

# Top 10 Cities Australians Want to Visit in 2018 | Skyscanner Australia

[Skyscanner Australia](#) surveyed Australian travellers on their 'Aussie Dream Destination' to find the Top Ten Cities to visit in 2018. It will come as little surprise to learn that Bali and Phuket remain favourite holiday hotspots.

But there were a few surprises too. Like Ballina NSW for example. Despite gaining a reputation as the poster child for over friendly sharks, Ballina emerged as a burgeoning hot spot in Skyscanner's Travel Trends. Further afield, Anchorage Alaska was another surprise inclusion in the Top Ten Cities that Aussies want to visit.



## 1. Bali, Indonesia

More than one million Aussies visit Indonesia each year, a significant number of them touching down in Bali and venturing no further into the Indonesian archipelago. North of popular Seminyak, Canggu has a hip, alternative undercurrent and a surf-shack groove. Think green-juice bars alongside party bars that grind and groove into the night. Artsy aesthetic and fashionista boutiques sit alongside surf shops doing a roaring trade.

**Top Tip:** Check into [Tugu Hotel Canggu](#), the lovechild of one of Indonesia's most prolific artefact and antiques collectors.

[Compare cheap flights to Bali](#)

[Tugu Hotel Bali Canggu](#)

## 2. Honolulu, USA

Long known for spectacular beaches overshadowed by dramatic craggy peaks, as the capital of Hawaii, Honolulu manages to retain some beachside charm despite being home to almost one million Americans. Trade wind breezes, floral shirts and drinks decorated with tropical blooms make Honolulu hard to resist for a tropical getaway when winter bites in southern Australia.

**Top Tip:** Channel Hawaii's original surf culture at the [Moana Surfrider Hotel](#), Waikiki's oldest hotel, with its plantation mansion style complete with rocking chairs on the veranda and weekly history tours.

### 3. New York, USA

New York has probably appeared in more movies, songs and books than any other city. The Big Apple incites passion and oozes uber cool from every single one of her booty-sashaying, swashbucklingly flamboyant pores.

Lady Gaga says of her hometown, 'A middle finger is more New York than a corporate ambush. I bleed for my hometown, and I'd die for my fans.'

Woody Allen has a crazy soft spot for the Big Apple in that he 'loves New York in an emotional, irrational way, like loving your mother or your father even though they're a drunk or a thief. I've loved the city my whole life — to me, it's like a great woman.'

**Top Tip:** Manhattan is best seen from an elevated perspective: take a helicopter flight over the city or visit the One World Observatory lookout on level 102 of the One World Trade Centre

### 4. London, UK

Like New York, London is another world-class city that should be on every traveller's 'must see' list. Its playlist-worthy streets are like a songbook of famous tunes inspiring *West End Girls* (Pet Shop Boys), *Home Town Glory* (Adele), *London Calling* (The Clash) or the classic *Werewolves of London* – thanks Warren Zevon for giving us catchy piano riffs and a reason to howl at the moon!

**Top Tip:** Londoners love a meaty banger. Sausages are sandwiched between bread for breakfast, served with mashed spuds for lunch or 'poshed up' for dinner with all the trimmings.

[Compare cheap flights to London](#)

[You Tube Werewolves of London Warren Zevon](#)

### 5. Singapore

An energetic city on the rise who takes herself seriously, Singapore is kicking big city goals on a pinprick of land smaller than your average Outback Australian cattle station. [Travel Bird](#) recently ranked Singapore as the World's Most Welcoming City, easily quashing friendly rivals Stockholm and Helsinki as also-rans.

**Top Tip:** Fine dining foodies head for Luke Mangan's Salt Grill and Sky Bar or you could rub shoulders with locals on their lunch break amongst the hawker stalls at Tiong Bahru Market.

[Compare cheap flights to Singapore](#)

[Singapore skyline](#)

## 6. Perth, Australia

Despite, (or perhaps because of) being the world's most isolated city, Perth has undergone a serious resurgence. Travellers are starting to take notice. There's a new Indigenous cruise along the Derbal Yerrigan, otherwise known as the Swan River, Peppers Kings Square and Yagan Square connect Northbridge with the city, Food Truck Rumble promises to silence hungry tummies and laneways have been transformed with streetart bookending hole-in-the-wall bars. Further afield, perennial favourites Fremantle, Scarborough and Rottnest Island are sprucing themselves up too.

**Top Tip:** Head to City Beach for some of Perth's best beachside breakfast and lunch hot spots. Don't forget your sunglasses – the Indian Ocean view is a cracker.

[Compare cheap flights to Perth](#)

[Perth beaches](#)

## 7. Anchorage, USA

A surprise inclusion on our Top Ten list, Anchorage (in fact all of Alaska) is the sort of place travellers want to visit to take in big, bold and brash Alaskan scenery. A far-flung coastal city at the foot of 1070m Flattop Mountain, the outdoors rules in these parts. Particularly during summer when the sun barely dips below the horizon for an extraordinary near 24 hours of daylight.

**Top Tip:** Take a float plane and check into Redoubt Bay Lodge in Lake Clark National Park to spot black and brown bears in the wilderness.

[Compare cheap flights to Anchorage](#)

[Redoubt Bay Lodge Anchorage](#)

## 8. Melbourne, Australia

If you can't find something in Melbourne to tickle your fancy you're really not trying. A serial high achiever on 'World's Most Liveable City' lists, Melbourne is a rainbow-hued chameleon in drag in one corner, a cultured intellectual name-dropper in the other. Whatever floats your boat, be it arts, sport, food, wine, grunge, comedy, fashion or fantasy, Melbourne juggles her multi-cultural mash-up in a beguiling act worthy of a Cirque de Soleil performer.

**Top Tip:** Join a personal guided [Hidden Secrets Tours](#) for an intimate insight into Melbourne's charms with a passionate local.

## 9. Auckland, New Zealand

Known as the City of Sails for good reason, (New Zealand rules the high seas with the more boats per capita than anywhere else in the world), it's a no brainer that we suggest you board a boat to get your bearings. Out on Waitemata

Harbour the first thing you'll notice is the symmetrical cone of Rangitoto Island, a volcanic peak that emerged from the sea a mere 600 years ago, and is now a popular haunt for hikers.

**Top Tip:** Check into [Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour](#) for French elegance in Auckland's best waterfront location.

## 10. Phuket, Thailand

Thailand's largest island, Phuket, topped the list of survey respondents who said that travel inspires them to learn about a new culture and gain new perspectives. You'd be hard pressed to find more a beautiful perspective than gorgeous Phi Phi islands. These craggy limestone outcrops have starred on cinematic screens so often they deserve an honorary Oscar, *The Beach* starring Leonardo di Caprio being the most recent.

**Hot Tip:** Fitness junkies try your hand at a Muay Thai class, the cultural martial art of Thailand, at [Thanyapura Sports & Health Resort](#)

[Compare cheap flights to Phuket](#)

[Instagram Phi Phi Islands](#)

**Are you ready to plan your 2018 holiday to one of these Top Ten Cities? Skyscanner Australia has the best deals on [airfares](#), [car hire](#) and [hotels](#) with no booking fees!**

### About the author

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Fiona Harper is an Australian travel writer who likes to get offroad and offshore. Follow her at [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#). Widely travelled, highly acclaimed and much published, Fiona's articles & images are published across the globe. When not writing she's probably running a marathon or exploring the world by foot, bike, kayak, camel or boat: whatever mode of transport she can get her hands on!