WALK); TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND/SEAN SCOTT (COOLANGATTA)

WORDS: CELESTE MITCHELL (AUSTRALIA'S WAVES); IMOGEN EVESON (SEAL BAY); CARLA GROSSETTI (BONDI TO COOGEE WALK); FLEUR BAINGER (KIMBERLEY COAST)



## 63

### Australia's waves

We all know Australia has a reputation for its pretty stellar surf breaks. Surf culture is ingrained in everything from our cafes to the local lingo, and breaks such as Bells, Snapper and Kalbarri offer more than just a place to catch a few sets. Which is why, over the last 30 years, 21 National Surfing Reserves have been declared in Australia as places of 'intrinsic environmental, heritage, sporting and cultural value to our nation'. It's as much about protecting these sandy spots of worship as it is about the community around them. It's also empowering for those who love and use our beaches to have a say in how they're managed.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Take a plunge at Bondi Icebergs; Follow the path from Bondi to Coogee in Sydney; A resident sea lion at Seal Bay, Kangaroo Island; The rugged shoreline of Seal Bay; Surf Snapper Rocks at Coolangatta on the Gold Coast. OPPOSITE: The red sands of the Kimberley contrast with cerulean seas at Broome's Roebuck Bay.

## 62

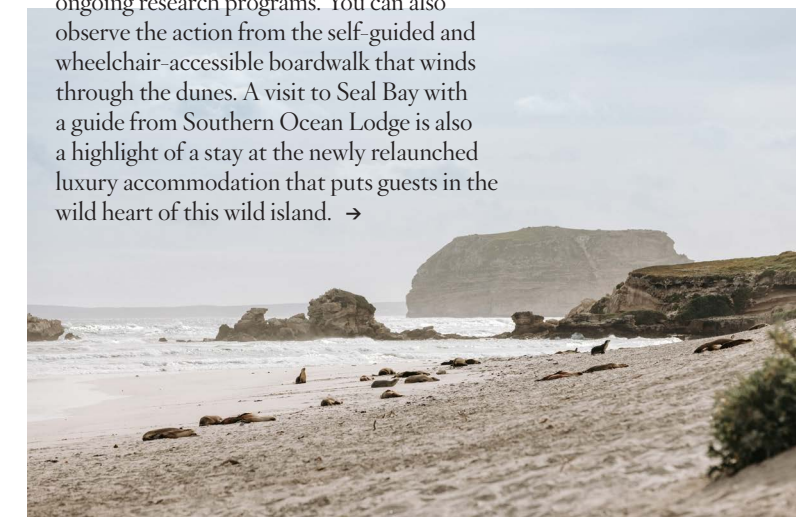
### Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk, NSW

The Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk spaghettis six kilometres along the cliffs, bays and beaches of Sydney's eastern suburbs. The path that follows the scalloped shoreline provides a spectacle that changes with the many moods of the sea and sky and is one that residents of the city are justifiably proud of. In fact, it's considered one of Sydney's greatest assets. Bondi was named after Boondi, the Aboriginal word meaning 'the noise made by sea waves'. And it's those crashing waves that continue to capture the imagination of locals and tourists who drift along the winding boulevard from Bondi beholding the bird's-eye view.

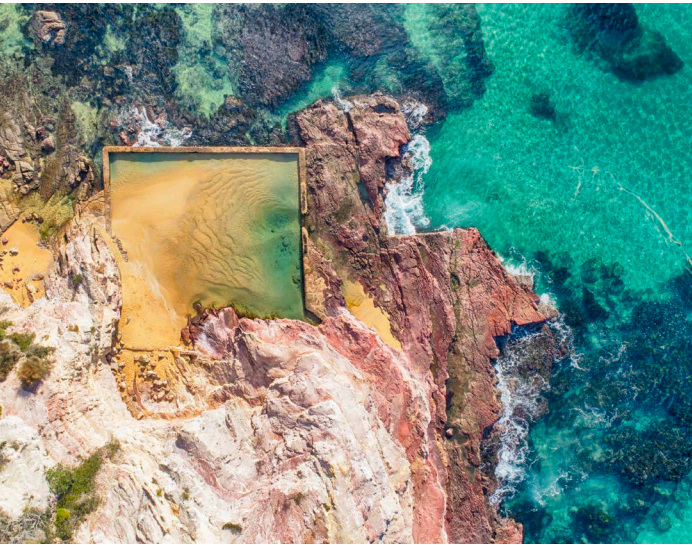
## 64

### Seal Bay, Kangaroo Island, SA

One of Australia's most extraordinary wildlife encounters lies in wait on the wild southern coast of the country's third largest island. A Kangaroo Island trip is incomplete without padding your way down through the sand dunes to Seal Bay, home to Australia's third-largest colony of Australian sea lions. Here, pups play in the sand and surf, bulls fight for supremacy and mothers rest with their young. Seal Bay has been a protected area since 1954 and the population of this endangered species numbers 1000 here. Head to the visitor centre to follow a guide to the heart of the colony on the beach (from a safe and respectful distance) while learning about the unique breeding cycle of these magnificent wild creatures and the site's ongoing research programs. You can also observe the action from the self-guided and wheelchair-accessible boardwalk that winds through the dunes. A visit to Seal Bay with a guide from Southern Ocean Lodge is also a highlight of a stay at the newly relaunched luxury accommodation that puts guests in the wild heart of this wild island. →







# 65

## Ocean pools of NSW

NSW's coastline has its own architectural vernacular etched into surf-hammered rock all up and down its saw-toothed length. Newcastle's heritage-listed Bogey Hole is the state's oldest ocean pool, originally built by convicts in 1819 for the personal use of Major James Morisset. Unemployment relief and funding for public works programs during the Depression resulted in a subsequent boom of ocean-pool-building in the 1920s and '30s, as coast-dwellers embraced these safe spaces for saltwater swimming, with some 100 constructed since. Over time, these pools have become part of the landscape – each shape and size idiosyncratic to its location, from Yamba to Forster, Bondi, Wollongong, Bermagui and Eden (pictured). A liminal space straddling the manmade and natural that speaks not only to a part of Australia's history but reflects the social and cultural landscape of the country at leisure.

