

luxe_essential*

LATEST LODGE NEWS + EVENTS



Longitude 131° on Track to Reopening on August 1

We can't wait to reveal the new-look Longitude 131°, set to reopen on August 1st following the significant refurbishment now underway at Uluru-Kata Tjuta. The redesign is set to forge a new era for the iconic outback camp, elevating Longitude 131° and the experience of Uluru-Kata Tjuta to the world-class standards set by sister property Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island. New features for the property include a new premium suite, the Dune Pavilion, the only accommodation to offer views of both Uluru and Kata Tjuta, and the Dune House 'hub' with lounges, bar and restaurant, which has been redesigned in a contemporary style and will showcase artworks from indigenous artists from the remote Ernabella Arts Community.

A dedicated spa is new to the camp, with designs taking inspiration from the land's traditional owners and featuring healing treatments using the LI'YA spa care range. There's a flash new dune-top bar, re-landscaped guest swimming pool and exclusive dune-top dining under the stars. Longitude 131's naturalist guides will provide a personal experience of the desert landscape, including the vivid Field of Light installation, in place until end-March, 2018. We consider the redesign at Longitude 131° to be the reinvention of an icon, and we hope to welcome you to experience it soon.



Expedition KI at Southern Ocean Lodge: a Walk on the Style Side



In an update on earlier news about an upcoming, luxurious experience of the new KI Wilderness Trail, Southern Ocean Lodge is pleased to announce a personally guided expedition along the 61-kilometre trek. Expedition Kangaroo Island is a dedicated seven-night adventure, departing Southern Ocean Lodge on August 26, 2017 and nightly accommodation at the lodge. Kitted out with day packs, gourmet walker's lunch and a pick up at the end of each day, guests will be rewarded after a spectacular day's walk with world-class cuisine back at the lodge featuring local ingredients, fine South Australian wines, the warmth of an open fire and views of the Southern Ocean from the comfort of one's own king bed. From walk to reward, Expedition Kangaroo Island offers walkers a complete package to experience the wilderness trail in style.

Priced from \$7,200 per person twin share, the package includes seven nights' accommodation with a bonus night's stay (Stay 7/Pay 6) in a choice of luxury suite. All dining and beverages are included, as well as a treatment at the Southern Spa to reward deserving muscles. The package also includes a full expedition kit with everything required for the walk; premium field jacket, day pack, cap and map. Join us this August for a walk on Kangaroo Island's style side!

Fly Free to Lord Howe's Tropical Paradise

We're always happy to announce Capella Lodge's popular free flights, free nights deal, offering a perfect excuse to escape to Lord Howe. The Fly Free, 7 for 6 deal offers terrific savings, with free Qantas flights and a bonus night in luxury at Capella, and a tempting getaway to the tiny subtropical island of Lord Howe. Explore mountain and coastal walks with ocean views, mysterious coves and ancient forests, and the chance discovery of a rare sea-bird nesting. Try bike-riding again, just like the locals, take an invigorating swim in the ocean or a challenging round on one of the world's most picturesque golf courses.



At Capella, relax into a warm welcome and easy ambience, with stories shared with sunset drinks by the fire, and glorious fresh-caught seafood and regional produce enjoyed and local wines in a world-class menu. **The deal is now available for stays until September 30, 2017. Take flight, we say!**



Hop on the Flying Kangaroo to Southern Ocean Lodge!



We're thrilled with the news that Qantas will introduce direct flights to Kangaroo Island from Adelaide and Melbourne this year, making it even easier for guests to hop to a stylish escape down south. Currently on sale online or through a travel agent, Qantas' new Kangaroo Island service will start on December 4, 2017 with three return flights operating weekly from Adelaide. A summer-peak service will offer five flights weekly to meet expected demand until Easter in April 2018.

