

ADELAIDE

Harris Smokehouse

**FUN FACT**

Adelaide was named at the personal request of England's King William IV, after his German wife.

**OUT AND ABOUT**
Udder Delights
Cheese-Making

Class (91a Main Rd, Hahndorf, tel: +61 (0)8 8388 1588, www.udderdelights.com.au) Learn about the cheese-making process by producing your own to take home. Held in a unique underground cellar, the class costs AU\$140/\$\$167 including lunch and wine.

**TOP SHOPS**
Harris Smokehouse
(37 Main Rd,

Hahndorf, tel: +61 (0)8 8388 7000, www.harrissmokehouse.com.au) Just 20 minutes from the city, this family-owned business sells everything from European-style mackerel and kippers to South Australian yellowtail kingfish. Traditional oak wood is used for that smoky aroma and taste.

**BEST BITES**
The Wine
Underground

(121 Pirie St, tel: +61

(0)8 8232 1222, www.wineunderground.com.au) The degustation menu (AU\$95/\$\$113 per person) includes selections such as roasted lamb, pork belly and blue swimmer crab. Check the website for monthly wine tastings. \$\$

**AFTER DARK**
The British Hotel

(58 Finnis St, North Adelaide, tel: +61 (0)8 8267 2188, www.britishhotel.com.au) Popular with the after-work crowd, this classic corner pub is known for its juicy steaks, and for the fact that for AU\$20/\$\$23 you can grill your own on the courtyard barbeque.

**SLEEPOVER**
Grand Mercure
Mount Lofty House

(74 Mt Lofty Summit Rd, Crafers, tel: +61 (0)8 8339 6777, www.mtloftyhouse.com.au) Set in an old country house, this boutique hotel features rooms with spa baths and views of the Piccadilly Valley. Room rates start from AU\$170/\$\$203. \$\$\$ 🐯

BY CHRIS CANTY
More information:
www.southaustralia.com

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ALICE SPRINGS



Alice Station

FUN FACT

US singer Liz Phair's 1994 album *Whip-Smart* includes a song called "Alice Springs" which includes the line: "See the sun rise so loud".

**OUT AND ABOUT**
Olive Pink Botanic
Gardens (Cnr of

Tuncks Rd & Barrett Dr, tel: +61 (0)8 8952 2154, www.opbg.com.au) November through March is the rainy season, which brings forth an abundance of flora and fauna. The botanic gardens is also home to the Lunacine outdoor cinema and Bean Tree Café.

**TOP SHOPS**
Ali's Emporium
(3/39 Stuart Hwy, tel: +61 (0)8 8953 5322)

This second-hand shop stocks everything from cowboy boots to CDs to furniture, making it well worth the short walk from town to the outskirts of the industrial area.

**BEST BITES**
Red Tomato (29 Gap Rd, tel: +61

(0)8 8952 8882) This popular restaurant is the brainchild of "Hong Kong's first-ever female DJ" Wimmy Winkler. With expertise drawn from six years

at Sydney's Quay restaurant, Winkler has created a first-class Italian eatery specialising in wood-fired pizzas. \$\$

**AFTER DARK**
Annie's Place (4

Traeger Ave, tel: +61 (0)8 8952 1545, www.anniesplace.com.au) Part of a backpackers' hostel, this restaurant and bar is a gathering place for travellers and a great place to kick back for a beer and a chat. The tasty and generously portioned AU\$5/\$\$6 meals are deservedly renowned.

**SLEEPOVER**
Alice Station B&B

(25 The Fairway, tel: +61 (0)8 8953 6600, www.alicestation.com) Seemingly tucked away but actually close to just about everything, this tranquil B&B offers guests the chance to immerse themselves in the region's sights and sounds. A thoroughly modern accommodation with stunning views of nature and wildlife from its "backyard". Room rates start from AU\$175/\$\$190. \$\$\$ 🐯

BY CAMERON BUCKLEY
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MACKAY

Odyssey H2O
Diving Adventure

FUN FACT

Queensland is so large that punters debate whether to refer to Mackay as part of North Queensland or as the northernmost city in Central Queensland.

OUT AND ABOUT
Odyssey H2O
Diving Adventure

(Mulherin Dr, Mackay Marina, tel: 1300 722 979, www.odysseyh2o.com) Set sail on a 15m craft for an underwater adventure just off the coast of Mackay. Snorkel or dive on pristine coral reefs before tucking into meals onboard. Rates start from AU\$130/S\$155.

TOP SHOPS
ID Dezine

(Cnr Victoria & Wood Sts, tel: +61 (0)7 4944 0231, www.iddezine.com.au) Because every customer is unique – or, in the shop vernacular, “because you’re not everyone else” – ID Dezine stocks clothing and footwear custom-designed to make you look stylish, not stereotypical.

BEST BITES
Sorbellos (166
Victoria St, tel:

+61 (0)7 4957 8300, www.sorbellos.com.au) Classic Italian fare prepared from family recipes is the attraction here, though the sheer size of the menu may leave some patrons agonising over their dinner selection. Sorbellos is a restaurant that truly demands repeat visits. \$\$

AFTER DARK
Doors Nightclub

(Victoria St, tel: +61 (0)7 4951 2611) Located in the heart of the nightlife precinct, Doors features resident DJ Tone Def, who smashes the Top 40 with a mix of dance, hip hop, house, urban and R&B.

SLEEPOVER
Clarion Hotel
Mackay Marina

(Mulherin Dr, Mackay Harbour, tel: +61 (0)7 4955 9400, www.mackaymarinahotel.com) Right in the heart of the Mackay Marina Village, the Clarion offers everything from singles through to spa suites. Room rates start from AU\$199/S\$238. \$\$\$

BY MATT KIRKEGAARD
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MELBOURNE



Outré Gallery

FUN FACT

The National Gallery of Victoria has the world's largest stained-glass ceiling at 51m long by 15m wide.

OUT AND ABOUT
Day at the Cricket
(Melbourne Cricket

Ground, tel: +61 (0)3 9657 8888, www.mcg.org.au) The “Boxing Day Test” – a five-day event starting on 26 Dec – is the world's biggest cricket match and the height of Australia's summertime passion. Backstage one hour tours of the awe-inspiring MCG are also available.

TOP SHOPS
Outré Gallery (249
Elizabeth St, tel:

+61 (0)3 9642 5455) It's hard to define this one-stop gallery and shop, whose artsy offerings run the gamut from pop surrealism and street, to underground, modern folk and retro with a twist. Worth a visit even if you're not in the mood to buy.

BEST BITES
Grand Hotel

(333 Burnley St, Richmond, tel: +61 (0)3 9429 2530, www.grandrichmond.com.au) Don't be fooled by

the country pub exterior, because inside you'll find the city's best Italian-inspired cuisine. The diverse menu includes marquee dishes like roast duck with braised cabbage, spatzle and orange and juniper berry sauce at AU\$34/S\$40. \$\$

AFTER DARK
The Drunken Poet

(65 Peel St, West Melbourne, tel: +61 (0)3 9348 9797) This tiny pub is a favourite with locals who love to nurse a pint while enjoying traditional Irish music, poetry and other nightly entertainment.

SLEEPOVER
The Portsea Hotel

(746 Pt Nepean Rd, Portsea, tel: +61 (0)3 5984 2213, www.portseahotel.com.au) Situated in a getaway locale about two hours from the city, this hotel is ideal for those who want to be in the thick of the action, as its bar and restaurant are the most popular venues in town. Room rates start from AU\$125/S\$154. \$\$

BY CHRIS CANTY
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