

# 2024 INTERNATIONAL MARKET UPDATE UNITED KINGDOM

## MARKET OVERVIEW

Results based on year ending June 2024

- United Kingdom is South Australia's largest inbound market with visitor expenditure increasing 51% on pre-Covid levels.
- UK visitors are affluent experience seekers who generally travel without children looking for authentic and immersive experiences.
- The majority of UK visitors will book their travel to Australia through a travel agent due to distance, security, and complexity in booking many components. Research and planning however happen online by consumers before seeking advice from travel agents.
- Key demand driving experiences include nature and wildlife, coastal and aquatic, food and wine. Road trips and train journeys have strong appeal to the UK visitor.
- Emerging trends include travel planning shifting to 'Always On' discovery due to social media. 'Escaping the everyday' is a non-negotiable when it comes to a holiday and sustainable practises are expected by consumers.
- 62% of visits are for the purpose of Holiday, 38% for Visiting Friends & Relatives (VFR).
- 66% of UK visitors to South Australia have been to Australia before.

## SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT STATISTICS

Results based on year ending June 2024

### VISITORS



### NIGHTS



### EXPENDITURE



### AVERAGE SPEND



### AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY



### INTERNATIONAL RANKING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**#1** FOR VISITORS  
**#3** FOR NIGHTS  
**#3** FOR EXPENDITURE

<sup>#</sup>A high average due to VFR.

## AIR ACCESS

UNITED KINGDOM



### Key Connecting Airlines

Qatar Airways (QR)  
Qantas Airways (QF)  
Singapore Airlines (SQ)  
Malaysia Airlines (MH)  
Emirates (EK)

Multiple airlines offering connections via other Australian Airports

## FAST FACTS & FIGURES

Annual average of 2017-2019 figures - current year samples not yet sizeable enough

SINGAPORE	HOLIDAY	VFR	BUSINESS	OTHER	TOTAL
<b>Visits (SA)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Visits (AUS)</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>683</b>
<b>Nights (SA)</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>994</b>
<b>Nights (AUS)</b>	<b>9,503</b>	<b>8,364</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>21,857</b>
<b>ALOS - Nights (SA)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ALOS - Nights (AUS)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>

(,000)

### Expenditure

**\$81M**

ALOS = Average Length Of Stay, VFR = Visiting Friends and Relatives.

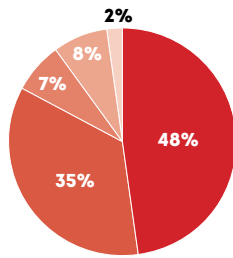
## VISITOR ACCOMMODATION TYPE & TRAVEL PARTY DESCRIPTIONS

Annual average of 2017-2019 figures - current year samples not yet sizeable enough



### Travel party description (to SA)

- Unaccompanied
- Adult couple
- Family group
- Friends/relatives travelling together
- Business



## IMPORTANCE FACTORS

Data from Consumer Demand Project (CDP) report - August 2023



**55%**

Safety and security  
VS. 53% GLOBAL AGGREGATE



**42%**

Value for money  
VS. 37% GLOBAL AGGREGATE



**41%**

Good food & wine  
VS. 37% GLOBAL AGGREGATE



**38%**

Friendly citizens  
VS. 31% GLOBAL AGGREGATE



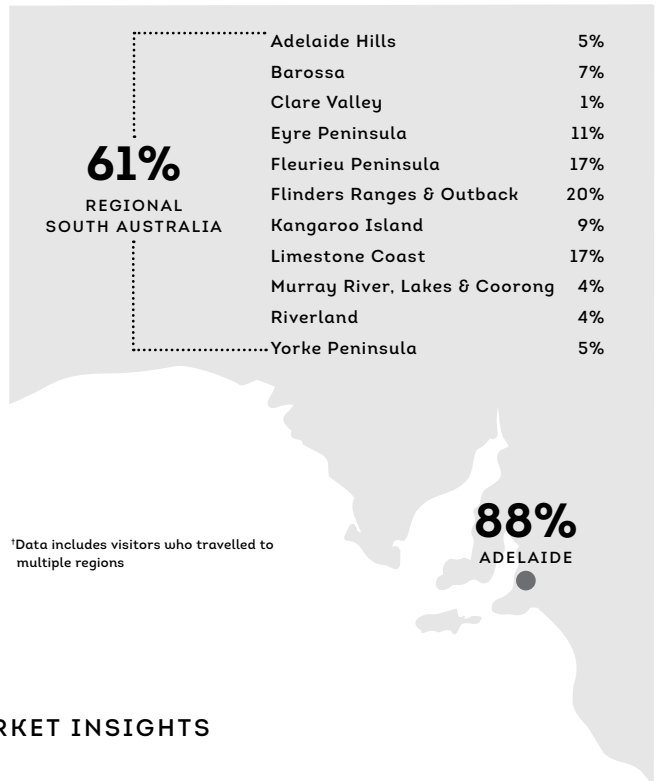
**32%**

World-class beauty and nature  
VS. 40% GLOBAL AGGREGATE

GLOBAL AGGREGATE: This is from the Consumer Demand Project research conducted quarterly by Tourism Australia in 12 key international markets for Australia. Global aggregate refers to the average across all these markets.

