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MAY-JUNE 2026

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Doju, a modern Korean restaurant, stands out as one of Melbourne's most exciting dining destinations worth travelling for

As the June holidays approach, the pull of a mid-year escape is hard to resist. For sun, sand and surf, "A new golden age" (page 11) spotlights South Africa as a destination on the rise.

Closer to home, "Enjoy the slow life in Penang" (page 22) offers an easy, heritage-rich weekend escape. And if you think you've seen all there is to Australia's Harbour City, "Soul of Sydney" (page 35) reveals a different side – start with Pyrmont, where the revitalised Darling Harbour signals a new chapter.

For something more adventurous, cabin crew Nurul Thaqifah highlights the most exciting things to do in Perth (page 32). Travelling with children or loved ones? "Family time" (page 06) shares tips for a smoother journey.

Wherever you're headed, don't forget to make time for yourself. "Peak wellness rituals" (page 13) guides you through experiences to help you travel better, every step of the way.



On the cover  
Historic railway workshop Carriageworks is now a vibrant community space in Sydney's Redfern  
Photo by Jason Ierace

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**SILVERKRIS** 

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# EXPERIENCE

With the school holidays upon us, it's the perfect time for families to travel, unwind and share meaningful moments away from the everyday routine.

Flying with young children, however, can be challenging – from keeping them entertained on long flights to making sure they have meals they enjoy. Singapore Airlines offers a host of thoughtful services designed to make every stage of the journey smoother for both parents and little ones.

## At the airport

Premium travellers can unwind at the SilverKris Lounge in Changi Airport Terminals 2 and 3. The refreshed First and Business Class lounges at Terminal 2 include family-friendly touches such as playrooms with a playful Beary-themed wall and activity boards to keep little ones engaged, as well as a nursing room with a baby-changing station. Parents can take a moment to freshen up in the en-suite shower rooms, stocked with Lalique and Payot amenities, or unwind in dedicated rest areas – available at both Terminals 2 and 3 – for a calm respite from the bustle of the airport.



Families can also embark on a cinematic adventure with a curated selection of family-friendly movies and TV shows – best enjoyed together on the seatback system – including titles such as *Zootopia 2*, *A Minecraft Movie* and *The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants*. Disney branded children's amenities are available for young travellers aged 12 years and under.

## Kid-friendly meal options

Onboard dining is thoughtfully designed with little ones in mind, with selected routes offering specially curated child-friendly options. Children can enjoy a choice of Western, Asian, or vegetarian meals, while infants and babies are served age-appropriate soft foods for easy digestion. To ensure availability, remember to pre-order these meals at least 32 hours before departure.

From the airport to the cabin, Singapore Airlines offers a range of family-friendly comforts to make travelling with kids a seamless and enjoyable experience.



Travelling with children? Scan the QR code for a handy checklist to plan a smoother journey



## In-flight fun for kids

Keeping children engaged in the air is simpler with Sky Quests, a set of interactive mini-games designed for young travellers. Kids can test their knowledge with Travel Trivia, sharpen their memory with Memory Match or play Charades Chase with their family, along with other exciting games. Simply connect to in-flight Wi-Fi and visit [krisworld.com](http://krisworld.com) to start playing during your flight!

## Clear skies ahead

Travelling with little ones? These six simple tips can help make the journey easier for parents and infants

### BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Each infant must travel with an accompanying adult on the same booking and miles should be claimed separately.

### MANAGE YOUR BOOKING

Use this feature on the SIA website to select seats, pre-order infant meals at least 32 hours before departure, and more.

### PREPARE FOR YOUR TRIP

Don't forget to check entry requirements and liquid regulations before you board – breast milk is allowed in carry-on bags.

### HEAD TO THE AIRPORT

Arrive early! If you need help with stroller check-in or boarding, simply approach ground staff at check-in or the gate.

### ON BOARD

Nursing and expressing milk are permitted during the flight, and selected lavatories are equipped with baby-changing tables.

### ON ARRIVAL

Remember to collect all your belongings and look out for family-designated immigration lanes where available.



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**Left**  
Singapore Airlines' partnership with chef Nandu Jubany features an elevated menu of Catalan dishes

**Below**  
Nandu Jubany, a Michelin-starred chef from Spain

salted cod simmered in a vibrant tomato sauce, enriched with golden raisins, toasted pine nuts, roasted red peppers and a creamy hard-boiled egg.

The finale is a luscious *Pastís de Formatge* cheesecake, its deep golden crust giving way to a silky interior, elevated with bittersweet notes and a fresh mixed berry compote.

Each course has been reimaged to deliver the essence of Catalonia even in flight, ensuring that every bite is as memorable as a dish from the chef's own table.

#### A taste of culture

Kevin Lee, SIA's General Manager in Spain and Portugal, says: "Collaborating with Nandu Jubany allows us to unite Asian hospitality with Catalan culinary excellence, creating an experience that is truly unique."

For passengers, this partnership shows that sometimes, the most memorable part of travel begins at your tray table. 🍴



# Cruising with Catalan cuisine

SIA's new collaboration with Michelin-starred chef Nandu Jubany turns your in-flight meal into a journey through Catalan food culture

To mark its 20th anniversary in Barcelona, Singapore Airlines (SIA) is bringing the heart of Catalonia straight to your Business Class seat.

Michelin-starred chef Nandu Jubany, renowned for innovations in Catalan cuisine while honouring its local roots, is the first chef from the region to partner with the globally recognised airline.

#### Quality food on board

Together with SIA's catering team and Gate Gourmet, the airline's catering partner in Barcelona, chef Jubany has created a menu designed not just to feed but delight the senses.

But recreating restaurant-quality dishes for the skies is a science – cabin pressure and humidity subtly alter taste, requiring precise

adjustments in flavour, texture and cooking techniques.

"Cooking for an airline is not just about adapting a recipe; it's about rethinking it so that it inspires on board just as it does in a restaurant," Jubany explains.

#### A rotating menu

From 1 May, passengers on the direct Barcelona–Singapore route can savour a curated menu that rotates quarterly through March 2027.

The first Summer cycle menu (May/June) begins with hand-rolled zucchini canelón, delicately encasing a rich, buttery crab filling, drizzled with a fragrant black garlic sauce, a touch of sriracha mayonnaise and fresh tomato salsa.

The main course, Catalan-style *bacallà*, features tender

EXPERIENCE

# A new golden age

South Africa is experiencing a tourism boom with a wealth of high-profile openings, wild, natural landscapes, improved accessibility and global sporting buzz

STORY *Audrey Ng*



Main image (left)  
An aerial image  
of Cape Town

This page (clockwise  
from top) Tourists  
flock to South  
Africa's safaris for a  
glimpse of its famous  
wildlife; another  
popular attraction is  
the V&A Waterfront  
in Cape Town



## Five must-visit spots in Johannesburg

**1**  
**CRADLE OF HUMAN KIND**  
The evidence that humans first came from Africa lies right here at this UNESCO World Heritage Site. About 50km north-west of Johannesburg, the Sterkfontein Caves and Maropeng Visitor Centre tell the story of humankind. [maropeng.co.za](http://maropeng.co.za)

**2**  
**PILANESBERG NATIONAL PARK**  
Drive three hours from the city to the country's fourth largest game reserve, home to 360 bird species and 7,000 animals. Mid-range to luxury accommodation is also available. [pilanenberg nationalpark.org](http://pilanenbergnationalpark.org)

**3**  
**ALTO234**  
The highest rooftop bar in the continent, Alto234 on the 57th floor of The Leonardo hotel is a chic spot to enjoy thoughtfully crafted cocktails while enjoying an unobstructed sunset view. [alto234.co.za](http://alto234.co.za)

**4**  
**HUGH'S JAZZ CLUB**  
Named after Hugh Masekela, widely considered the father of South African jazz, this bar provides an authentic experience, from the music curation right down to the sound design. [hughs.co.za](http://hughs.co.za)

**5**  
**44 STANLEY**  
This former light industrial complex from the 1930s is now a trendy lifestyle destination with designer clothing boutiques, speciality stores, cafés, art spaces and a cinema. [44stanley.co.za](http://44stanley.co.za)

Known for its exceptional safaris, dramatic landscapes and multicultural diversity, South Africa is seeing a renewed rise in tourism, with international tourist arrivals reaching a record 10.48 million last year.

