

Baillie Lodges: Iconic Luxury Lodges Offer an Exclusive Australian Experience

Baillie Lodges is an intimate collection of Australian luxury lodges in exclusive locations of natural significance. [Capella Lodge](#) on World Heritage-listed Lord Howe Island was the first property the portfolio. The globally celebrated and multi-award winning [Southern Ocean Lodge](#) on Kangaroo Island opened in 2008 as Australia's first true luxury wilderness lodge, while the acclaimed luxury desert camp [Longitude 131°](#) at Uluru joined the group in late 2013.

The three boutique properties appeal to a discerning global traveller seeking a remarkable Australian experience.

Baillie Lodges was created in 2003 by the business and life partnership of [James and Hayley Baillie](#), who bring a wealth of high-end tourism experience. James was instrumental in the establishment of exceptional nature-based tourism properties in locations such as Lizard Island, Heron Island, Bedarra Island, Tasmania and the Daintree rainforest, while Hayley sought adventure as leader on some of the world's best expedition ships.

In 2004 the couple opened Capella Lodge at the southern end of Lord Howe Island, a sub-topical outcrop off the east coast of Australia. Overlooking picturesque Lover's Bay and the island's twin-mountains, Gower and Lidgbird, it is the only accommodation on the island that offers ocean and mountain views from all lounging areas and guest suites.

An enhancement for the property in late 2009 brought a new level of luxury to the tiny island, reminiscent of French Polynesia with a limit of just 400 visitors at any one time. Home to the world's most southerly coral reef, Lord Howe Island offers a wealth of nature-based activities including palm-forest and mountain walks, snorkeling, fishing, cycling and boating. Capella Lodge offers a luxury lodge experience in the style of a beach house, the perfect base from which to explore this island treasure.

In creating Capella Lodge, the Baillies perfected their own brand of 'barefoot luxury', a feeling of relaxed sophistication. Nine boutique suites are styled to welcome the outside indoors and reflect the island's natural environment. They feature generous sleeping areas, chic bathrooms fitted in basalt drawn from the island's sheer cliffs, wide doors welcoming the sea breezes and whisper of the endemic Kentia palms, and custom furnishings and art to offer a sense of relaxed island style.

Southern Ocean Lodge opened in 2008, the second in the Baillie Lodges portfolio and the culmination of five years' planning and development. Positioned in a spectacular cliff-top location on South Australia's Kangaroo Island, it was the realisation of a dream for James and Hayley who had once stood on the island's sweeping coast and imagined creating Australia's first true luxury wilderness lodge.

Southern Ocean Lodge is now globally celebrated and the subject of a consistent succession of prestigious awards. It was named Tatler's Hotel of the Year in 2008, Travel + Leisure's No.1 Resort in Australia, NZ and Pacific in 2012 and the Australian Gourmet Traveller Best Lodge/Resort in 2013.

In 2014, Southern Ocean Lodge was ranked the world's fourth best hotel in the Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards, nominated number one property in Australia and New Zealand in the US Condé Nast Traveler magazine Readers' Choice Awards and won the 'Above and Beyond' category in the prestigious international Smith Hotel Awards.

Kangaroo Island is renowned for its abundant native wildlife, including kangaroos, koalas, platypus and sea lions. Located on the island's south west coast, Southern Ocean Lodge adjoins both the Flinders Chase and Kelly Hill National Parks and is at the heart of the Island's major attractions including Seal Bay, Admirals Arch and Remarkable Rocks.

With signature guided experiences included in the nightly tariff, plus a selection of bespoke adventures also available, Southern Ocean Lodge delivers a complete Kangaroo Island experience. Guests can be as active as they please with a personalised itinerary tailored on arrival, allowing guests a hands-on wilderness encounter.

Sensitively designed to blend with this pristine environment, the lodge offers 21 spectacular suites with generous sleeping areas, stylish lounging, glass-surround bathrooms and outdoor terraces. The contemporary architectural design enhances the Southern Ocean views from every suite, and the use of organic local materials such as recycled timbers and limestone invites a real sense of place.