## VISITOR DISPERSAL<sup>†</sup>

Annual average of 2017-2019 figures - current year samples not yet sizeable enough



## MARKET INSIGHTS

- The SATC continues to foster strong relationships with key distribution partners, inbound tour operators and Tourism Australia. These partners are critical to ensuring awareness of South Australia's key messaging, bringing new product to market and supporting product development, communications and itinerary building.
- The SATC continues to develop strong relationships with airlines, to drive strong passenger numbers to South Australia.
- Storytelling is key, providing depth into the authenticity and diversity of the state and experiences. The SATC undertakes integrated co-operative campaigns with key partners who have strong digital marketing channels, are committed to include consumer facing activity, and have the ability to convert demand.
- Luxury travel is set to outperform the market while tailor-made adventures and unique experiences in 'new destinations' are in great demand.
- UK consumers are seeking value for money and quality, but would still prefer to pay a higher price than get a lesser experience - they would rather travel less often than feel like they were getting a 'watered-down' lower quality holiday.
- South Australia provides distance from the masses and intimate holiday experiences with non-touristy locations in favour of overpopulated regions and experiences operated by large commercial entities.
- Highlight sustainability practises and credentials as UK travellers consider sustainability as an expected not an extra.
- UK is the largest market for working holiday makers, and an important segment for length of stay and dispersal.

## TARGET MARKET PROFILES



### Primary

High value travellers who have the time and propensity to travel long-haul, spend two to three times more than the average traveller, and look for local food and wine experiences. Nature-based experiences are important when choosing a holiday destination and they disperse widely throughout Australia.



### Secondary<sup>§</sup>

Youth and Working Holiday Visa (WHV)<sup>§</sup> holders who have a longer length of stay in Australia, wide regional dispersal and higher spend.

<sup>§</sup>The free trade agreement has increased the age to 35.

## BOOKING PREFERENCES

Data from Consumer Demand Project (CDP) report - March 2024



**49%**

Direct with Airline



**31%**

Online Travel Agent (e.g. Expedia)



**31%**

Retail Travel Agent/ Tour Operator



**28%**

Direct with Accommodation



**11%**

Direct with Experienced Provider



**2%**

Other

## CONTRACTING & BROCHURE TIMES

Brochure contracting and production takes place from July to October for release in November/December. Brochure validity is 1 April - 31 March. Many companies include product on websites.

## TOP 3 BARRIERS TO VISITING AUSTRALIA

Data from Consumer Demand Project (CDP) report - August 2023



**It is too far to travel**



**Expensive airfares**



**High cost of travelling around**

## UNITED KINGDOM CHECKLIST

Consider the following points when targeting travellers from the UK:

- ✓ **Highlight accessibility from Adelaide** For example, Kangaroo Island is a short 30-minute flight from Adelaide or Flinders Ranges is an easy 5-hour drive from Adelaide via the wineries in the Clare Valley.
- ✓ **UK visitors rarely visit one state and they're likely to be combining South Australia with at least one or two more states.** They are limited on time so make it clear why they must include your product in their itinerary. **Be uniquely South Australian.**
- ✓ **Showcase wildlife in the wild experiences** (land and sea) and the great South Australian outdoors.
- ✓ **Highlight if owner operated or using local guides** - it's a key unique selling point in South Australia and provides guests with an authentic experience.
- ✓ **Consider including multiple types of experiences** within the product. For example, combine wine with a cultural experience.

## KEY TRADE PARTNERS

KEY WHOLESAL PARTNERS	INBOUND REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY IN AUSTRALIA
Barrhead Travel	
Audley Travel	
Gold Medal	ATS Pacific
Lotus/Dial A Flight	
Trailfinders	
Travelbag	
Destinology	
Discover the World	
Freedom Destinations	
If Only	
Lotus/Dial A Flight	Pan Pacific
Original Travel	
Premier Holidays	
Steppes Travel	
Trailfinders	
Wexas	
Turquoise Holidays	
Travel Counsellors	
Travel Nation	
First Class Holidays	Southern World
Hays Travel	
Prestige Travel	
Inspiring Travel (ITC)	
Elegant Resorts	Southern Crossing
Inspiring Travel (ITC)	
Kuoni	AOT
Titan Travel	
Audley Travel	Goway
Cox & Kings	Direct through A&K
Flight Centre	Direct/Inhouse
Trailfinders	Direct
Abercrombie & Kent	Direct/Inhouse

## TOP TRAVEL RESOURCES

The Telegraph

THE TIMES

Wanderlust

Daily Mail

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELLER

## TOP ONLINE TRAVEL AGENTS

Expedia

Skyscanner

Tripadvisor

Booking.com

secret Escapes

## CONTACT

### ADELAIDE

Martin Kaesler  
 Manager, Global Markets  
 martin.kaesler@sa.gov.au

### UK & EUROPE

Janice Kurrle  
 Regional Manager, UK & Europe  
 janice.kurrle@adelaide.com



**Disclaimer: Source:** International Visitor Survey Dec 2017, Dec 2018, Dec 2019, and June 2024 conducted by Tourism Research Australia, Consumer Demand Project (CDP) Aug 2023 and 2024. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. VFR = Visiting Friends and Relatives. ALOS = Average Length of Stay (Nights).

**Disclaimer:** This summary has been prepared by the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) in good faith. While every care has been taken in preparing the information, the SATC does not represent or warrant that it is correct, complete, or suitable for the purposes for which you wish to use it. By using this information, you acknowledge that it is provided by SATC without any responsibility on behalf of the SATC and agree to release and indemnify the SATC for any loss or damage that you or any third party may suffer as a result of your reliance on this information. Produced by the South Australian Tourism Commission September 2024.