Powering this momentum is a richer, more diverse array of experiences that go beyond the usual itinerary; 2026 sees the country's tourism offerings expand with global sports events, cultural attractions and hotel openings.

The country's sporting calendar saw the LIV Golf tournament make its debut in March this year, while the 2027 Cricket World Cup is set to return to South African soil for the first time in over two decades.

"South Africa offers a natural fit for travellers looking to integrate work and holiday in a single itinerary. Business travellers arriving for meetings and events in Gauteng or Cape Town can seamlessly extend their stay to enjoy our world-class lifestyle, food and wine, wildlife, nature experiences and cultural attractions," says South Africa's Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille.

As a result, lesser-explored regions are receiving the spotlight. The Drakensberg mountain range – the country's highest – offers hiking trails past ancient rock art sites, while nearby small town Clarens makes for a charming stopover.

South Africa is also promoting sustainable, community-based and cultural tourism, highlighting experiences such as Big Seven wildlife and marine encounters in the Eastern Cape, as well as luxury wine and gastronomy in the Western Cape. The Northern Cape is gaining traction for astro-tourism, leveraging its dark skies and world-class astronomy facilities.

Bringing all this together is improved connectivity. The rollout of South Africa's Electronic Travel Authorisation – designed to process applications within 24 hours – will also streamline the journey for many travellers.

On the ground, works at Cape Town International Airport will increase runway capacity, enhance efficiency and optimise operations, while a second international airport 25km away is slated to begin passenger operations by 2028. 🛫

*Singapore Airlines flies to Johannesburg and Cape Town.*

IMAGES: TOBIAS REICH/JUNSPASH; CLAIRE ROADLEY/JUNSPASH; PATRICK BAUM/JUNSPASH; COURTESY OF SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM DESTINATION

# Peak wellness rituals

Flying long-haul? Here's a guide to help you arrive well rested and ready to hit the ground running

STORY \_\_\_\_\_ Audrey Ng

If you're someone who wakes up feeling refreshed after a long flight, you're already ahead of the game. For many travellers, however, long-haul journeys place unique demands on the body – recycled cabin air can dehydrate the skin, high altitudes affect the sinuses and time zone changes disrupt circadian rhythms. The good news is that a few simple wellness rituals can transform the journey itself into a restorative experience, helping you arrive feeling rested and ready to explore your destination.

## Pre-flight: Relaxing rituals

A smoother journey begins well before boarding. Amid the flurry of packing and work handovers, it's easy to arrive at the airport already feeling depleted. Taking a moment to unwind beforehand can set the tone for the rest of your trip.

**Plaza Premium Lounge**, available at more than 70 airports worldwide – from Singapore's Changi to London's Heathrow – offers a comfortable retreat from the crowds. For a deeper reset, **Onsen Sora no Yu** at Tokyo's Narita Airport provides a tranquil space for a therapeutic soak in mineral-enriched hot spring water.

Both experiences can be effortlessly pre-booked on Pelago, Singapore Airlines' travel experiences platform. For added peace of mind, travellers can also arrange airport transfers in destinations worldwide, earning up to eight miles per dollar.



“A few thoughtful post-flight rituals can help you fully reset before diving back into the rhythm of the city”





Pre-book wellness treatments at Onsen Sora no Yu via on Pelago, Singapore Airlines' travel experiences platform

As an added perk, KrisFlyer members earn up to three miles for every dollar spent and can redeem a complimentary global roaming eSIM when they fly with SIA. SIA customers can also enjoy up to S\$50 off when checking out with their flight booking reference as a promo code on Pelago.

**In-flight: Essentials for long-haul comfort**

Once you're at cruising altitude, the focus shifts to staying comfortable in the air. Acquiring the right tools and products from KrisShop can help counter the cabin's dry conditions and keep your skin feeling nourished throughout the journey.

Protect your skin with Lancôme's fast-absorbing **Génifique Ultimate Serum** and pair it with **Estée Lauder's Advanced Night Repair Eye**



**Supercharged Gel-Crème** to help reduce dark circles and puffiness. For deep hydration, La Mer's iconic **Crème de la Mer** harnesses its signature seaweed extract to soothe fatigued skin.

To elevate your routine even further, the ultra-lightweight **Foreo FAQ 202 (Gen 2) Anti-Aging LED Face Mask** uses red-light therapy to promote skin recovery while you rest.

**After landing: Reset and recharge**

Wellness doesn't end when the plane touches down. A few thoughtful post-flight rituals can help you fully reset before diving back into the rhythm of the city.

Through the Kris+ lifestyle rewards app, travellers can book experiences across Singapore designed to rejuvenate both body and mind. Treat yourself to a relaxing massage or spa session at **Kenko Wellness** or **St Gregory Spa**. If you have an important meeting ahead, the chic barbershop **Sultans of Shave** will ensure you look perfectly polished.

Before heading into the city, spritz on a refreshing fragrance from **Byredo** or **Penhaligon's** and refuel with nutrient-dense options from **SaladStop!**.

Better still, when you pay with Kris+, you can earn up to six miles per dollar spent – bringing you closer to your next escape. ✨



**Clockwise from top left** Look polished for a business meeting at **Sultans of Shave**; **Onsen Sora no Yu** offers a mineral-rich soak for a deeper reset; **La Mer's Crème de la Mer** hydrates and soothes fatigued skin with its signature seaweed extract; tuck into a wholesome meal at **SaladStop!**

## EXPERIENCE



## Entertainment just the way you like it

Discover a personalised in-flight entertainment experience before you fly on the new krisworld.com

Choosing what to watch on your flight has become easier.

Launched in April 2026, the new krisworld.com gives you a smarter, more convenient way to plan and enjoy your in-flight entertainment (IFE) before your journey begins.

### Build your "Favourites" watchlist

Plan ahead with ease. Simply tap the heart icon to save the titles you like, so you'll have a programme lined up for you the moment you board. No more scrolling – just press play.

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### Your preferences, synced

From language to subtitles, your settings travel with you. Your KrisWorld preferences are saved and automatically synced onboard, so your entertainment is always set up just the way you like it. 🐉

To access these features, you must add your KrisFlyer number to your booking before your flight, and sign in on the IFE seatback screen onboard.

Approximately 66 million years ago, a massive asteroid caused the extinction of dinosaurs and ammonites.



# Ammolite

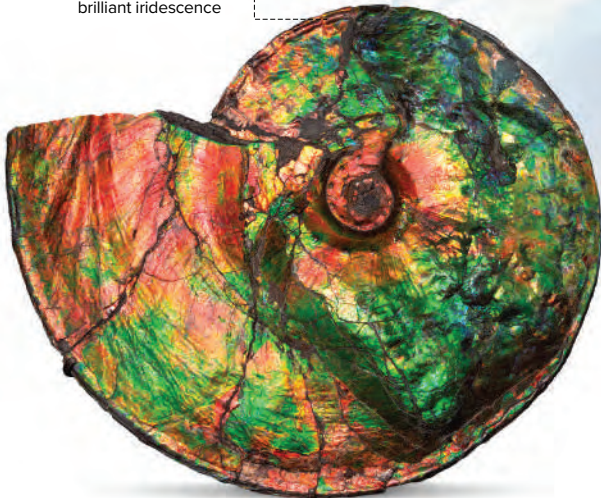


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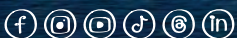
Pantai Kok

And everything feels soothingly familiar.

