

Why look anywhere else?



**THE ULTIMATE GLBTIQ
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... everyone welcome!

**SATURDAY
21st September 2013**

12 noon to 7pm
Fitzroy Town Hall
301 Napier Street
Fitzroy

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MJ's Toybox

“What better way than a road trip?”

The great perks universally acknowledged amongst all university students, are our long summer breaks. Months of incredible weather, no academic pressure and sleeping in until two in the afternoon on a Monday are amongst the many of pleasures I will miss once I finish my degree.

As my friends and I are in our final year of study, we have also come to the realization that this may be our final summer break forever. While our jobs may allow us two weeks of leave over Christmas, it won't compare to the months of pure bliss I receive now. So, why waste your last summer?

As we are all aware, it's three in the morning when friends come up with all truly great and crazy plans. We were bored at home on a Friday night a few months ago with Google images of all the great places we've never seen but plan on going to.

My friends and I had made a pact that this would be the greatest summer yet. Yes, I am aware this sounds like a cheesy teen chick-flick, but please keep reading.

Being the broke university students that we are, we simply didn't have enough money to travel overseas. However, why would you? Australia experiences some incredible weather during summer, and we have some of the most incredible beaches in the world. And what we seem to forget, is that we have one of the seven natural wonders of the world in our own backyard,

the Great Barrier Reef.

So, we thought we'd spend this summer exploring what Australia has to offer, and what better way to do it than a road trip. We've organised with a company to hire an eight man van where there is room to sleep. While this may sound expensive, if you travel in a big group everything is split evenly.

When summer hits, we plan on grabbing a map and starting the adventure. Snorkeling in a little island off the north of Queensland, riding camels in Broome, sipping wine in South Australia and climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge are all on the list.

Australia has so much to offer, so why look anywhere else for a great summer adventure?

Before you start this great summer holiday it's important to do the research. Don't just pack and head off to the tourist filled attractions. If you look up on websites like the Australian Geographic page, they have a list of secret getaways, best Australian beaches, or great camping sites if you'd prefer an outdoor adventure.

Make sure you chose a great group of people to start down the road with, those who share common interests with you or who fit your personality.

It's important to think outside the box, don't just plan on going to one place or sitting at that one beach, try lots of things you wouldn't normally get to do at home. Snorkel across the world's largest and most beautiful stretch of coral reef if you have the chance, and reach outside your comfort zone, because that is where the best experiences are created and memories are made. 

Tania Zeine