



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

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What makes Australia?

Hello everyone! George here, your local CIR in Miyakonojo! Today, I thought I'd give everyone a brief run-down of some of the more rare and unusual sightseeing spots around Australia, in an attempt to try and pull everyone away from the more typical and (quite honestly) boring spots!

Let's start close to home with Melbourne. With a number of mountain ranges to visit, from the Dandenongs to the Grampians, there's plenty of nature to go and enjoy, as well as Ski/Snowboard tracks on Mt. Buller and Mt. Hotham. There's also a vast amount of countryside to visit, and plenty of camping grounds in forests or near beaches, such as Aireys Inlet in the west and Wilsons Promontory over in the east. Of course, with the capital city of Victoria being Melbourne, there's a great amount of culture to be found in its many art exhibitions, galleries, museums and memorials, not to mention the large variety of food, wine and beer on offer all around the state.

As much as I love my hometown though, there are plenty more places around Australia that are worth visiting. For now, let's explore a clockwise loop around the country, starting with Tasmania. As the largest island apart from the mainland, Tasmania has a wealth of natural beauty of its own, with a mountainous landscape that draws to my mind some similarities to Japan, just without all the volcanoes! From Devonport on the northern coast to Hobart in the south, Tasmania is also home to some of the freshest and tastiest seafood in Australia, with local oyster farms aplenty, and some world-class salmon to boot! Tasmania itself has also recently picked up on the craft beer scene, leading to some tasty (and sometimes peculiar) specialties, should your palate draw you in for a visit.



Continuing on our clockwise-bound trip, we head next to South Australia, where Adelaide, known both as the city of churches and the city of wine, heads the state as its capital. While this may seem quite self-

explanatory, its brilliance is often understated, so I leave the full explanation to the attached image of the nearby Barossa Valley in Tarunda, a short drive north-east of Adelaide.



As we continue around, we arrive at Western Australia, and after a lengthy journey to the west coast, we find ourselves at Perth. This city is, in a sense, the pinnacle of Australian living, as absolutely nothing here happens quickly! If you're after that more relaxed day-to-day living, you've come to the right place. As is typical of Australia, there's also plenty of nature to see, with Rottnest Island off the coast, as well as the Pinnacle Rocks, Wave Rock, Karijini National Park, Margaret River, and much more! If you were to explore just Western Australia (which, admittedly, takes up almost half of Australia's land mass on its own!), it would take you a good few months to get around to everything!



From the west coast of Australia, continuing our trip around, we move on to the north coast and Darwin.



While Darwin, and the Northern Territory in general, is situated in Australia's harsh desert environment, it

stands out as a jewel of a sandy sea. With the Katherine Hot Springs to relax in, Crocosaurus Cove to get your blood pumping, Mindil beach night markets, Kakadu national park, the devil's marbles... So long as you can withstand the heat, you'll find there's plenty to do in the far outback of Darwin!

Changing our route slightly here, we'll make a quick dip into the heart of Australia, and visit upon Uluru and Alice Springs. There's truly no place quite as charming in its isolation, and beautiful in its harshness as Alice Springs. Lying almost exactly halfway between Adelaide and Darwin, and with a population of just over 25,000 people, 'Alice' likely holds more aboriginal history than the rest of Australia combined. Of course, the major focal point of Alice Springs is Uluru, the great red rock of Australia. As of October this year, you'll no longer be able to climb this marvel, so if you've always wanted to give it a go, make sure you make your way across before it's too late!

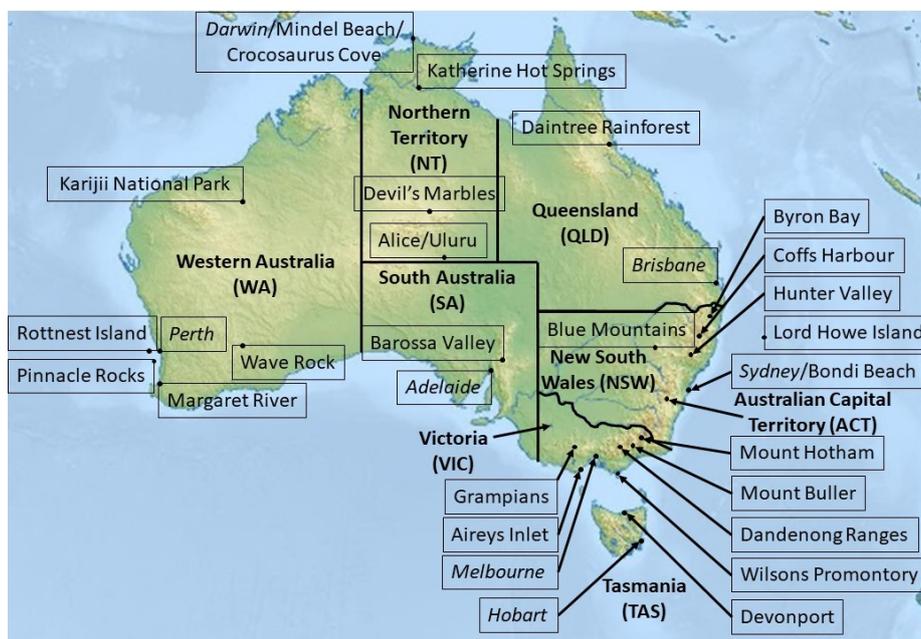


Returning back to our previous path, let's now make our

way around the north-east of Australia and in to Queensland. While everyone is likely aware of the Great Barrier Reef (which is fair enough, considering its size, beauty, and importance to the environment and nature), did you know about Daintree rainforest? As the single largest rainforest in Australia, coming in at 1200 km², nothing does the area justice as much as the image I've attached; the combination of crystal clear blue ocean, pearlescent white sands and lush green rainforest make for a rare sight indeed.

To finish us off, let's now make our way down past Brisbane (the capital of Queensland), and into New South Wales towards Sydney (the capital of the state, but not of Australia). Without a doubt, the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge hold worldwide renown, but I'll personally take Bondi Beach or the Blue Mountains over the busy cityscape any day! There's plenty more out there too, such as Byron Bay, Lord Howe Island, Coffs Harbour and the Hunter Valley, so you can certainly get your fix of nature in New South Wales as well.

As a typical Australian, I've spent the entire article here talking about the abundant nature present all around the country, but there's certainly something for everyone no matter where you go; biking around a state or the country for the fitness-inclined is easy enough to do, sky diving and bungee jumping is there for the thrill-seekers, zoos for the animal lovers, and much more. With many years of travelling around the country myself, I still haven't done it all, so if you happen to catch me some time in Australia, let's go travelling together!



Movies info	
C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571) 17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540*55	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i> (Japanese Sub) ● <i>Captain Marvel</i> (Japanese Dub) ● <i>Alita: Battle Angel</i> (Japanese Dub) ● <i>Aquaman</i> (Japanese Dub) ● <i>Mary Poppins Returns</i> (Japanese Dub) ● <i>Bumblebee</i> (Japanese Dub) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone. *Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100. *The cinema is closed every Tuesday. *For session times visit: http:// movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html (Japanese)