Pantai Kok

Welcome back. Nowhere like here.

naturallyLangkawi.my



# ENCOUNTER

MEET THE PEOPLE AND THEIR INSPIRING TRAVEL STORIES



## INSIDE



Enjoy the slow life in Penang

Escape from the buzz of city life

Nathania Ong's career takeoff

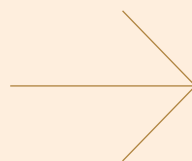
Singapore's West End star

The art of doing less

Embark on a mindful escape in Cairns

## Caring in the skies

Former nurse Siti Nurfitriah Binte Mohammed Effendi shares how a passion for service and adventure led her to swop hospital scrubs for Singapore Airlines' iconic kebaya





While many find fulfilment caring for others in hospitals or clinics, 26-year-old Siti Nurfitriah Binte Mohammed Effendi – known as Fitri – has discovered a new way to extend that care to the skies.

“I was already three years into my nursing career, so the idea of switching paths felt daunting,” she says. “But something kept pulling me towards my dream of joining a cabin crew.”

Fitri made a career switch to Singapore Airlines, inspired by what she terms a “calling” and took a chance to combine her passion for service with the opportunity to explore the world.

Her nursing experience has proven surprisingly transferable: staying calm under pressure, offering reassurance and connecting with people through empathy are just as vital at 30,000ft as they are in a hospital ward.

“Those qualities I developed as a nurse remain, and if anything, they’ve only grown stronger,” she notes.

“Being able to step in and help when someone truly needs support is something I value deeply”

Above  
A career switch, from nurse to cabin crew, became her calling



Several years into her career at SIA, Fitri now juggles long-haul flights with the occasional in-flight medical situation. “Being able to step in and help when someone truly needs support is something I value deeply,” she shares. “Those moments always remind me why I am so passionate about this role.”

Beyond the cabin, she also serves as an SIA Group ambassador. She links her nursing roots with volunteer work through the SG Healthcare Corps and supports Singapore’s healthcare institutions as a care ambassador.

For those contemplating a career switch, Fitri offers simple advice: “Remain open to stepping out of your comfort zone and embracing new experiences.

“To most people, it may feel like a new beginning. But, to me, it is a continuation – every step I’ve taken before has brought me here and has helped me feel at home in the skies.”

## Tips for aspiring cabin crew

### STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Changing careers can feel daunting, but it can also open the door to personal growth and new opportunities.

### STAY OPEN TO LEARNING

Every experience – from training to daily interactions with passengers – is a chance to develop new skills.

### LEAN ON YOUR TEAM

Support is always available from colleagues and seniors, so don’t hesitate to ask for guidance.

### COMMUNICATE WELL

Strong interpersonal and communication skills are essential when working with both passengers and crew.

### SERVE WITH HEART

Above all, a genuine passion for helping others and creating positive experiences is what makes a great cabin crew member.

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Retreat | Reveal | Renew

# Enjoy the slow life in Penang

Stay in a restored historical shophouse, admire Southeast Asian art and savour artisanal coffee in Malaysia's multicultural port city, where time comes to a standstill

STORY \_\_\_\_\_ Adrienne Lee

## Retreat

Penang's latest wave of sanctuaries, ranging from restored heritage-inspired hotels to a coastal animal refuge, offers a deliberate pause from the everyday and a cooling respite from the tropical heat.

Occupying three restored 1900s shophouses on Cintra Street in George Town, **Nam Keng Hotel** preserves its original timber floorboards and open-air internal courtyards. Its eight intimate suites feature antique Chinoiserie design, porcelain accents and dark wood furnishings.

Over on Millionaire's Row, **The Millen Penang, Autograph Collection**, reimagines a colonial-era estate as a sleek, 38-storey retreat. This 146-room gem pairs marble-clad lofts with a saltwater infinity pool and the restorative Nut&Meg Spa.

For those preferring to be in nature, **Boulder Valley Glamping** offers a wilderness escape about an hour's drive from George Town, nestled amid forested grounds and prehistoric rock formations. Its safari-style tents come with air-conditioning and ensuite bathrooms.

Nearby, the **Cat Beach Sanctuary** offers a rustic refuge for over 300 rescued felines. This seaside retreat invites travellers to volunteer or unwind alongside free-roaming cats.



The Millen Penang, Autograph Collection



Norm Micro Roastery

## Reveal

Beyond Penang's storied hawker stalls, there is a new wave of refined bistros and specialist kitchens emerging in and around George Town.

Hidden and reservation-only, **Ramen Killer Penang** serves just 50 bowls daily. Expect wavy, al dente noodles in a fragrant, tonkotsu-based broth topped with jammy tamago eggs and smoky chashu.

Penang's speciality coffee scene is maturing, led by roasteries prioritising technique and atmosphere. **Ossa Roastery & Brew Co** occupies an airy shophouse where a large-scale roasting machine takes centre stage. Meanwhile, **Norm Micro Roastery** pairs industrial-chic aesthetics with a sophisticated brunch menu featuring homemade focaccia and shakshuka.

For a local twist, look for barista John from **Shù The Common Café** within **Hin Bus Depot**. On weekends, he crafts creative, pandan-infused brews as the funky former bus terminal transforms into a vibrant hub of craft stalls and live music.

## Renew

Beyond the weathered charm of Ernest Zacharevic's murals and the colourful geometric patterns of heritage Peranakan floor tiles, Penang's artistry extends well past the shophouses of George Town.

South of George Town, the recently opened **Lin Xiang Xiong Art Gallery** at The Light Waterfront appears suspended over the water. The eight-storey, turtle-shaped landmark houses four permanent galleries charting Lin's decades-long artistic journey.

On the other side of Penang Island stands **Art and Garden**, a labour of love by glass artist Fuan Wong. This two-acre hillside sanctuary transforms his family's durian orchard into a lush fusion of horticulture and art. Intricate glass sculptures, mosaics and installations by Wong and various artists nestle among a vast collection of rare plants.

In the same vein, embark on a self-guided pedal through **Balik Pulau's** quiet backroads, where narrow paths wind past emerald paddy fields and traditional *kampongs* (villages). This gentle route leads to towering container art, offering cyclists a scenic stop amid Penang's agrarian landscape. 🚲

**Singapore Airlines flies to Penang 35 times weekly.**



Lin Xiang Xiong Art Gallery

# 傲杰嘉苑 UPPERHOUSE

ORCHARD BOULEVARD

Artist's Impression  
设计效果图

## AN ADDRESS THAT SAYS IT ALL 一址尽显，不言而喻

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SINGAPORELAND

“THE CHERRY  
ON TOP IS GETTING  
TO COME HOME AND  
TAKE ON A ROLE  
THAT HAS TRULY  
CHANGED MY LIFE”

Singapore's West End trailblazer Nathania Ong  
shares her love for performing, how she takes rejection  
in her stride and what drives her to keep forging ahead

STORY — *Audrey Ng*  
PHOTOGRAPHY — *Jake Homovich*



From singing in the shower to garnering a standing ovation from a 12,000-strong crowd, singer-actress Nathania Ong never imagined she would be performing professionally.



Having made history in 2021 as the first Singaporean to play the iconic Éponine in *Les Misérables'* United Kingdom and Ireland tour, the 28-year-old's career has been on an upward trajectory. Her meteoric rise is even more impressive given that she was initially rejected by every drama school she applied to, only to book roles successively in leading productions since graduating from London's Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in 2021.

"I was fully prepared to be a struggling actor for a good length of time," she says, acutely aware of how competitive the industry is.

Instead, she has performed in multiple shows including a Singapore production of *Into the Woods*, her own charity concert in Singapore, *Les Misérables* across the world, and this year,



Catch *Legally Blonde – The Musical* from 29 July 2026 at the Esplanade Theatre, with evening and weekend matinee performances. Tickets are available at [srt.com.sg](https://www.srt.com.sg)

she returns home for the first local staging of *Legally Blonde – The Musical* at the Esplanade Theatre.

"I feel incredibly inspired by Elle Woods as a character. She is someone who isn't afraid of facing a challenge despite resistance – someone who is resilient, brilliant and thinks out of the box; overcoming obstacles with her own kind of flair," she says, referring to the musical's protagonist.

