



Bepacked.com is not just another website or search engine for travellers. It is a great new way to use the internet allowing you to find what you are really looking for in Australia, from accommodation to the nicest beaches, events and parties and even a job if you need one. At the same time bepacted.com provides you with services to easily stay in contact and update your friends and family with the latest experiences from your trip of a lifetime. **Best of all, the services are not only free – they will even save you money**

## What can I do at Bepacked.com ?

- Use the great map of Australia to search for places, attractions, events, accommodation etc.
- Drag and drop a precise route of your travel.
- Write your travel diary entries and connect them with your travel route.
- Upload as many pictures as you want and reference them to your travel diary entries.
- Mark individual diary entries and pictures as private, or for friends or for public viewing.
- Create a list of friends who will automatically be notified when you make a new diary entry.
- Share your unique experiences with other travellers.
- Save your favourites locations for future travel plans.
- Save money by using 1c mobile phone text messages to update your trip plan, diary entries and to notify your friends and family.

## How to use Bepacked.com

Using bepacted.com is easy. However, there are many features that do not currently exist anywhere else on the internet. **We strongly recommend you have a quick look at this document** – otherwise you risk to miss the “wow, this is really cool” experience.

This document is supposed to help you in understanding what you can do on bepacted.com. This document is most useful if you already had a look at bepacted.com and possibly registered (free) to be able to relate to the various screen shots and descriptions.

## 1 Map Search

Homepage ► Top Menu ► Map

This map search screen consists of components:

- the actual interactive map with the navigation tools on the right and
- the category search selection on the left

### 1.1 Map Search Tools



#### 1.1.1 The slider tool..

(illustrated on the left) allows you to zoom in or out by dragging the bar up and down, or by clicking on either end (+/-) of the bar.

#### 1.1.2 The magnifier tool ...

allows you to zoom in one step with each left mouse click.

A great feature of the magnifier tool is that you can easily select the area you want to explore. Simply click and hold the left mouse button while drawing a rectangle in the area you want to zoom in



#### 1.1.3 The hand tool ...

allows you to move the map in any direction and it will redraw when you release the left mouse button.

## 1.2 Category selection



You can search for many categories including 'places', 'attractions', 'accommodation', 'tours', etc.



To search the map, tick the box in front of the category you are interested in. Icons will appear on the map, representing individual results..

You can select multiple categories and subcategories for display on the map. To display the subcategories, click on the + sign in front of the category, e.g. Attractions will expand to Landmarks, Beaches...

The number on the right indicates how many results you will find in the current zoom level of the map.

## 1.3 Map Icons

The results of your selection is displayed on the map as icons. Each icon represents an individual record where more detailed information is available.

For example  icons represent places and  icons represent accommodation. Move your cursor over an icon to display the title and short description of the record. Click on an icon to open the detailed record information including photos, comments etc

## 1.4 Map Result Boxes

The map will group icons in boxes where there are too many results to be displayed in a certain area:

Green boxes  indicate that there is at least one result for each category you selected.

Amber boxes  indicate that there is at least one result for any category you selected.

Move the cursor over the boxes to display a summary of the results found (eg number of places and hostels in this area).

Click on the boxes to automatically zoom into the area where you can further refine your search.

## 1.5 Icon result list

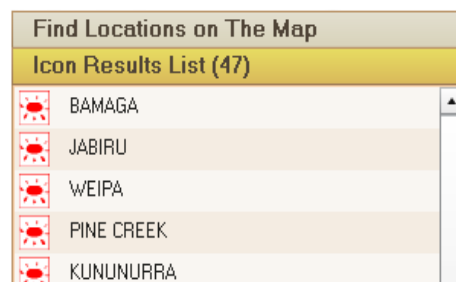
You will find an icon result list "button" below the category search window.

Clicking on this button will expand a list with the names of the displayed icons on the map.

Move your cursor over the names in the list and the respective icon will light up in the map – so you can see where a certain place, landmark etc is on the map. It will also show you a short description.

You can click on a record in this list to open the detailed information.

The search result list updates immediately when you change your category selection or if you zoom into another area on the map



## 1.6 Other Map Features

**Distance Tool**  [Distance](#)

Click on the Distance tool above the map and your cursor changes to a + on the map. Click anywhere on the map then click on a second point and it will display the distance between the two points. Click on the magnifier or hand tool icon to go back to normal map navigation.

**Amenities Icons**  [Amenities Icons](#)

Ticking this box will display the location of railway stations, public toilets, post offices, churches, police stations, hospitals etc.. Please note that these icons are only visible if you are zoomed in down to street level.

