

Looking for a different kind of holiday? Here's Australia's weirdest and wackiest festivals. | Skyscanner Australia

Australia has no shortage of weird, wacky or just plain crazy festivals and celebrations. From boat races on waterless rivers to car rallies in vehicles that are definitely dodgy, [Skyscanner Australia](#) takes you ringside for weirdly fun festivals in our country.

Tunarama Festival, Port Lincoln SA

Held at the South Australian coastal town of Port Lincoln, otherwise known as the tuna capital of the world, Tunarama blends food (lots of seafood naturally) with play. Over five days of feasting and partying, there's competitions for prawn peeling, prawn tossing even, keg rolling and boat building.

But the most highly anticipated event is the famous tuna tossing competition. Festival organisers tapped into a fishing industry tradition that required fishermen to toss the days catch from a docked boat onto a waiting truck. It has since evolved into a hotly contested competition for women and men. For the record, the biggest toss for males stands at 37.2m and for females 21.2m.

When: January **Hot tip:** Practice your hammer throw technique if you hope to challenge for the tuna tossing record! **More info:** [Tunarama](#)

[Tunarama festival Port Lincoln](#)

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Parkes Elvis Festival, Parkes NSW

Unleash your inner Elvis Presley (we've all got one I'm sure!) at a five day celebration of everything Elvis. Celebrating 25 years of Elvis in 2017, some of Australia's best Elvis impersonators entertain the converted. There's competitions for Elvis tribute artists, rock'n'roll dancing, hot cars, even a Miss Priscilla for the ladies to get in on the impersonator act.

Board the famous NSW Trainlink Elvis Express from Sydney for a train journey like no other with dancing and singing in the aisles all the way to the town of Parkes.

When: January **Hot tip:** Brush up on the jive and jitterbug before you go and don't forget to pack your dancing shoes! **More info:** [Parkes Elvis Festival](#)

[Parkes Elvis Festival](#)

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Shitbox Rally

Is this the ultimate Australian road-trip? Quite possibly! A fundraiser for the

Cancer Council, teams of two are limited to driving a vehicle that costs less than \$1,000 over some of Australia's most desolate roads. The only other restriction is that the vehicle must have a current registration (4WD's are not welcome). The more beaten up, weird and memorable the car, the better. Hence the Shitbox name.

In 2017 the 3,800km route takes teams north from Adelaide via the Oodnadatta track, Alice Springs and the Plenty Highway to Cairns over one week. It's all for a good cause with almost \$8m raised in the seven years the Shitbox Rally has been running.

When: May/June **Hot tip:** Don't even think about signing up unless you have a crazy friend/brother/sister with an equally outrageous sense of adventure. Mechanical skills would be useful. **More info:** [Shitbox Rally](#)

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Henley on Todd Regatta, Alice Springs NT

Billed as the world's first waterless boat regatta it's hard to deny their claim. The regatta takes place on the dusty sandpit otherwise known as the perennially dry riverbed of the Todd River. Running for 55 years, the regatta is a major highlight on the Alice Springs social calendar. Crews race each other in handmade kayaks, sailboats, even 'maxi yachts', all powered by foot while well-lubricated spectators cheer them on from the riverbank. The Battle of the Boats grand finale sees three crews on-board decked out Navy, Pirate and Viking ships pelting each other with water cannons and flour bombs. The aim is to scuttle enemy ships (and, one suspects, to get as filthy as possible), all in the name of charity.



If you're in Alice Springs during August don't miss it!

When: August **Hot tip:** Grab three friends, build a boat and enter the Bring Your Own Boat race **More info:** [Henley on Todd](#)

[Henley on Todd Regatta, Battle of the Boats](#)

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The Birdsville Races, Birdsville QLD

Undoubtedly the biggest event on Birdsville's calendar since the first race in the 1880's, the Birdsville Races attract travellers from across the globe. The tiny town of Birdsville, whose population once peaked at 300 but has dwindled to 120 hardy souls, swells to almost 10,000 during race week. The Birdsville Hotel is the outback town's party hub as revellers warm up their drinking arms for the main event – The Birdsville Cup. Cowboys, clowns and claypans vie for attention amongst the dirt and dust of the Simpson Desert, 1600km west of Brisbane.

When: September **Hot tip:** Polish your beer goggles – there's much drinking involved! **More info:** [Birdsville Races](#)

[Birdsville Races](#)

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Are you ready to check into Australia's weirdest and wacky festivals? Find the [cheapest airfare](#) with [Skyscanner Australia](#) and get ready to party with fun-loving Aussies!

About the author

Fiona Harper is one of Australia's most respected travel writers. Follow her at [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#)

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