Nathania takes us through her extraordinary journey from child singer to West End performer.

#### PRE-2021 STRENGTH FROM REJECTION

Nathania has always had a natural affinity for the spotlight. She recalls her first ever performance at age five with her sister at a 2004 concert attended by former Singapore president SR Nathan.

It was an exhilarating moment for her to sing in front of an audience. Unfortunately, her sister did not share that same zeal. "I thought we both had the most amazing, incredible time, not realising that she didn't sing and I did all the singing because I just loved it," she laughs.

Recognising her talent, her parents enrolled her in extracurricular classes, though her love for acting truly ignited at 17 when she took a drama elective in school. It was a combination of passion and a lack of academic inclination that pushed her towards her career path: "I wasn't very smart and my studies weren't very good. And that love for performing never really went away."

The dream faltered momentarily in 2018 when she was rejected from every drama school she applied to. Undeterred, she reapplied the following year and was accepted into Mountview, renowned for its musical theatre programme.

### 2021–2024 RISING STAR

It was a testament to her undeniable talent that Nathania landed the role of Jenna Rolan in *Be More Chill*, making her West End debut, fresh out of school in 2021. Just two months later came the career-defining role in *Les Misérables*.

Her proudest achievement remains the standing ovation for her performance of "On My Own" as Éponine at the Big Night of Musicals in the Manchester AO Arena. She recalls: "I was so nervous the night before that I couldn't sleep, so I just got on stage and sang my heart out."

That year also saw her back in Singapore for a two-month stint as Cinderella in local company Pandemonium's *Into the Woods*.

Even as she made a name for herself in the industry, the proudest she has felt was when her family and friends came to see her perform.

Nathania vividly recalls reuniting with her mother after a performance in Glasgow – their first meeting in two years due to pandemic travel restrictions. "When I saw her, I just wept," she says.

### 2024–2025 UNSTOPPABLE TRAJECTORY

Nathania's ascent continued with a year-long

contract as Eliza Hamilton in *Hamilton* at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London. Just as that chapter closed in 2025, the call came for her to reprise Éponine in *Les Misérables* The Arena Spectacular World Tour.

It took her to Taiwan, Japan and Shanghai – places that she had never visited and gladly took the chance to explore during her down time. Life on the road was punctuated by simple joys – fulfilling her sukiyaki craving in Tokyo, friends surprising her in her room for her birthday in Taiwan and an unexpected visit from her mother in Osaka on her day off.

### 2026 HOMECOMING

After a three-week run in China for the annual The Leading Voices of Musicals, it was back to Singapore in March. Barely a day after her arrival, she dove into the local leg of the *Les Misérables* tour. "The cherry on top is getting to come home and take on a role that has truly changed my life – and to share that with my friends, family and fellow Singaporeans," she says.

Come July, she will transform into Elle Woods in Singapore Repertory Theatre's (SRT) production of *Legally Blonde – The Musical*.

Accepting this role, markedly different from the ones she has done before, was another step forward in her own growth journey. She says: "As a performer, I'm constantly trying to improve myself – and well, I haven't been blonde yet!"

As she rewatched the movie and musical, it was the character's growth journey that stayed with her. "It's a funny show but there's a reason it's such a cult classic. This is a woman who appears airheaded, but you see a wonderful character growth. There's something so empowering about the way she stays true to herself."

She adds: "Audiences can look forward to a fantastic story, insanely catchy music and loads of colour!"

Meanwhile, she is also preparing for her solo concert, *Honest*, scheduled for 11–13 September 2026 at KC Arts Centre, where she will be singing her own versions of familiar songs and even an original one.

"You have seen me do these big roles; but I also love singing and performing and interacting with an audience. In this concert, I'm going to strip everything back; I want these songs to be sung in the way that I have always wanted to perform them," she says. 🐾

"You have seen me do these big roles; but I also love singing and performing and interacting with an audience"

An aerial photograph of a paved road winding through a lush tropical landscape. The road is flanked by dense greenery, including numerous palm trees and other tropical plants. A white car is visible on the road, moving away from the viewer. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, capturing the essence of a tropical coastal environment.

## THE DRIFT

In Cairns, life slows to the rhythm of reef, rainforest and winding coastal roads. From crocodile encounters to drifting quietly down the Mossman River, a journey through Far North Queensland reveals the art of doing less.

STORY — Adrienne Lee



The air in Cairns doesn't just hit you; it settles on you like a warm, heavy blanket. It's a heat that demands your surrender. Coming from the frenetic pace of Singapore, the transition is startling.

The Australian town in Far North Queensland seems to encourage this deceleration. There's a nostalgic, frozen-in-time charm about it. My hotel room felt dated, with furniture and décor straight out of the '90s, but it was deeply comfortable in an unpretentious, lived-in way.

That same sense of time standing still extended to the local shopping arcade. It felt like a relic, yet it was here that we stumbled upon a hole-in-the-wall Japanese restaurant called Hungry Wombat, where I fell in love with their stewed beef udon – chewy noodles and tender chunks of meat in a deeply comforting broth. The only spot that seemed to have moved with the times was YOMG, a pay-by-the-weight froyo shop where I paid nightly homage.

Before long, the town's easy stillness nudged me further north to Port Douglas, about an hour's drive away. The journey itself was the highlight: miles of winding coastline, flanked on one side by the Coral Sea and on the other by a relentless parade of leaning coconut trees. It felt like a vintage postcard come to life – the kind of scenery that instinctively makes you slow down as the world blurs past in shades of emerald and sapphire.

Against this slow-motion backdrop came moments that were far more visceral, memories I've stored as physical sensations. There was the relentless tropical heat that, despite my best efforts with sun protection, left me with a glowing – and painful – tan, a reminder of swimming in the Great Barrier Reef. Then there was the adrenaline I felt watching a crocodile expert “play” with his charge at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, a thrill later tempered by the quiet, ancestral Aboriginal stories shared by our guide, Aaron, during a cultural walk.

Yet the deepest sense of calm arrived on the water. My absolute favourite activity was the River Drift Experience with Back Country Bliss, trekking and then gliding lazily down the Mossman River. Lying on my river sled with cool water against my skin and gazing up at the towering rainforest canopy while listening to birdsong, I slipped into a state of peace. In this part of Australia, I realised the goal isn't to do everything; it's to do as little as possible and simply live in the moment.

Returning home, however, felt like being thrust back into a whirlwind of emails and errands. The grace I felt on those open roads – the willingness to wait, to breathe, to simply be – is hard to hold on to in the big city. But every now and then, when the workday gets too loud, I close my eyes and I'm back on that river sled, drifting through the rainforest, and my nervous system is settled again. 🐾

**Singapore Airlines flies to Cairns 4 times weekly.**

“It felt like a vintage postcard come to life – the kind of scenery that instinctively makes you slow down as the world blurs past in shades of emerald and sapphire”



**Main image (left)**  
Oak Beach, a tranquil coastal town located in Port Douglas, Queensland

**This page (clockwise from top)** Soak in the natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and the Mossman River, which flows through the ancient Daintree Rainforest



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## INSIDE



### Soul of Sydney

Take a tour of the city's multicultural neighbourhoods

### Auckland

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of New Zealand's largest city

### City guide: Melbourne

Discover the most sought-after dining spots right now

## A pulse for adventure

Get your adrenaline pumping in Perth with Singapore Airlines cabin crew member Nurul Thaqifah





“I love visiting Perth due to its proximity to stunning natural landscapes and because it offers fun-filled activities”

Perth is beloved for its chill vibes and relaxed pace of life. However, the capital of Western Australia also offers intrepid travellers plenty of adrenaline-pumping action, from ziplining to sandboarding and so much more – as Singapore cabin crew member Nurul Thaqifah recently discovered.

“My travel style is all about embracing the unknown and experiencing new adventures. I love visiting Perth due to its proximity to stunning natural landscapes and because it offers fun-filled activities such as surfing, hiking, snorkelling and wildlife-watching,” says Thaqifah, who has been flying with the Airline for six years.

