

An insider's travel guide to enjoying a holiday in Australia.

Listen as Sue and Laura talk about their holiday experiences in Australia and the tips they give for people visiting the country.

This transcript will help you to understand the podcast. Many of the “ums”, “ers” and “yeahs” have been removed to make for easier reading.

Chris: Hello and welcome to English Podcasts with Chris and Sue. For more information, visit english-podcasts.com.

Sue: Hi, Laura. Laura: Hi, Sue.

Sue: So, we've been on holiday in Australia for the past three weeks. We've been all over the place. Now then, you actually live here.

Laura: I do.

Sue: So, you've got a different perspective to me, I'm the total tourist, so let's give some recommendations and advice to people who might want to visit Australia. It's often on people's Bucket Lists, so let's dive in and give some highlights. So where would you say is the highlight of this holiday? What has it been?

Laura: I think the highlight of this holiday was visiting Uluru.

Sue: Now, what on earth is Uluru?

Laura: Uluru is a place right in the middle of Australia. It's about three hours flight from Sydney. It is literally in the middle of nowhere.

Sue: And what exactly is it?

Laura: There is a beautiful rock to visit that is the main attraction of the area.

Sue: Okay, so could you give us an idea of, like, what's the, if I say the nearest town, near is a very sort of unusual term in Australia.

Laura: But, you know, the nearest town would be Alice Springs, which is about five hours drive.

Sue: Oh, no.

Laura: Which is quite close for Australia, quite short distance.

Sue: Right. Uluru, what did we do in Uluru that you liked so much?

Laura: Well, I think the highlight of that trip was cycling around Uluru. It's a very special place full of history, and cycling around was very...

Sue: So, when you say cycling around, are there roads and stuff?

Laura: There was just, like, a little cycle path. It was a good two-hour trip.

Sue: And how far did we cycle?

Laura: About 15km.

Sue: 15k with lots of stops for selfies. But of course, the thing about Uluru, people can check it on the internet, it's a sacred site for the Aborigines and there are some places when we cycled around the rock where you can't take photographs because it's a sacred site. And the thing that I liked about it, I loved the cycling of course because that was such fun, but the sunrise and the sunset, fantastic colours on the rock, but there's literally nothing around it and the accommodation was very nice. It's all in one complex which has been built to blend in with the environment. It's all very natural. Top marks. All very good. So, for anybody who's got 3.5 hours to spare from Sydney, it's a good place to go to. What about another place that you like?

Laura: Then we also went to the Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays. That was beautiful, very tropical, completely different from Uluru.

Sue: And how far is that from Sydney on the plane?

Laura: It was a couple of hours, yes. Very tropical, very green, very lush. Uluru was in the middle of nowhere, completely barren. It was the outback, the Australian outback. Then, this was beautiful beaches. I think we actually went to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

Sue: Which is called?

Laura: Whitehaven. The sand was beautiful.

Sue: Yeah. And what about the transport for getting there?

Laura: Oh, everything is by boat. Everything. There are no roads. No, bridges. And on some of the islands in the Whitsundays you can't have a car. So, there are only small little roads for buggies, it's car free.

Sue: That's right, because we stayed on a on a big island, actually "big ish" island, which is called Hamilton. And as you say rightly, there are no cars. Everybody has a little golf buggy to go around, or we walked, and there was also a complimentary little bus, minibus, that went around the island every half an hour or 20 minutes. Really fantastic. And the views, and also the great thing with the animals.

Laura: Lots of animals, lots of birds, Kangaroos. I don't think we saw any snakes.

Sue: No, well, maybe....

Laura: Spiders. Or maybe we did.

Sue: Yeah. But, in fact, we saw some wallabies. They were just next to us in the hotel. And birds. The famous cockatoos. Nice name, but they're a bit of a pain, aren't they, Those birds. They're very loud, aren't they. You have to always keep your windows closed. Otherwise the birds fly into your hotel room and damage it. Yeah, like there's some kind of punk rockers on a Saturday night type of thing, anyway, so that was great.

