

Hello, my dear courageous friend! I'm very glad to meet you on board of my yacht "Inspiration"! As you see, I'm the captain of this wonderful ship, and just being an old salt, I've an insuperable inclination to travel. Join me, and you'll see all the beauty of the place we're going to visit! Then you'll find the answer to the main question: "Why Downunder – Why Upside Down?"

16.01.14

A mysterious land on the skyline

My yacht's cleaving the waves in full sail. You may observe the boundless space of the Pacific Ocean. Huge distances separate us from the Motherland, our native Russia. Just imagine! We're on the other end of the Earth. Look at the night sky! You may get astonished, but more than 5500 stars can be seen in this part of the world in fine weather! My brave adventurer, you've already noticed that the constellations also differ ones in the northern hemisphere of our planet. It's incredible, but the Moon has down turned horns! Everything is upside down!

A western fair wind's blowing into my face, and I see the foggy outlines of the southern continent... Australia! One of the most ancient continents of the world contains one of the youngest countries. Moreover, Australia doesn't have any land border. It's the only country, which is called just like the mainland...

17.01.14

Plunging into this atmosphere

My friend, our yacht's arriving in the port of Sydney – a vibrant dazzling city built around one of the world's most beautiful harbors. As you see, summer is in full swing here. Meanwhile, my friends and relatives whom I've left in Russia are freezing because of the winter frosts! Australia's seasons are the opposition of the northern hemisphere. While moving to the North it becomes warmer, and vice versa. By the way, you know that Australia's the driest continent of the world? It's interesting to know that the left banks of the local rivers are washed away stronger than right ones and the whirlwinds and oceanic currents are spun in an unusual direction. The coastal territories in some areas are covered with the jungle, and on the other coasts you may even meet the penguins and seals from the Antarctic! Now a light breeze from the ocean brings down the heat. Walking along the streetscapes of this beautiful city populated by four million people you don't feel the bustle of the megalopolis thanks to the plentiful greenery. Even modern skyscrapers don't irritate but fascinate, and you take into account that Australia is the most urbanized country in the whole world and curiously the most sparsely populated! By the way, in the 20st century many Australian designers took the avant-garde approach to design, which allowed creating truly unique buildings. The Australian experience in architecture begins to spread its influence even abroad. A bright example of the unique beauty is the famous Sydney Opera House with the roof, which is evocative of a ship in full sail. The Sydney Opera House hypnotizes, mesmerizes...

Wild life and marvelous nature and densely populated areas nearby... In the heart of the capital we admire the colorful parrots, and bats, and huge insects very unusual for foreigners. «Please walk on the grass! Smell the flowers! Hug the trees and talk with birds!» – can be read at the entrance of the Royal Botanic Garden. Where else have you met such harmonious blends?

I'm going to visit Uluru, but I really don't know how to find the major roadways! Oh, I think it's a good idea to ask an Australian!

The first rule in the conversation with an Australian is to be sedate and behave with dignity, without any excessive fussiness and pedantry. You know, all business Australian people dress simply, just as they like in contrast with the people from other countries. I've found they are eccentric and real individualists. There's one feature in the nature of Australians, which unites all of Ozzy (Australians call themselves in this way). It's their singularity and optimistic life view. Australians are very difficult to offend. To foreigners they may seem rude and blunt because they call a spade a spade. It's actually because of their relaxed attitude to all these conventionalities. Ozzy also avoid respectful titles and address people simply as 'mate'. In Australia there's ethic of "no worries". It means that in any situation you'd stay cheerful. By the way, sometimes Australians are not even interested in the world events because of their far away living. The first thing which Australians cherish much is equality of people. Equality for them means that everybody's the same status. On serious issues 'honesty is the best policy' as Australians think. So I really admire how their life style differs from those in other countries.

18.01.14

National parks and reserves

I'm going to tell you about my tour round the reserves and national parks of Australia.

Uluru, known as Ayers Rock and located in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, is the world's biggest monolith made of sandstone, and renowned for the way it changes color in the light and is particularly spectacular at sunrise and sunset. Great Barrier Reef with its white sandy beaches, pristine rainforest, corals making up various reefs and cays, and the ocean varying in color from blue to green is one of the wonders of the natural world.

It's really interesting that the most part of Australian flora and fauna is found nowhere else in the world. Such unique representatives are a marsupial koala, an echidna and wombat, a kangaroo (twenty million people and forty million kangaroos don't preclude each other), an emu, the Tasmanian Devil, a Dingo, a kookaburra, and among plants - an eucalypt.

It's time to say goodbye, my friend! To my mind Australia is the country where you may be a little bit crazy, in love, and free. I think you liked a short excursus to the most remarkable places of Australia and you'll never forget this exciting adventure round the Upside Down Country!