“In addition, the city is mostly warm all year round, so it’s always a good time to be outdoors.”

Looking to explore the adventurous side of Perth? Experience the city’s thrills and spills with Thaqifah.

Clockwise from left Soak in some of Perth’s most scenic landscapes through activities like cycling and kayaking; Singapore Airlines cabin crew member Nurul Thaqifah recommends driving a rally car and sliding down sand dunes

#### Go camping by the Murray River

One of Thaqifah’s favourite things to do in Perth is camping by the Murray River.

“Camping offers a chance to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of daily life, reconnect with nature and enjoy simple pleasures. I appreciate the sense of freedom and engaging in outdoor activities like hiking and stargazing,” she shares.

Thaqifah especially recommends renting a kayak and exploring the waterways.

“You can observe wildlife and take in the picturesque surroundings as you paddle along the river. It’s such a serene and enjoyable experience,” she says.

#### Get behind the wheel of a rally car

Ever dreamt of becoming a race car driver? Live out your fantasies at Rally Action Driver Training, a motorsports school in Dowerin, about a 30min drive north-east of Perth.

Here, you’ll get to experience driving a rally car under the tutelage of a seasoned professional –



whether that's two laps around the school's purpose-built circuit (the Adrenaline Ride package) or 52 laps on six different tracks (the Ultimate Day package).

"It's so much fun. You'll feel almost as though you're attending a race!" Thaqifah says.

**Explore the city by bike**

Perth is a bike-friendly city with a comprehensive network of cycling paths. "There are many cycling routes that showcase the city's beauty, including along the Swan River and through Kings Park," Thaqifah says.

"Joining a guided cycling tour can be a great way to see the sights and immerse yourself in the city's outdoorsy lifestyle. Just remember to follow road rules, wear a helmet and stay hydrated!"

**Hit the sand in Lancelin**

Located around a 1.5-hour drive north of Perth, the small fishing town of Lancelin is renowned for its pristine dunes, some rising up to three storeys high. Here, thrill-seekers can hit the sand on a dirt bike, in a four-wheel drive or on a sandboard.

"Sandboarding down the slopes really gets my adrenaline pumping! It's an experience you certainly won't forget," Thaqifah says. ✈️ *Singapore Airlines flies to Perth four times daily.*

**Book these wild experiences**

Looking to turn up the adrenaline? Discover these standout adventures in and around Perth – available on Pelago by Singapore Airlines. Even better, Singapore Airlines passengers can enjoy up to S\$50 off, while earning KrisFlyer miles along the way.



**PINNACLES DESERT SUNSET DINNER AND STARGAZING TOUR**

A 10-hour adventure with sandboarding at Lancelin's dunes, coastal stops and a sunset over the Pinnacles, followed by a desert barbecue and guided stargazing. *Prices start from S\$224 or 22,400 KrisFlyer miles*



**3-DAY NORTHERN WA TOUR WITH HUTT LAGOON & THE PINNACLES**

Three days through Hutt Lagoon's pink hues, coastal and desert landscapes, with stops from lobster factories to the HMAS Sydney II Memorial – plus optional skydiving and scenic flights. *Prices start from S\$170 or 17,000 KrisFlyer miles*

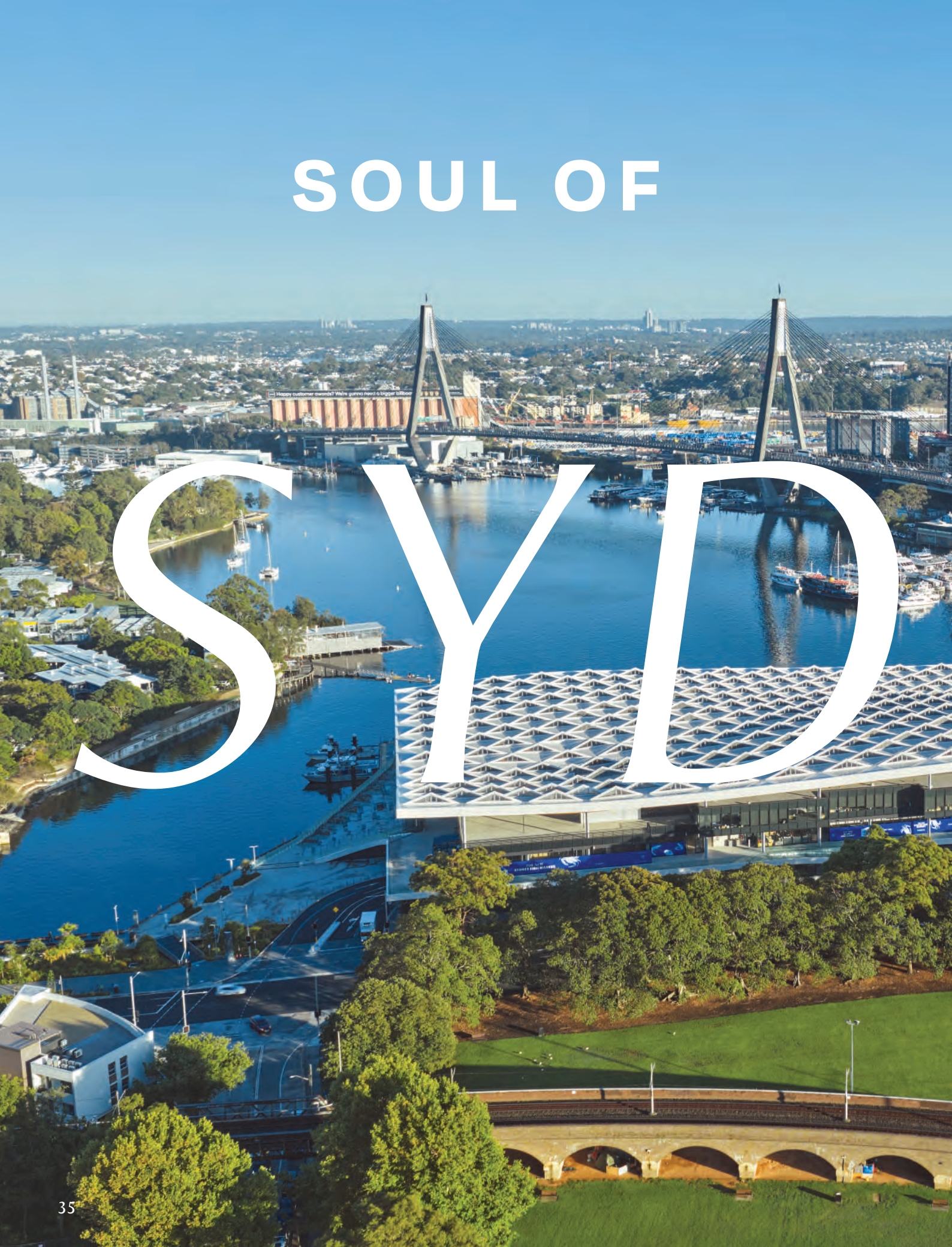


**PERTH NIGHT SAFARI: BILBIES, KANGAROOS & MILKY WAY STARGAZING**

Venture into Dryandra Woodlands for a small-group night safari with a bush walk, barbecue picnic and guided wildlife encounter at Barna Mia – ending with stargazing. *Prices start from S\$135 or 13,500 KrisFlyer miles*

SOUL OF

SYD



A large photograph of a park-like setting with people sitting on concrete steps. The word 'NEW' is overlaid in large white letters. The scene is bright and sunny, with lush green trees in the background. Several people are visible: one person is sitting on the steps in the foreground, looking down; another is sitting on the steps, looking at a phone; and others are scattered throughout the scene, some sitting on the steps and some standing. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and urban.

# NEW

Away from the postcard landmarks, Sydney's history unfolds in its neighbourhoods. Redfern, Marrickville and Pyrmont reveal a city transformed by Indigenous legacy, cross-cultural exchange and life on the harbour

STORY \_\_\_\_\_ Victoria Khroundina      PHOTOGRAPHY \_\_\_\_\_ Jason Ierace and James Horan

# Beyond icons like the Sydney Opera House and Bondi Beach lies another Sydney, one shaped by Aboriginal history, diaspora and maritime trade.

