



Where in the World

A Quick Trip Down Under



The Australian outback spans thousands of miles, offers breathtaking views and is the subject of countless legends and films.

(NAPSA)—It's the only country on the planet to occupy an entire continent, the land where the bionic ear and notepads were invented, and home to Coober Pedy, a town where 50 percent of the population lives belowground to escape the heat. It's Australia, and these facts about the land down under may surprise you:

Wide-Open Spaces

The sixth largest country in the world, but with only about four people per mile, Australia has the lowest population density on Earth.

All That Glitters

Kalgoorlie in western Australia is the nation's largest producer of gold, but the country is better known for its precious stones. The land down under produces 95 percent of the world's precious opals.

The Silver Screen

The subject or setting of countless films, Australia has long captured moviegoers' imaginations. The movie "Australia," now on Blu-ray Disc and DVD, tells the story of an Australian drover (Hugh Jackman) who reluctantly partners with an English aristocrat (Nicole Kidman) as they drive 2,000 head of cattle across hundreds of miles of Australia's most unforgiving land.

In The Outback

Sometimes described as a "feeling" rather than a place, the Australian outback is a massive span of wildland, inhabited by a diverse set of animals and populated by a number of unique and friendly communities. It's also home to the longest straight railway track in the world, which stretches nearly 300 miles.



Legendary Cultures

Australia's native people, Aborigines, are believed to have settled across the continent tens of thousands of years ago. They're credited with a number of developments, including creating the boomerang and what's thought to be the world's oldest known art.

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