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## INSTANT EXPERT

a travel professional's guide to  
Australia & New Zealand

Abercrombie & Kent





## There is travel and there is Abercrombie & Kent

A&K introduces the natural beauty and welcoming cultures of Australia and New Zealand. With over 30 years experience, A&K's offices in Australia & New Zealand ensure arrangements are seamless right throughout the region.

Whether exploring the Great Barrier Reef, visiting a remote cattle station, sampling New Zealand's adventure pursuits and accommodation or enjoying the latest in fine dining, A&K's knowledgeable team will inspire your client. Our Insider Access opportunities embrace the need felt by today's discerning travellers to connect in a meaningful way with global destinations and cultures, A&K is committed to providing exclusive and up-close experiential travel in unmatched comfort and style.

When travelling with A&K, each itinerary is designed exclusively for the individual and their travel companion. Our focus is on creating private and group journeys to accommodate individual interests and needs. To travel with A&K is to experience the unbelievable, to have the feeling of being in the right place at the right time, every single time. We go to the ends of the earth to create journeys that change lives.

**Geoffrey Kent**  
Founder, Chairman and CEO  
of the Abercrombie & Kent Group of Companies

# Abercrombie & Kent

Abercrombie & Kent is proud to provide a true point of difference in Australia & New Zealand.

- **Security and reassurance**

Our 24 hour contact line means round-the-clock assistance for your clients when they are in the destination. We have public liability insurance of US\$2 million.

- **Experienced staff and guides**

A&K's detailed knowledge of the countries we operate in guarantees our itineraries are distinctive and authentic.

- **Insider Access**

A&K's ability to satisfy your client's demand to delve into the culture of the country they are visiting by providing unique behind-the-scenes experiences.

- **Long standing local relationships**

A&K can provide priority check-in, preferential treatment, more frequent room upgrades, flexibility on checkout times and up-to-date local advice.





# Abercrombie & Kent

## AUSTRALIA



## Abercrombie & Kent Australia

Australia is truly like nowhere else on Earth. The country possesses 36,735 kilometres (22,812 miles) of coastline, more than 3,000 national reserves and 15 World Heritage Listed sites. A brilliant combination of natural wonders, fabulous food and wine, culture, history, vibrant cities and laidback friendly locals it is an idyllic backdrop to any vacation, beckoning visitors to return time and time again for the eclectic array of experiences on offer.

The breathtaking Great Barrier Reef, off the Queensland coast, is the world's largest coral reef. The reef contains an abundance of marine life and is set amongst picturesque tropical islands with some of the world's most beautiful sun-soaked, golden beaches.

In the vast inland deserts, the ancient Aboriginal cultures add a spiritual dimension to the timeless landscapes. The arid Outback in Central Australia is dominated by the mighty Uluru (Ayers Rock), a towering monolith with mystical tales of the



Aboriginals, and where centuries old rock paintings are waiting to be discovered.

Further north to the wilds of Kakadu National Park, see the rugged Australian beauty and nature that will delight even the most experienced nature lover.

The southernmost state of Victoria offers dramatic coastlines along the Great Ocean Road, one of the

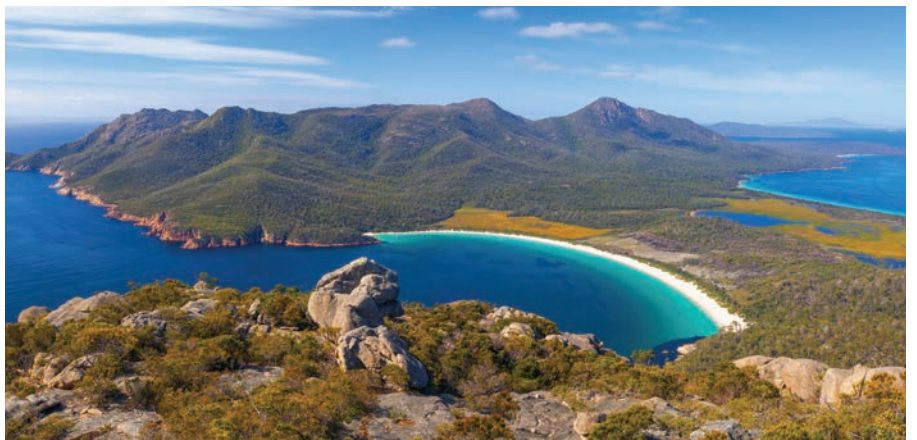
world's most travelled roads, leading to Adelaide with its multitude of churches and the renowned Barossa Valley where you can indulge in a tippie of fine wine.

Wild, mountainous landscapes and colonial architecture provide a diverse encounter with Tasmania, a once forgotten island.