In this journey through three neighbourhoods – Redfern, Marrickville and Pyrmont – we uncover the histories that helped define the city today, from Aboriginal life to migrant food cultures and the reinvention of a working harbour.

Though each neighbourhood tells a different story, all reveal places where Sydney’s past and present sit side by side today.

## REDFERN: WHERE ABORIGINAL CULTURE LIVES ON IN ART

Morning begins in Redfern.

The autumn sun has barely risen when we step out of Redfern Station and walk five minutes north. We’re in an inner southern suburb just minutes from Sydney’s CBD and long considered the heart of the city’s urban Aboriginal community.

On Hugo Street, colour bursts across a terrace once part of the housing area known as “The Block”, purchased in the 1970s to create one of Australia’s first urban Aboriginal housing communities.

Red, black and yellow stripes run down the façade. A lone canoe cuts through them. *Welcome to Redfern*, painted in 2013 – by Reko Rennie of Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gummaroi heritage and other young Aboriginal artists – feels less like a mural than a declaration: memory lives here.

Across the road, the Redfern Community Centre carries the story forward. Its mural folds sky, land and water together – serpents, children and Aboriginal flags moving through the scene.

Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas painted it in 2006, when the terraces of The Block – once home to generations of Aboriginal families before they were demolished in 2015 – still stood nearby.

“I traced the torsos of local kids to leave a visual imprint – a memorial,” he says. “Male spirits appear as Cadi, the grass as trees; female spirits as Warradah, the *waratah* (an Australian native flower).”

Redfern’s history is painted on its walls, but it is built into the ground as well. Fifteen minutes to the southeast, an imposing brick-and-steel structure rises into view.

Here stands Carriageworks, a former railway workshop now transformed into one of Sydney’s leading contemporary arts centres.

Today it is one of Australia’s busiest creative precincts and home to a popular Saturday farmers’ market. A century ago, however, it was a place of industrial labour.

As the former Eveleigh Railway Workshops, it drew families from across New South Wales, shaping one of the country’s earliest urban Aboriginal communities.

By the 1970s, Redfern had become the centre of the modern First Nations civil rights movement. The Block, established in 1973, served as both refuge and meeting place of organisers and advocates.

“The Block is a changed place and no longer has the capacity for grassroots [activities],” Douglas says.

He recalls the movement led by Aunty Jenny Munro, a respected Aboriginal advocate who, in 2014, set up camp on The Block to stop the land from being sold or redeveloped.

After sustained pressure, Munro secured an agreement to protect First Nations interests, driven by a fear of gentrification – that land would be sold off and Aboriginal people would move out of the neighbourhood they had long called home. What followed was a period of loss, but also determination. The community found another way to hold its ground. Art became the vehicle for renewal, a means of asserting presence, memory and identity in a rapidly changing suburb.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left  
Locals hanging out at Redfern; the neighbourhood has a vibrant art scene; Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas, a prominent member of the Redfern community; art honouring Aboriginal culture







## “Redfern continues to hold a deep reverence as the epicentre of Koori culture”

Douglas was central to that shift. A prominent figure in both the community and the art world, he lived in Redfern from 2006 to 2022.

“The advantage of being but a boomerang’s throw from art galleries, both institutional and commercial, was a necessity as an emerging artist,” he says.

We pause at the meeting circle he created outside his studio, on the corner of Redfern and Renwick Streets. The surrounding wall now carries a vibrant nature mural by Aboriginal artist Uncle Danny Eastwood and his son, James.

Over time, gentrification changed the suburb. Studios closed. Rents rose. Many artists moved on. While some Aboriginal people remained, Douglas says the area began to feel like a sanitised version of itself, rather than the real thing.

Today, Redfern Street hums with cafés, bars and shops set among 19th-century terraces.

Douglas has since left the neighbourhood, though he notes that the council is now taking steps to better support artists and the Aboriginal community to return.

The APY Gallery, a First Nations-owned gallery and training space that opened on Redfern Street in November 2025, is an important part of that resurgence. Exhibitions and works often centre on family, celebrating communities working together across generations and Country.

The Redfern Community Centre is another place where community ties are kept strong. It works with First Nations organisations to run workshops and courses focused on music, connection, food and support for business and employment.

“The Redfern Community Centre is worth visiting, if only for nostalgia,” Douglas says. “Redfern continues to hold a deep reverence as the epicentre of Koori culture.”

These days, he explains, the heart of community life is the Aboriginal Medical Service on Redfern Street. We pass its solid red brick façade, glowing in the morning light, the flag flying high above.

“A walk down Little Eveleigh Street to Carriageworks never disappoints,” Douglas adds. “And Redfern Park will always have a place in my heart, a pocket of calm amid the density of the city.”

### Left page

Carriageworks, once a railway workshop in Redfern, is now a creative space; locals visit Carriageworks for its popular Saturday farmers’ markets

### This page

Opened in November 2025, APY Gallery on Redfern Street spotlights First Nations works centred on family and community



## MARRICKVILLE: WHERE GLOBAL KITCHENS RESHAPED SYDNEY'S FOOD CULTURE

Across the city, Marrickville tells a different story. In Sydney's inner west, this is a place built through migration, where reinvention has unfolded over generations.

Stepping onto Illawarra Road in the late morning, it's immediately clear why the strip is known as "Little Vietnam".

After the Vietnam War, Vietnamese migrants made Marrickville home, bringing with them food, language and shared rituals. Grocers, bakeries and family-run eateries followed, stitching daily life together through aroma and flavour. Much has changed since, but Marrickville remains vital to over 90,000 residents born in Vietnam who call Sydney home.

The air is thick with smells, sounds and sights. Bright Vietnamese basil, coriander and lemongrass hit the nostrils. Pots knock together in narrow kitchens. Neon signs glow in two languages: English and Vietnamese.

A mural of a kangaroo beside blooming lotuses – Australia's fauna next to Vietnam's national flower – captures the harmony of cultures here in one frame.

"Marrickville is one of Sydney's most multicultural suburbs, and Vietnamese culture plays a significant role in shaping its identity today," says Cuong Nguyen, owner of modern Southeast Asian restaurant Hello Auntie on Illawarra Road.

Nguyen opened Hello Auntie in 2015, but his ties to the neighbourhood run much deeper. The 46-year-old chef arrived as a child with his family from Can Tho in southern Vietnam and has lived nearby since 1996.

After years working in hospitality, he noticed a change. Contemporary, city-style venues were emerging beyond the CBD, and Marrickville stood out. Its strong food culture and diverse, inquisitive community made it ripe for reinvention.

**This page**  
Cuong Nguyen, owner of Southeast Asian restaurant Hello Auntie; the fusion menu reflects Nguyen's upbringing on Vietnamese-Australian flavours

**Next page (from left)**  
Murals depicting Australian and Vietnamese cultures line the streets of Marrickville; the neighbourhood is popular for its hip bars and cafés



As long-time residents moved on, young families and middle-aged city dwellers arrived, drawn by bold, fusion flavours.

As Nguyen prepares for lunch service, the menu distils these changes onto the plate. Steak is grilled over charcoal, finished with Vietnamese coffee butter and a pho “mother sauce” a year in the making. Carbonara is reworked with century egg, *lap cheong* (dried Chinese sausage), pecorino, ginger and Sichuan pepper.

“I grew up eating Vietnamese-Australian food,” Nguyen says. “My mum mixed Western and Asian ingredients. Cooking between cultures is natural to me.”

“We sometimes receive criticism for not being strictly traditional, but the food is authentic to my experience,” he continues.

Nguyen’s cooking reflects how many Vietnamese families in Australia actually eat at home. For Nguyen, those flavours and combinations are traditional in their own way, grounded in his upbringing and the lived experience of the Vietnamese diaspora in Australia.