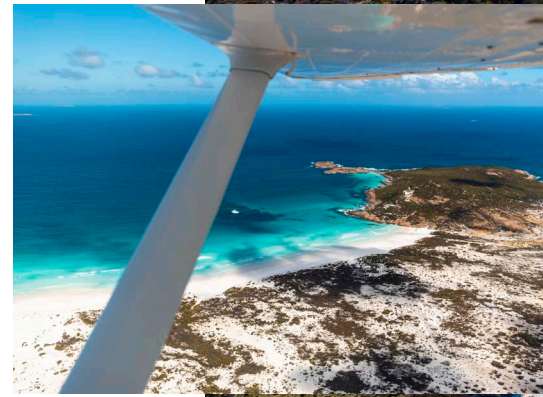


# 66

## Cod Hole Dive Site, Qld

Potato cods are members of Australia's 'Great Eight' shortlist, which includes iconic species of the southern Great Barrier Reef. Named after the large, round potato-shaped markings on their body, these giant spuds of the sea are actually members of the grouper family. And the best place to see them is at the world-renowned Cod Hole Dive Site, some 96 kilometres north of Cairns. The Cod Hole is part of a string of long, narrow ribbon reefs that necklace the waters of the Coral Sea and is most accessible from Lizard Island in Tropical North Queensland. Challenge yourself to enter the water at night, where the inky darkness ups the underwater thrills. Or join a five-night adventure with Mike Ball Dive Expeditions (pictured).

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND/TOM PARK (COD HOLE DIVE SITE); DESTINATION NSW/DEE KRAMER (ASLINGS BEACH ROCK POOL); TOURISM AUSTRALIA (BONDI ICEBERGS DETAIL); TOURISM WESTERN AUSTRALIA (CABLE BEACH); TOURISM AUSTRALIA (ORCA); TOURISM TASMANIA/TAYLA GENTLE (WUKALINA WALK)



# 68

## Esperance from the air, WA

There's beauty in isolation. In the untouched, lurid blue coastline of Kepa Kurl/Esperance, where you can play I-spy with dozens of white-sand beaches just an hour after take-off with Fly Esperance. This coastal wonderland, almost an eight-hour drive from Perth, takes on an altogether more mesmerising form from the air as you fly over the peaks of Cape Le Grand National Park and the mostly uninhabited islands of the Recherche Archipelago. Get acquainted with the emerald and sapphire swirls from above then drive along the sands to Lucky Bay. If you spot a kangaroo, you've got yourself the Esperance trifecta.



# 67

## Cable Beach, WA

Broome's 22-kilometre-long stretch of pale, blonde sand is synonymous with camel trains throwing shadows at day's end. But it's so much more than that. Flat as a tack and lapped by water the hue of Chris Hemsworth's eyes, Cable Beach harbours the imprints of dinosaur footprints in its rocks, hosts light-strung, long-table dinners in balmy air and grants citrus-hued sunsets that linger in the memory like a lost love. It represents escape, freedom and happiness; children delight in pearls of sand deposited by beach crabs darting between burrows, while adults relax in beach chairs with their 4WDs parked on the sand. Above the dunes, Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa grants the closest access to the iconic beach – arrive early for seats at its Sunset Bar. Further back, the newly opened, Aboriginal co-owned Spinifex Brewing Co. adds another lure, with its native produce-infused, low-alcohol craft brews, Indigenous botanical food forest and family-friendly vibes.



WORDS: CARLA GROSSETTI (COD HOLE DIVE SITE, BREMER BAY CANYON); CELESTE MITCHELL (ESPERANCE FROM THE AIR); FLEUR BAINGER (CABLE BEACH); IMOGEN EVESON (OCEAN POOLS OF NSW); MEGAN ARKINSTALL (WUKALINA WALK)

# 69

## Orcas of Bremer Bay, WA

Budding marine biologists can sign up for a marine expedition to Bremer Bay for a bucket-list encounter to see killer whales in the wild. Bremer Bay Canyon is 70 clicks offshore from the township of Bremer Bay and it's where the largest pod of orcas in the southern hemisphere gathers each year. While the prime time for spotting orcas in Bremer Bay is from late January through to April, it's likely you'll encounter other marine species such as sperm whales, giant squid, sharks and shoals of tuna, too. Hit the water with Naturaliste Charters, part of the diverse Australian Wildlife Journeys portfolio.

# 70

## wukalina Walk, Tas

Learn about larapuna/Bay of Fires from the perspective of the palawa on the four-day palawa-owned-and-led wukalina Walk. Amble through the living cultural landscape of lutruwita/Tasmania's north-east coast, which unfolds as a triptych of colour comprising turquoise waters, white sand and boulders blanketed with orange lichen. Sample coastal bush tucker and learn about palawa cultural practices, sometimes from Elders who may join you. Spend evenings cosied around a fire pit at krakani lumi (resting place) and kick back at a restored lighthouse keeper's cottage on your final night. 🍷