Sydney is a city that never fails to enthrall, visit the iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge as well as cutting edge restaurants and fashion houses.

Last but by no means least, is the largest state of Australia, Western Australia, home to the world's largest fish – the whale shark. Snorkel with manta rays, swim with wild dolphins, walk amongst the tops of ancient trees, sleep under a canopy of stars in the desert, or explore the beehive-like formations of the Bungle Bungles with the help of an Aboriginal guide.

- Best time to travel: September to April
- Capital City: Canberra
- Currency: Australian Dollar
- Visa: Valid visa required



# Abercrombie & Kent

## AUSTRALIA



### INSIDER ACCESS: PENFOLDS MAKE YOUR OWN BLEND

Penfolds "Make Your Own Blend" Tour is the first of its kind in the Barossa Valley. An interactive and fun wine experience for anyone who has wanted to be a winemaker for a day!

After a tour of the winery and cellars, guests are invited to the Winemakers Laboratory to try their hand at making their own wine from Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvedre, just like Penfold's own Bin 138. It's a fascinating and satisfying experience, blending to suit your own personal taste. Take your wine home in a personalised bottle.

### INSIDER ACCESS: BOTANICAL ARK

Visit a private ethno-botanical garden in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest. Located at the end of a jungle-clad valley, in the remote rainforest north of Mossman in Far North Queensland where you will meet with Alan and Susan Carle, the founders of this tropical oasis. The Carles founded the Botanical Ark in 1983 to realise their dream of preserving the world's most unique plant species. Enjoy an interpretive garden tour and be inspired as you learn about the intrinsic link between rainforest plants and cultures and sample some of the most unusual and interesting tastes and sights imaginable. The property also houses one of only two private Quarantine Stations in Tropical Australia, and the garden even includes species that are extinct in their original homes.

Relax and unwind on the verandah of this truly beautiful home as you are served morning or



afternoon tea with a very exotic fruit tasting. Hear tales of the Carle's travels to remote indigenous communities where they further enhance their broad knowledge of anthropology and collect examples of rare equatorial plant life. The Carles are certainly the most interesting people to meet and talk with and their home and property represent a beautiful example of Queensland lifestyle.

### INSIDER ACCESS: DARWIN ON DARWIN

In 1836 Charles Darwin travelled in the HMS Beagle to Australia as part of a world voyage that would subsequently form the basis of his earth-shattering theories of evolution. Meet and journey with Chris Darwin in the footsteps of his great-great-grandfather Charles through the Blue Mountains exploring the wildlife and landscapes that inspired his theories.

Walk with Chris along the aptly named Darwin's Walk to Wentworth Falls through the dominance of Eucalypt forests that so intrigued the famous

naturalist. Gain a personal insight into the ideas and influences that shaped Darwin's thinking, rocking the foundations of human evolution and natural history forever. Chris Darwin shares his insights on the legacy of his famous forebear, and the influence Australia had in shaping his ideas. Chris Darwin, himself a conservationist, author and adventure guide has organised and led major expeditions including Social Climbers Expedition to host the world's highest dinner party in 1990 and has raised \$1.2 million for Bush Heritage Australia.

Your gift to take home is a copy of "Charles Darwin in Australia" personally inscribed by Chris Darwin. The book, by F.W. Nicholas and J.M. Nicholas, is a richly illustrated commentary considered the definitive account of Darwin's time in Australia.

Following the walk, experience the stunning views of the Blue Mountains with a gourmet cliff top lunch, before transferring back to Sydney.





# Abercrombie & Kent

## NEW ZEALAND



## Abercrombie & Kent New Zealand

New Zealand is set like a remote jewel in the blue waters of the southwest Pacific Ocean. Colonial British and local Maori cultures live side by side and the proud history of each is showcased throughout this beautiful country. Marvel at the unspoiled landscape of snow-capped mountains, sheer falling fiords, rolling meadows, picturesque bays and stretches of wild beaches.

The country is composed of two main islands. The North Island is best known for the geothermal wonders of Rotorua and the clear waters of the Bay of Islands, but also offers insights into the rich and rewarding Maori culture.

Explore the Art Deco town of Napier close to the wine region of Hawkes Bay. Wellington is the capital of the country and has a wonderful museum celebrating the history, art and culture of New Zealand.

- Best time to travel: October to April
- Capital City: Wellington
- Currency: New Zealand Dollar
- Visa: Valid visa required



Crossing over to the South Island, visit Christchurch where you can punt in true English fashion along the Avon River or try swimming with the dolphins at Akaroa. Some of the world's most peaceful retreats are found in the South Island but if that's not for you, there is excitement in Queenstown – the adventure capital of the world, home to bungee jumping, sky diving and canyon swinging. There is also the chance to explore farmlands, fiords and national parks where nature rules and glacial valleys glide gently and quietly into the sea.