Dining at Southern Ocean Lodge is a regional culinary adventure, with a culinary philosophy dedicated to Kangaroo Island's small scale, high quality local food producers. The island is famous for its pure Ligurian honey, sheep's milk cheeses, free-range chickens and eggs, farmed and fresh seafood, organic lamb and rare-breed pork. A world-class selection of Kangaroo Island and South Australian beverages is designed to complement the unforgettable dining.

The cliff-top Southern Spa offers a signature menu of massage techniques using Dreamtime-inspired Li'tya spa treatment products, and complemented by Kangaroo Island's natural beauty ingredients: mineral salts, pink clay, eucalyptus, lavender and Ligurian honey. Combined with the cleanest air, fresh from Antarctica and with pounding surf below, the Southern Spa provides a pure natural environment in which to be soothed and pampered.

Longitude 131° is the latest addition to the portfolio, located at the 'Red Centre' of Australia's Northern Territory. Already one of Australia's best-known luxury retreats, this exclusive desert camp will now develop further under the vision of Baillie Lodges.

Situated discreetly at the gateway to the World Heritage-listed Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Longitude 131° offers 15 elevated luxury tents with unrivalled views of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the surrounding desert landscape. It is the most exclusive accommodation available at Uluru and the only accommodation with such an outlook.

Meticulously designed to remain cool in summer and warm in winter, each luxury tent has been stylishly appointed with contemporary fabrics and furnishings and features floor-to-ceiling windows for viewing the dramatic sunrise and sunset. Nearby is the camp's central Dune House, a convivial meeting place for lounging, relaxing and mingling with other guests. It provides a spectacular panorama of the desert landscape and is the setting for the superb modern cuisine served in the Dune House Restaurant.

Longitude 131° offers an exclusive selection of signature experiences, each designed to provide an intimate connection with the spiritual heart of Australia and its Indigenous culture. Witness the sun rise and set over majestic Uluru, take a guided tour of Walpa Gorge and learn about the natural history of Kata Tjuta, created over eons of time. Guests can wander through Kantju Gorge, pay a visit to the Cultural Centre and visit the Desert Oak Studio and Yulara Town Centre.

Amongst the highlights of Longitude 131° is the exclusive outdoor dining experience Table 131°, where magnificent cuisine blends modern and indigenous flavours, served in an unforgettable setting beneath a canopy of a billion stars.

Capella Lodge, Longitude 131° and Southern Ocean Lodge are honoured as founding members of [Luxury Lodges of Australia](#), created in 2010 as a collection of independent luxury lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in some of Australia's most extraordinary locations. The collection spans experiences right across Australia's diverse landscapes including its tropical islands, the outback, its rainforests and wilderness and its food, wine and spa country. James Baillie sits as Chair of the organisation.

In 2015, the three Baillie Lodges properties further honored as founding members of the National Geographic Society's latest foray in world-class travel experiences, [National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World](#). The new initiative is a collection of boutique hotels in extraordinary locations around the world, each with a demonstrated commitment to sustainability, authenticity and excellence.

The Baillie Lodges properties are highly regarded in both domestic and international markets for their exceptional natural locations, architectural integrity, locally sourced fine cuisine, first name service and dynamic approach to ecological sustainability. Capella, Longitude 131° and Southern Ocean Lodge together deliver a unique and exclusive Australian luxury experience.

[Capella Lodge](#) rates commence at AUD\$750 per person per night (twin share), including gourmet breakfast, sunset drinks, three course dinner daily with selected wines, selected insuite bar, non alcoholic beverages and island airport transfers.

[Longitude 131°](#) rates commence at AUD\$1,200 per person per night (twin share), including all dining, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return Ayers Rock Airport transfers.

[Southern Ocean Lodge](#) rates commence at AUD\$1,100 per person per night (twin share), including all dining, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and island airport transfers.

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