“Marrickville is one of Sydney’s most multicultural suburbs, and Vietnamese culture plays a significant role in shaping its identity today”

“Tradition doesn’t stand still. It evolves with the people who carry it,” he adds.

By midday, Illawarra Road hums. Office workers and locals line up for *bánh mì* from Illawarra Pork Roll, a tiny shop turned local institution. Others linger over sweet Vietnamese coffee at Café Nho or slide into booths at Hello Auntie for a longer lunch. Beyond Vietnamese cuisine, the neighbourhood opens out into a world of flavours: Greek, Filipino, Peruvian. Boutique distilleries and craft breweries sit alongside hip bars and cafés, many run by a new generation of hospitality talent.



### PYRMONT: FROM WORKING HARBOUR TO WATERFRONT REVIVAL

It's afternoon by the time we reach Pyrmont, the inner-city peninsula west of the CBD. The sun drops into a warm, honey-coloured angle, washing the neighbourhood in soft light.

Pyrmont is a place where Sydney's harbour story unfolds in layers – from Aboriginal fishing grounds to the industrial engine of the working harbour and to today, one of the city's most visible waterfront renewals.

Long before wharves and shipyards crowded the shoreline, these waters formed part of the harbour country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, who fished, gathered shellfish and travelled across the bay by canoe.

By the late 19th century, Pyrmont had become a key hub of Sydney's working harbour, its waterfront lined with wharves, shipyards and factories that powered the city's maritime trade.

Even today, with major redevelopment under way following the 2023 Western Harbour announcement, traces of that past remain easy to see. One place where that history comes alive is the Australian National Maritime Museum, rising on the waterfront like a cluster of sails.

Its setting is deliberate. Standing on Darling Harbour, the museum sits within what deputy director Michael Baldwin describes as a "living harbour", shaped by Aboriginal life, labour, relocation and global trade over centuries.

Inside, vast galleries trace the many strands of Sydney's maritime story. In the Sydney Harbour Gallery, it becomes clear how much the city has grown around the waterway. Rather than standing apart from Pyrmont's industrial past, Baldwin says, the museum is "firmly rooted within it", telling a story of work, movement and connection.

"The museum is a keeper of the harbour's everyday past – its boats, its tools, its lives," Baldwin adds. "And through the 'National Monument to Migration' exhibit, it honours the people who came to Australia by sea, then by air, with new names added each year."

Outside, timber piers stretch into the harbour, echoing the area's working past. Fishing boats, commercial vessels and naval ships sit moored side by side. Visitors move between them, stepping aboard everything from small craft to major ships, including a replica of Captain Cook's vessel *Endeavour*. We climb onto HMAS Vampire, Australia's largest surviving fleet destroyer, which served from 1959 to 1986 and offers a glimpse into the country's Cold War naval history.



**This spread (from left)**  
The Australian National Maritime Museum; Michael Baldwin, deputy director of the museum; exhibitions here celebrate Sydney's history as a "living harbour"





**This page**  
 Sydney Fish Market is part of Pyrmont's transformation from a quiet harbour to a vibrant waterfront community

About 20 minutes west, the Sydney Fish Market continues Sydney's harbour story. Established in 1872 and reopened earlier this year, the revamped AU\$836-million building houses seafood wholesalers, retailers, restaurants and cafés. Its roof curves like waves and fish scales, fronted by a wide promenade along the water.

All this redevelopment has transformed Pyrmont. Once quieter, it is now dense with apartments, offices and commercial spaces. Construction temporarily reduced casual visits to the museum, Baldwin tells us, but it also widened its reach. Urban renewal, he says, has pushed the museum to evolve alongside the suburb, engaging workers, locals and commuters whose lives now unfold along the waterfront.

By late afternoon, his point becomes clear. We slurp oysters at the fish market as it hums into early evening, locals streaming through with seafood for a barbecue. Nearby, people linger at Pirrama Park for a yarn by the water, while office workers drift into Pyrmont bars for knock off drinks. Along the harbour's edge, everyday life unfolds, just as it always has.

Baldwin says, "Pyrmont's position within Australia's oldest and largest port city cements its role as a cultural anchor, a place where Australia's relationship with the sea is not just observed but lived."

As Sydney continues to evolve, places like Pyrmont suggest what lies ahead – a city shaped not only by renewal, but by how its histories are carried forward into everyday life.

Along the harbour's edge, past and future remain in constant dialogue, quietly redefining what Sydney is becoming. 🦞

*From 23 November 2026, Singapore Airlines will operate a total of five daily flights to Sydney, serving two airports. This includes daily flights to the new Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport, alongside its existing four daily flights to Sydney Kingsford Smith International Airport.*

**"Pyrmont's position within Australia's oldest and largest port city cements its role as a cultural anchor, a place where Australia's relationship with the sea is not just observed but lived"**

## Want to keep exploring Sydney?

As Sydney readies for the opening of the new Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport in October 2026, travellers can look forward to checking out a different side of the city.

Located around 45km west of the CBD, the airport is set to be Australia's first smart airport, with a human-centred design and sustainability features.

Beyond its terminals, Western Sydney offers much to explore. From the Blue Mountains' sandstone escarpments and scenic trails to wildlife encounters and riverside walks, the region blends nature with culture. Closer to the airport, Penrith brings together galleries, parks and a growing food scene, while surrounding neighbourhoods reveal local markets, cafés and creative spaces.

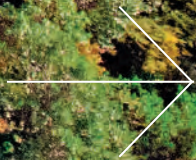
For more ideas, see "8 things to do near Western Sydney Airport" on [SilverKris.com](https://www.silverkris.com).

# ONE CITY, FIVE SENSES

## AUCKLAND

More than a gateway to New Zealand's famous scenery, Auckland offers a rich mix of cultures, cuisines and natural beauty

STORY — *Rebekah White*



Often treated as a stopover en route to New Zealand's South Island, Auckland rewards those who linger – with sweeping coastal views, relaxing hikes, the aroma of vineyards, and the buzz of traditional performances in the city.



**I** **SOUND**  
↑ That piercing call is the *kārangā*, the traditional Māori greeting for a group of visitors. At Auckland War Memorial Museum, daily performances showcase *kapa haka*, Māori performing arts, and guests can step into an intricately carved *wharenui*, or meeting house. Later, meet Auckland's avian life on a day trip to the island of Tiritiri Matangi, a bird sanctuary 80 minutes away by ferry from Auckland CBD.



## 2

## SIGHT

← The best way to get a sense of Auckland's scale – from the Waitākere Ranges in the west to the Waitematā Harbour in the east – is from the summit of Maungawhau (Mount Eden). It's about a 20-minute hike, rewarded by panoramic views and glimpses of native birds such as *tūi* and *piwakawaka*.



## 3

## SMELL

← Inhale the bouquet of aromas from many a wine glass on Waiheke Island, a 40-minute ferry ride from downtown Auckland across the inner Hauraki Gulf. Waiheke's warm microclimate is perfect for ripe, full reds, and vineyard kitchens at Casita Miro and Mudbrick serve menus that pair well with each glass.

## 4

## TASTE

← Auckland's dining scene fuses flavours from across Asia, the Pacific and New Zealand – and nowhere more so than at Ahi, where the menu features ingredients traditionally used by Māori communities alongside the best produce from around the country. At neighbourhood favourite Forest, uniquely Kiwi elements such as feijoa and kūmara take turns on a fine dining menu that evolves with the seasons.



## 5

## TOUCH

↑ Slip off your shoes and sink your feet into the sand at Mission Bay or Takapuna, two of the city's best swimming beaches. The water is warm enough to take a dip from December through March; for the adventurous, book a lesson at Muriwai Surf School on the west coast. 🌊



# MELTING



STORY — Lin Yanqin

# POT

One of Australia's most multicultural cities, Melbourne is home to a dining culture shaped by



IMAGE BY WENGLUN SPLASH

immigrants and offers modern yet authentic takes on cuisines from all over the world

Walk a couple of blocks in the centre of Melbourne and you'll easily encounter half a dozen cuisines hailing from various corners of the globe. The city is one of the most multicultural in Australia; more than half of Victorians are either born overseas or have at least one parent born abroad.