Laura: Keep your windows closed.

Sue: Yeah, but it's a real must, isn't it?

Laura: Yes, it's absolutely beautiful.

Sue: But you've been to another place. You've been to Cairns. Yes, to Port...,

Laura: Douglas, which is a bit more up north.

Sue: How does that compare? Because everyone knows Port Douglas.

Laura: Yeah, Port Douglas is much smaller. It's on the mainland, so it's not an island, but it's also very tropical. It's just next to the Daintree Forest, so very, very lush, but it's equally as beautiful.

Sue: Yeah, but much further.

Laura: Much further up north.

Sue: So, it depends how much time you have.

Laura: It's probably another hour flight. Yeah.

Sue: So that was the outback. And then we've done the islands and of course what we've really done a lot of is Sydney.

Laura: Yes. Major City.

Sue: Tell us about Sydney then.

Laura: Sydney is very different, but it also has a lot of nice beaches like the famous Bondi Beach. I think everybody knows that iconic beach.

Sue: And have you been there on Christmas Day?

Laura: Yes, I spent all my Christmas days there. Everybody goes to have a barbie there.

Sue: Yeah, a barbecue.

Laura: Barbecue. It's packed. Although it's summer, everybody wears a Christmas hat. And you can even find a Christmas tree on the beach.

Sue: And in fact, when I went, it was the winter, of course. So not so many people, but a beautiful coastal walk. I have said that everything in Sydney, everywhere in fact we've been, is so designed for the comfort of the tourists. You know, the walks are really well maintained. Everything is very well maintained.

Laura: But everybody spends a lot of time outdoors too. So especially for the people going to the beach, they will walk in the morning before going to work. They might go surfing, have a dip in the Bondi Iceberg Pool.

Sue: Oh, the Bondi Iceberg. Yeah, that's a freezing cold pool.

Laura: It is, because it's the water from the sea. Yes.

Sue: Yes. And in fact, it's called the Iceberg because people put ice in it to cool the water down. That's why it's called that. And what about other beaches around Sydney?

Laura: There's Coojee Beach. We also visited Manly, which is up north. So, we took a ferry from Circular Quay, which is right in the CBD and we took a nice boat ride. It was a little bit bumpy actually that day, a bit windy. But yes, we went to Manly on the northern beaches.

Sue: And I took a ferry to a place called Watsons Bay. Absolutely beautiful, fantastic views of the city at the same time nature, it's really great. So that's some of the beaches. And of course, what about, we've got to say the classic views, the Harbour Bridge and the opera. The Opera House.

Laura: So stunning. It really is. It's a classic. It's iconic. Everybody knows them. And it's a very special place when you go to visit.

Sue: And we were particularly lucky last night because there was a thing called Vivid. Explain about Vivid.

Laura: Vivid is, how could I say, like an exhibition or an event where they the city lights up all the buildings with all different colors. A little bit of Aboriginal art too, that was on the opera house. The whole city is lit up and has all different sorts of art that's lit up too.

Sue: And last night when we went down, we had to walk because they stopped the trams, because there were so many people and it was like being, you know, I would say New York on a Saturday night. It was packed with people, but it was full of energy. We went on the ferry. It was packed. Everyone with their phones out, everyone enjoying it. It was very good. And just to say, to wrap up this about the tourism as a tourist, I have to say that everything is designed for the tourists' comfort, everything.

Laura: I would agree with that.

Sue: Everything and everyone is very friendly and helpful. And I think it's I know it's a long way. It's, what, 12,000 miles from Europe? From Paris. But it's well worth the trip. It is. So maybe. See you there next time, under the Harbour Bridge. Okay.

Sue: Thanks, Laura. Laura: Thanks, Sue.

Your notes.

Which NEW words did you learn ?	Which words and grammar could you understand better in the CONTEXT ?	Which NUMBERS did you hear?	Which words did you improve your PRONUNCIATION ?

GOOD JOB!



#awesome learning