Accommodation throughout New Zealand is of an excellent standard from luxury lodges to private islands with beaches. While you may at times have to share the road with a flock of sheep, it will be hard not to be distracted by the dramatic scenery unfolding before you. To top it all off, world renowned wines and fine dining are available wherever you go.

### INSIDER ACCESS: KIWI BIRD HATCHERY

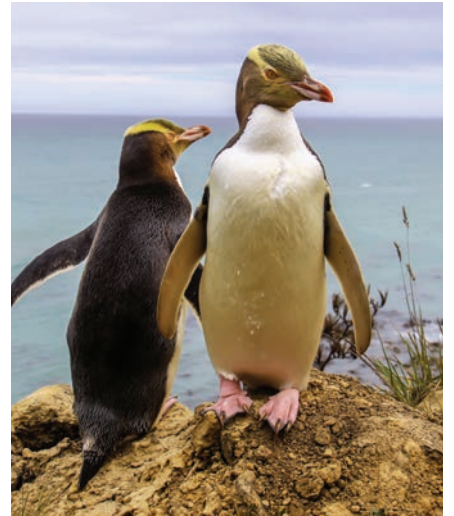
This Insider Access tour is all about becoming better acquainted with New Zealand's elusive kiwi. Your tour includes a private guide that will be able to answer all of your questions about the Kiwi. You also get the opportunity to meet and talk with the husbandry staff. Tours begin with a brief introduction in the incubation room and hatchery where you are able to see the equipment working. You will then continue into the 'staff only' areas to see the Egg preparation room and get the opportunity to see and handle real kiwi eggs.

Your tour then takes you to the kitchen where the artificial diet for the kiwi is prepared. You will also see a variety of interesting food including worms and insects! A visit to the brooder room is next. This is the kiwi nursery where chicks stay until they are approximately 400gms in body size. The birds are then moved to outdoor enclosures where they grow until they are 1kg. From here you will enter the indoor nocturnal area where captive kiwis of different ages are on display in a natural setting behind glass. Your tour concludes in the static display that provides a wealth of information and audio visual material about the kiwi.

Insider Access behind the scenes tours are exclusive for Abercrombie & Kent guests and offer a unique insight into the valuable conservation work done for the kiwi at Kiwi Encounter.

# Abercrombie & Kent

## NEW ZEALAND



### INSIDER ACCESS: PRIVATE GARDEN TOUR OF LARNACH CASTLE IN DUNEDIN

Situated on the picturesque Otago Peninsula, Larnach Castle is one of New Zealand's premier visitor attractions. Lovingly restored by the Barker family the castle and surrounding grounds are at the heart of the Dunedin visitor experience. Discover New Zealand's only Castle, built in 1871 by William Larnach, merchant baron and politician, for his beloved first wife Eliza. It took more than 200 workmen three years to build the Castle shell and master European craftsmen spent a further 12 years embellishing the interior. Larnach spared no expense on his dream home, which features the finest materials from around the world.



The Castle is still privately owned and cared for by the Barker family who purchased it as their home in 1967. Decades have been spent on the Castle's restoration, with the family having restored empty buildings from ruin and assembled a large collection of original New Zealand period furniture and antiques. Open to the public throughout, this conservation project has been funded through admission fees. The family has always been committed to opening their home and sharing this significant period of Dunedin's and New Zealand's history.

Enjoy this private tour with Margaret Barker whose passion has been to create a beautiful garden on this stunning historical site.

### INSIDER ACCESS: PRIVATE ARTIST ENCOUNTER IN QUEENSTOWN

Enjoy a full day touring Queenstown. Your day may include a visit to bungy jump site AJ Hackett Kawarau

Bridge, historic Arrowtown and a stop at beautiful Lake Hayes.

It will also include a visit with a local artist. Learn their history and the techniques they have used in their craft.

Lastly, take a tour of Gibbston Valley, one of the pioneers of the Central Otago wine industry. Enjoy a wine cave tour, tastings and lunch. This region is also one of the most southernmost wine growing regions of the world.





# Abercrombie & Kent

## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

### WEATHER

Year round Australia has a distinctly mild climate and whenever you travel there are many locations with perfect holiday and touring weather. Because the country is so large, recommendations may vary. The most Northerly regions of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia experience a distinctly tropical, hot, humid 'wet' season from December to March. While snow only ever falls on high peaks in Southern States and never in cities, conditions can be quite crisp in the South from June to August.

