



Authentic AUSTRALIA

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE CULTURE OF AUSTRALIA ON ONE OF THESE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS...

Discover authentic Australia, thanks to these incredible encounters which open up the country's famous sporting, historical and cultural attractions and allow you to peer behind the scenes. Here are seven locations to savour with Cultural Attractions of Australia (CAOA)...

1 HAVE A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Go behind the scenes at this cultural icon with CAO. *Taste of Opera* features a private recital woven into a tour, dinner or event. *The Backstage Tour* takes you behind the scenes to see the rehearsal space and the orchestra pit before breakfasting in the Green Room. Take the *Architectural*

Beneath the sails (this page; top to bottom) The instantly recognisable Sydney Opera House first opened its doors in 1973 and is now the busiest performing arts centre in Australia; with Cultural Attractions of Australia, you can pre-book exclusive tours that allow you to go behind the scenes at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with a guide

Tour to learn about architect Jørn Utzon's vision for a building Frank Gehry declared "changed the image of an entire country", or book the *Midden Experience* for a one hour tour before a two course meal at Midden by Mark Olive, one of Sydney's best restaurants. Finally, end the day admiring the Badu Gili, the free, nightly lighting of the sails to celebrate Australia's First Nations artists.

2 LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

With a capacity of 100,024, Melbourne Cricket Ground is the largest stadium in the southern hemisphere, having been built in 1853, barely 15 years after the city was first established.

A *VIP Premium Access Tour* offers travellers a private guided visit that lets

you step onto the hallowed turf and visit the Australian Sports Museum. The new *Keepers' Collection Tour* even includes a private walk of the archives with a museum team member, bringing the 60,000-strong collection to life.



3 BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE

It's a privilege to share an intimate window into the culture of the



Bangarra Dance Theatre, one of Australia's leading performing arts companies. These professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers thrill with dance techniques forged across 65,000 years.

The *Behind the Scenes at Bangarra Dance Theatre* experience opens with a personal Acknowledgement of Country and a traditional smoking ceremony, followed by Indigenous canapés and cocktails. Bangarra's artistic director Frances Rings then takes guests on an exclusive tour of what makes the company so special by taking in the Bangarra rehearsal room, before you see the real thing on the stage at the Sydney Opera House.

4 GO BACK IN TIME AT PORT ARTHUR

Some 40 hectares of gardens and grounds, alive with more than 30 historic buildings, ruins and museums, make up the UNESCO-listed Port Arthur Historic Site in Tasmania. This is Australia's best-preserved convict settlement, having served for 40 years until its closure in 1877. Join the *Wheel of Fate* tour with a guide to hear tales of life in this prison settlement. After, enjoy a lunch of regional produce.

5 ENJOY AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE DINNER AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is the oldest, largest and most-visited public gallery in Australia. Enjoy the NGV Collection's rich treasury of more than 76,000 works, across two architecturally designed venues – NGV International and The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia. *Pharaoh*, currently on display, is the largest exhibition of ancient Egyptian objects ever staged in Australia. With CAO's private tour, see highlights from the NGV Collection before dining in front of the NGV's masterpiece, Giambattista Tiepolo's *The Banquet of Cleopatra*.



Backstage treats (this page; clockwise from top left) Bangarra Dance Theatre is one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, and has been running for over 30 years; the Port Arthur penal settlement started as a small timber station in 1830 and is now a UNESCO-listed site; you arrive at the Museum of Old and New Art by ferry on the *Mona Like a Rockstar* tour; enjoy an exclusive dinner at the NGV

6 FIND RICH HISTORY ON A PRIVATE WALK OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Australia's purpose-built capital, Canberra, is a national treasure awash with iconic institutions, including Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial and the National Gallery. The National Museum of Australia is arguably its cultural crown jewel, and the exclusive CAO *Big Histories* experience includes a private walking tour of the museum with a curator, who can show you highlights such as an early all-Australian-made Holden car. The tour ends with a seasonal lunch at the waterfront cafe.

7 EXPERIENCE MONA LIKE A ROCKSTAR

The Museum of Old and New Art was conjured up by Tasmanian collector David Walsh within a winery in Hobart. Join the man behind the largest private museum in the Southern Hemisphere on CAO's *Dinner with David*, for a



chance to have a chat with its enigmatic creator.

Mona is also home to one of the largest collections of artworks by light artist James Turrell. The *Full-On Turrell* experience offers 24 hours of art and luxury, plus exclusive access to the artist's works, as you stay on-site. *Mona Like a Rockstar* serves cocktails, great food and wines with rockstar executive chef Vinnie, plus exclusive entry to Turrell's *Event Horizon*.

ABOUT THE EXPERTS

Cultural Attractions of Australia offers a chance to pre-book more than 30 curated experiences designed for travellers looking for meaningful ways to engage with the country's cultural, historic and sporting attractions. It's the perfect way to immerse yourself in Australia's rich cultural life.



Courtesy (clockwise from top left): Cultural Attractions of Australia; HyperTV; Shutterstock; Tourism Australia