Qantas has also introduced a summer-season flight direct from Melbourne. It's the first interstate flight to Kangaroo Island outside South Australia. The Melbourne service will operate three return flights weekly from December 17, 2017 to January 28, 2018. Qantas' new service means visitors to Kangaroo Island will have more chance to minimise airport stopovers, and align regional flights neatly with interstate and international flights. There'll also be options to check through luggage and to use or earn Qantas Frequent Flyer points. Qantas' new Kangaroo Island flights offer a complement to the daily service with multiple flights which continues to be operated by Regional Express from Adelaide.

Google Views Uluru

Following a two-year collaboration between the region's indigenous Anangu, Tourism Northern Territory and Parks Australia, Google has released Street View and Story Spheres of Australia's most significant natural and cultural landscape, Uluru-Kata Tjuta. Starting at the sunrise viewing platform Talinguru Nyakunytjaku, the interactive multimedia website offers users a 360 degree experience of the destination, with options to click through key trails around Uluru and listen to audio stories from the Anangu people. The virtual experience is designed to offer visitors - who may be nearby or thousands of kilometres away - an insight into the cultural heritage of the area, and an understanding of the Anangu people through their traditional stories or Tjukurpa.

As users click through to Google's Story Spheres, each scene comes alive with guided tours by Anangu traditional owner Sammy Wilson or songs and music by Anangu elder, Reggie Uluru. Google's Street View of Uluru is careful to capture the monolith in a culturally sensitive way, and according to the Anangu's traditional Tjukurpa law. Around 40 per cent of Uluru doesn't feature online, as certain sacred sites around the 9.4km base of the rock should not be photographed. There are also no scenes taken from the top of the rock, since climbing Uluru is discouraged by its traditional owners. Take a wander around, here...



Be Shaw to Win!



South Australia's celebrated Shaw + Smith produce a range of distinct, high quality wines from its winery in the Adelaide Hills. Firm favourites in the Southern Ocean Lodge cellar and top guest picks include a delicious Pinot Noir and a crisp, flavourful Sauvignon Blanc.

A new competition offered by Shaw + Smith and Southern Ocean Lodge highlights this well-suited match and offers the chance for Shaw + Smith Wine Club members to win a two night stay at Southern Ocean Lodge in a luxurious Ocean Retreat suite. This first prize is valued at over \$8,500 and also includes interstate flights to Adelaide as well as regional transfers to Kangaroo Island, with a visit to the Shaw + Smith winery for a tasting, tour and lunch. The second prize of an instant cellar can be entered by everyone, valued at \$1,000. Be shaw to enter here!

Return for the Remarkable Retreat

A perennial favourite for new and returning guests, the Remarkable Retreat showcases the wintry drama of Kangaroo Island from the warm luxury of Southern Ocean Lodge. The cool season is ideal for energising walks along the new KI Wilderness Trail and for encountering wildlife at its most active; sea lions and fur seals frolic in the Southern Ocean while kangaroos and wallabies graze in open pastures in the warm sunshine. Inside, the call of the open fire, a glass of South Australian red and the comfort of a 'ghost chair' in the Great Room is irresistible as the ocean roars outside; it's ideal for the heat and bubble of the terrace spa or for relaxing in the luxury of a salted bath.



Valid for stays until 30 September, 2017 and including a **bonus night's accommodation**, the Remarkable Retreat offers the chance to explore more with bespoke experiences or to sink into luxury in the Southern Spa. **And – it's a remarkable retreat for solo travellers who pay only the twin share rate!**



Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards 2017: Cast your vote!



Voting is now open for the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards 2017. Awards are given to the world's best hotels, resorts, spas and destinations based on nominations from the magazine's well-travelled readers who have experienced some of the world's most exceptional properties.

As a friend of Capella, Longitude 131° or Southern Ocean Lodge - or all three - we'd love it if you'd hop online and cast your vote in the **Hotels & Resorts category** (you need only complete the categories of relevance or interest). Or *votes*, as the more you vote, the more chances you'll have to win the Grand Prize, a 15-day Viking Homelands cruise for two with Viking Cruises. Enter today or any time until July 1, 2017. [Vote here!](#)

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