

# AUSTRALIA'S LANDMARKS

## SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

The Sydney Opera House is a multi-venue performing arts centre in Sydney. It was designed and largely built by Danish architect Jørn Utzon.

The planning of the Sydney Opera House began in the late 1940s and was formally completed in 1973, the original completion date was meant to be on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1963 (Australia Day), but it took them an extra 10 years to complete it. The original cost was estimated in 1957 to be at around \$7 million to build, when completed in 1973 the total cost was around \$102 million. It cost them around 14 times more than what they had originally planned.

In its short lifetime, Sydney Opera House has earned a reputation as a world-class performing arts centre and become a symbol of both Sydney and the Australian nation.



## SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is a bridge that carries rail, cars, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrian traffic from the Sydney central business district (CBD) to the North Shore. It was built under the directions of Dr. J.J.C. Bradfield of the NSW Department of Public Works, the bridge was designed and built by an English firm called Dorman Long and Co Ltd of Middlesbrough. The construction began on the 28<sup>th</sup> July in 1923 and was completed on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January in 1932, the bridge was then officially opened to the public on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1932, two months after it had been completed.

Since 1998 people have been able to climb the southern half of the bridge, this has attracted large numbers of tourists over the years. These tours run throughout the day and people are also able to climb it at night, the only times when climbs are cancelled are when there are electrical storms or very high winds.

Until 1967 the Harbour Bridge was Sydney's tallest structure.

The bridge was given a nickname by the locals of 'The Coat Hanger', this was because of its arched based design and as it resembled the look of a coat hanger.

## OLD MELBOURNE GAOL

The Old Melbourne Gaol (Jail) is located in Victoria, it is next to the old City Police Watch House and City Courts building, the jail consists of a bluestone building and courtyard, it was built in the mid 1800s. The jail housed short term prisoners, the criminally insane and Victoria's most hardened criminals.

Between 1842 and when the jail was closed in 1929 there were a total of 135 people executed by hanging, most famous of which was notorious bushranger Ned Kelly in 1880.

In 1972 the jail was opened as a museum under the management of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). You are now able to walk through the prison and see for yourself what it really looks like inside the building, you can also see where the hangings were performed and walk into certain cells where you can try to imagine what it could have been like being locked in those tiny rooms for up to 23 hours a day.



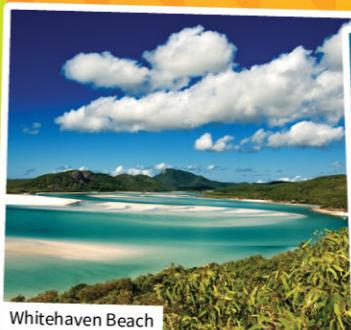
The prison was used during some of Australia's most significant historical moments, including the Gold Rush and in World War II.

The cells have now been filled with information about individual prisoners, telling not only the history of the prison, but of Melbourne itself.

## NATURAL LANDMARKS

### GREAT BARRIER REEF

Located off the coast of Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system made up of roughly 3,000 individual reefs and 900 islands. It was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981 and has also been advertised as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. It is also the world's largest World Heritage Area extending 2,000 kilometres and covering an area of 35 million hectares. The Great Barrier Reef can be seen from outer space and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms.

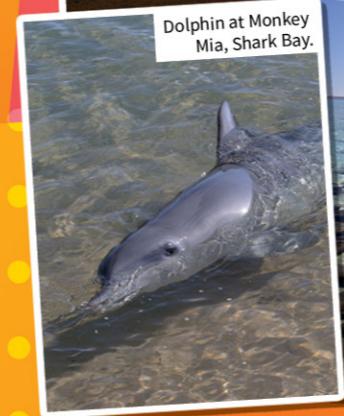


Uluru



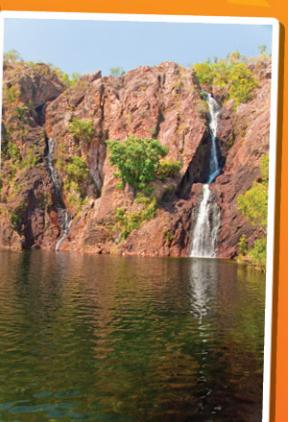
### ULURU

Uluru stands 348 metres high and is more than 9 kilometres around its base. However, the section that is visible is only one-third of the rock. The other two-thirds is under the ground. This makes Uluru one of the largest monuments in the world. For most of the 1900s, the federal government controlled Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock. However, in 1985, the government handed the rock and the surrounding land back to the Traditional Aboriginal custodians. It is now known by its traditional name, Uluru. It is also a listed World Heritage Area for both its cultural and natural values.



### SHARK BAY

It is believed that the first European to set foot on Western Australian soil did so on a small island in Shark Bay. In 1616, Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog sailed along the west coast of the continent. He left behind an engraved plate on a pole, with the details of his visit at the site now known as Cape Inscription. Later, in 1699, British explorer William Dampier explored the area and gave it the name 'Shark's Bay' because of the large numbers of sharks he saw. It also has one of the world's largest dugong populations, with about 14,000 of these sea animals living in the region. There are also, dolphins, humpback whales and turtles living in the bay or passing through it.



### KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

The World Heritage Listed Kakadu National Park as a unique archaeological and ethnological reserve, located in the Northern Territory. With inhabitants dating back more than 40,000 years, it features cave paintings, rock carvings and archaeological sites that have recorded the skills and way of life of the region's inhabitants. The park's 10,000 square kilometres of woodlands, wetlands, and floodplains are home to many types of wildlife, including more than 300 species of birds, 75 species of reptiles, 50 species of mammals, 1,500 species of butterflies and moths, 50 species of fish, 25 species of frogs, and thousands of species of plants, many of which remain unclassified.



### THE TWELVE APOSTLES

The Twelve Apostles are the most famous of all formations along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria. Formed over many years by the erosive action of the sea against Limestone and Volcanic rock the tallest of the rock stands around 45 metres high. Today there are only eight of the original twelve still standing due to erosion. The stretch of coastline is known as the Shipwreck Coast because more than 80 ships have gone down here due to the rough ocean and rugged rock stacks.