

INTRODUCTION



THIS BOOK HAS BEEN WRITTEN for all the independent travellers who want more out of an Australian trip than joining an escorted group, sitting on a bar stool in a resort or sunbathing on the beach. Not that there is anything wrong with that—it's just not us. Those quality moments of well-deserved relaxation are beneficial. But inquiring minds like ours need more stimulation even on holidays.

This is a guide for adults of all ages, including grey nomads, who are planning to go around Australia for a lengthy period of time. It is also recommended reading for armchair travellers who would love to make such a trip but unfortunately cannot. Many people live vicariously!

I have divided the book into distinct journeys rather than a chronological account, to make it easier to categorise all the experiences we encountered. Four components of the trip emerged: *The Practical Journey*, *The Magical Journey*, *The Educational Journey* and *The Emotional Journey*.

Each chapter starts with a question that is answered with anecdotes and facts collected over almost one year of travelling. They are questions we asked ourselves or people asked us. I cover the preparation required to find the right mode of transport for your needs,