New Zealand is an island nation so the weather can be changeable throughout the year. Two main geographical features – the mountains and the sea – dominate its climate. It does not have a large temperature range. However, the weather can change unexpectedly – as cold fronts quickly blow in. Visitors should be prepared for sudden changes in weather and temperature.



### AUSTRALIA

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
New South Wales – Sydney area												
Temperature	22°C 71°F	22°C 71°F	20°C 68°F	18°C 64°F	15°C 59°F	12°C 54°F	12°C 54°F	13°C 55°F	15°C 59°F	17°C 62°F	19°C 66°F	21°C 70°F
Rainfall (mm)	89	102	127	136	127	117	117	76	74	71	74	74
Tropical North Queensland – Cairns area & Great Barrier Reef Islands												
Temperature	27°C 81°F	27°C 81°F	26°C 79°F	25°C 77°F	22°C 71°F	20°C 68°F	19°C 66°F	20°C 68°F	23°C 73°F	25°C 77°F	26°C 79°F	27°C 81°F
Rainfall (mm)	277	85	183	84	33	36	15	13	18	33	48	137
The Red Centre – Ayers Rock and Alice Springs												
Temperature	28°C 82°F	28°C 82°F	24°C 75°F	19°C 66°F	15°C 59°F	12°C 54°F	11°C 52°F	14°C 57°F	18°C 64°F	22°C 71°F	26°C 79°F	28°C 82°F
Rainfall (mm)	43	33	28	10	15	13	8	8	8	18	31	38
The Top End – Darwin and Kakadu & Broome and the Kimberley												
Temperature	28°C 82°F	28°C 82°F	28°C 82°F	28°C 82°F	28°C 82°F	26°C 79°F	25°C 77°F	26°C 79°F	28°C 82°F	29°C 84°F	29°C 84°F	29°C 84°F
Rainfall (mm)	386	312	254	97	15	3	0	3	13	51	119	239
Victoria – Melbourne area												
Temperature	20°C 68°F	20°C 68°F	18°C 64°F	15°C 59°F	12°C 54°F	10°C 50°F	10°C 50°F	10°C 50°F	12°C 54°F	14°C 57°F	16°C 61°F	18°C 64°F
Rainfall (mm)	48	46	56	58	53	53	48	48	58	66	58	58
South Australia – Adelaide and Kangaroo Island												
Temperature	23°C 73°F	24°C 75°F	21°C 70°F	18°C 64°F	14°C 57°F	12°C 54°F	11°C 52°F	12°C 54°F	14°C 57°F	17°C 62°F	19°C 66°F	21°C 70°F
Rainfall (mm)	8	10	20	43	130	180	170	145	86	56	20	13
Tasmania – Hobart, Freycinet and Cradle Mountain												
Temperature	17°C 62°F	17°C 62°F	15°C 59°F	13°C 55°F	10°C 50°F	8°C 46°F	8°C 46°F	9°C 48°F	10°C 50°F	12°C 54°F	14°C 57°F	15°C 59°F
Rainfall (mm)	48	38	46	48	46	56	53	48	53	58	61	53
Western Australia – Perth and Margaret River												
Temperature	23°C 73°F	23°C 73°F	21°C 70°F	19°C 66°F	16°C 61°F	14°C 57°F	13°C 55°F	13°C 55°F	14°C 57°F	16°C 61°F	19°C 66°F	21°C 70°F
Rainfall (mm)	8	10	20	43	130	180	170	145	86	56	20	13

### NEW ZEALAND

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Island												
Temperature	19°C 66°F	19°C 66°F	18°C 64°F	16°C 61°F	14°C 57°F	11°C 52°F	10°C 50°F	11°C 52°F	12°C 54°F	14°C 57°F	15°C 59°F	17°C 62°F
Rainfall (mm)	79	94	81	97	127	137	145	117	102	102	89	79
South Island												
Temperature	16°C 61°F	16°C 61°F	14°C 57°F	12°C 54°F	8°C 46°F	6°C 43°F	6°C 43°F	7°C 45°F	8°C 46°F	12°C 54°F	13°C 55°F	16°C 61°F
Rainfall (mm)	56	43	48	48	66	66	69	48	46	43	48	56

This is a guideline only and unseasonal weather can occur so you should pack with a degree of flexibility in mind.

# Abercrombie & Kent

## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

### A&K DMC GENERAL STATEMENT

With over 30 years' experience on the ground in Australia and New Zealand, we have built a strong reputation and network in the region. Our passionate Travel Specialists, dedicated research team, Guest Relations team, and well educated guides will ensure a visit to Australia & New Zealand will be an experience to remember.



# Abercrombie & Kent

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