From fresh takes on Vietnamese *bánh mì* to crispy Greek-style fried fish just like how *yiayia* (Greek for "grandma") made it, Melbourne's diverse culinary offerings are the real thing, made by people who grew up eating it.

## **NIGERIAN**

### **Mary's**

68/70 Johnston Street,  
Collingwood; [marys.au](http://marys.au)

Compared to cities like London that have a much larger Nigerian diaspora, Melbourne's Nigerian community is relatively small and most eateries serving the community are in the suburbs.

That's changing with restaurants like Mary's, which are making Nigerian flavours more visible to a bigger audience in a very Melburnian way: brunch by day, wine bar by night.

On the breakfast menu, you'll find plantain bread with honey whipped cream and avocado toast with *ata din din* (a sauce made from tomato and red capsicum). And lunchtime means smoky jollof rice and a juicy Lagos chicken sandwich.

The flavours deepen for dinner – suya beef salad and seafood *egusi* (a stew with a rich nutty sauce made from melon seeds).



Don't miss  
Scallop *sam-hap*  
(platter) with  
wagyu rib fillet and  
kimchi (AU\$14)



Don't miss  
Suya beef  
with rocket  
salad  
(AU\$26)

## **KOREAN**

### **Doju**

530 Little Collins  
Street; [doju.com.au](http://doju.com.au)

With dishes like *yukhoe* (Korean-style beef tartare) served with desert lime and dry-aged duck with a *jocheong* (Korean rice syrup) glaze, Doju exemplifies a form of Asian-Australian fusion that's taken off all over Melbourne.

But not all restaurants pull it off as successfully as chef Mika Chae, who artfully combines his Korean heritage with a keen eye for Indigenous Australian ingredients and modern cooking techniques. The result is a fine-dining experience that delights without over complicating the palate.

**JAPANESE**

**Tofu Shoten**

6B Saxon Street, Brunswick;  
@tofushoten

This cult favourite tofu shop in Brunswick never meant to become a viral snack shop – owner Sava Goto, who hails from Hyogo prefecture, Japan, was merely looking for a way to make use of the scraps left behind from making tofu.

Yet the resulting tofu donuts – yummy little pillows with a crispy, sugary crust dusted with your choice of black sesame powder or kinako – inspire lines down the block. In a city where Japanese cuisine is often limited to ramen or sushi, Tofu Shoten's fresh takes on tofu-based snacks – including cakes, sando biscuits and *douhua* (pudding) – surprise with what this humble ingredient can do.



Don't miss Their handmade tofu (AU\$10), the best in the city



Don't miss Lamb ribs in sticky adobo sauce (AU\$32)

**LEBANESE**

**Rumi**

2 Village Avenue, Brunswick East;  
rumirestaurant.com.au

Located in a shiny-new, mixed-use block in Brunswick East, Rumi's slightly impersonal surroundings might make you question its authenticity, but the restaurant is the real deal.

When couple Joseph and Nat Abboud opened the first Rumi on Lygon Street in 2006, it broke away from the family-style eateries established by Melbourne's vibrant Lebanese



Don't miss Smoky lamb shoulder and BBQ wings

community, many of whom settled in Australia during the Lebanese Civil War in the '70s and '80s.

Twenty years on, its greatest hits – the Persian meatballs, *sigara böreği* (cheese cigars), quail skewers and lamb shoulder – are still scene-stealers.

**FILIPINO**

**Serai**

Racing Club Lane;  
seraikitchen.com.au

Filipino cuisine flies under the radar compared to its Vietnamese and Thai neighbours, but Serai has firmly planted a stake in the culinary ground for Australia's fifth-largest immigrant community.

Chef-owner Ross Magnaye offers a confident, irreverent update on Filipino favourites: wood-fired pig's head *sisig* tacos, tosilog-style garlic claypot rice with smoked pork *tocino* (sweet-cured meat) and duck yolk, and the "McScallop", a single, fried scallop doused in crab fat sauce and served in a *pandesal* bread roll.

It may seem gimmicky but the expert cooking and nuanced flavours make it worth your bite. 🍴  
*Singapore Airlines flies to Melbourne 35 times weekly.*

# THE EXCHANGE RATE

STORY \_\_\_\_\_ *Adrienne Lee*

We compare two Southwest Pacific destinations via four essential lifestyle experiences

## PERTH

## CHRISTCHURCH

Duck down a quiet alleyway for a steaming bowl of handmade udon that hits the spot. At Hifumiya Udon Noodle, the broth is packed with flavour and a zingy ginger kick.



### FOOD



Spot the cobalt blue storefront of Tom's Sandwiches for punchy comfort food. Built on Grizzly Baked Goods bread, their inventive combos like peanut butter with pickled celery are legendary.

Experience the Pinnacles Desert at sunset with Lumineer Adventure Tours. Enjoy a barbecue dinner before witnessing celestial wonders through high-powered telescopes in the outback sky.



### ADVENTURE



Soar through the Port Hills at Christchurch Adventure Park, home to New Zealand's highest and longest ziplines. Race friends on dual cables spanning 1.1km for the ultimate adrenaline rush.

Escape to Rottnest Island aboard the Rottnest Express ferry. To snap a selfie with its resident quokkas, crouch to their eye level and wait for them to approach you.



### NATURE



Witness the majesty of the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine train. The journey winds through the Waimakariri River gorge and across the Southern Alps via Arthur's Pass.

Navigate the various laneways of Perth with walking tour Oh Hey WA. This evening stroll visits three independent small bars, paired with an insider's look at the city's vibrant murals and colourful art.



### CULTURE



Immerse in urban art tours of Ōtautahi Christchurch with organisation Watch This Space. This guided walk reveals the stories behind the city's large-scale murals and street art.



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ILLUSTRATION CHERYL OWEN



\* Daily non-stop flights between Singapore and the new Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) starts on 23 November 2026.

\*\* Daily flights between Singapore and Hangzhou, China starts on 1 June 2026.

This information is accurate as at 1 March 2026. For more information on flight schedules and routes, visit [singaporeair.com](http://singaporeair.com)



# Awesome MOMENTS



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**SUNWAY**  
THEME PARKS

# WHERE IN THE WORLD?

A laidback lifestyle steeped in tropical weather, this regional capital is a melting pot of cultures, defined by its traditional roots and the vast, wild outback on its doorstep

STORY \_\_\_\_\_ Audrey Ng



Clockwise from left Check out ancient cultures, scenic landscapes and a diverse array of cuisines

## Clue 1

↑ Inhabited for over 65,000 years, this land and the surrounding sea are home to traditional owners known as the Larrakia, or “saltwater people”. Today, there are still around 2,000 of them living in and around the city.

## Clue 2

→ A popular day trip from this city is to one of the country’s largest national parks. Rich in wildlife and Indigenous heritage, it offers hiking trails, river cruises and guided safaris through landscapes shaped by its traditional custodians.



## Clue 3

This city became a British settlement in the 19th century. They named its harbour after a famous scientist and naturalist, even though said scientist had not set foot there!

## Clue 4

← As a gateway to Asia, this city has many Asian influences, particularly in its food. These flavours come alive across the city, from bustling night markets to local eateries – and laksa is a must-try dish.

## Clue 5

↑ A unique attraction in this city holds one of the world’s largest displays of Australian reptiles. Among them is the saltwater crocodile, a formidable species that can grow up to 6m long and weigh around 500kg or more.

## Clue 6

In the 1870s, gold discovered in nearby Pine Creek sparked a rush that brought waves of Chinese migrants to the region, leaving a lasting imprint on the cultural fabric of the Northern Territory.

## Clue 7

Known for its year-round hot weather, the city has fantastic beaches, some of which are a short distance from the city. They’re popular spots for having picnics and catching spectacular fiery sunsets.



Vibrant and multicultural, where in the world are we?

Answer: Darwin

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