**GPS Information**  [GPS on Cursor](#)

When this box is ticked, it will display GPS information (longitude and latitude) next to the cursor

## 2 My Bepacked

Homepage ► Top Menu ► My Bepacked

This is the area of beppacked.com where you can document your travel experiences. You need to be logged in to use these features. Registration is FREE.



My Favourites – save your discoveries for easy retrieval at a later stage

Friends & Family – add people with special access to your trip!

Trip Planner – create your travel route

Pictures – create your photo album and add comments to your photos

Diary – create as many diary entries you want and associate pictures to them. Let your friends know!

The information in your Trip Planner, Pictures and Diary are put together as your Travelogue. Public internet users as well as Friends and Family can view your travelogue by going to Homepage ► Top Menu ► My Bepacked.

### 2.1 Trip Planner

Homepage ► Top Menu ► My Bepacked ► Trip Planner

Using the trip planner is the best way to get you started and is the default view when you click on MyBepacked. The trip planner allows you to display your trip locations on the map. You can add location points in the past as well as in the future, allowing you to back-track your existing trip or plan your trip in the future. These location points will be used to associate diary entries and photos.

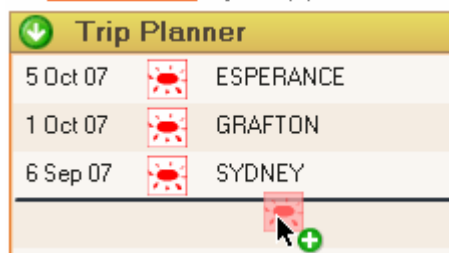
#### 2.1.1 Creating Location Points

Creating location points is easy. There are two ways to create new location points.

##### A) Use existing locations:

Use the normal map search to display icons on the map. Once you see the icon where you are going to, just drag and drop the icon in the Trip Planner window on the lower left corner. Once you have dropped the icon you will be asked to enter an arrival date and optionally choose the transport how to get there.

Repeat the same for the second, third point ...and your travel route becomes visible on the map.....



##### B) Create custom locations:

There is a chance that there is no existing record for where you want to go, eg if you stay at a friends place.

No problem, just create the location yourself. Click on

“[Custom location](#)” which will change your normal cursor to a custom location cursor. You can then click anywhere on the map to create your new location point and give it a name. We suggest you zoom into the closest position on the map before you drop the new point (you can always change it later, see below).



**B** Drag location icons from the map to the Trip Planner box below. You can also use a [Custom location](#) in your trip plan.

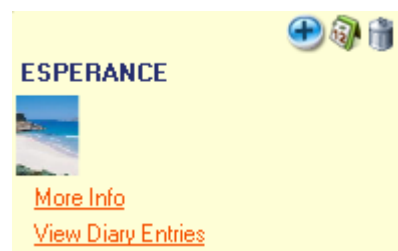
**Custom Location Cursor:**


#### 2.1.2 Edit & Delete Location Points

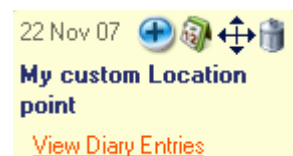
You can easily edit or delete existing location points. This is particularly important for travellers who plan their trip in advance. Editing existing location points vs custom location points (see above) is slightly different:


If you used an existing location, you can edit the point by moving your cursor over the entry in the trip planner list or over the icon on the map. You will see a popup with the summary of the entry.

Click on the edit icon  to change the arrival date or method of transport. Click on the delete icon  to delete the location point.



If you created a custom location, you can edit the point by moving your cursor over the icon **on the map**. You then get an additional move icon  which allows you to move the position of your custom location. You may didn't zoom in close



enough to get the position right when you created the point – this is how you can enhance it. The  has the same functionality as above plus the possibility to edit the custom name of your point.

## 2.2 Photo Album

Homepage ► Top Menu ► My Bepacked ► Photo Album

You can upload as many photos to your photo album as you want. The maximum upload size of a single photo is 4MB. The bepacked system will automatically reduce and store your images in a maximum 500 pixel (~ 50KB) format which is a good size for viewing on the internet. If you have the possibility, you can therefore greatly reduce the upload time by resizing the photos prior so sending them. Please note that the photos stored on your memory cards are in a higher quality format than what is stored on bepacked.com. You definitely want to keep your original files save for higher resolution printing later on..

You can upload multiple photos in one go by holding the “ctrl” or “shift” key while selecting your files.

Once you have uploaded your photo(s) you can add descriptions and set privacy options for each individual file by clicking on the thumbnail in the photo album and then on “edit”.

You have the choice of the following privacy settings:

- Public – anyone can view the photo (default after uploading)
- Friends – only people in your friends list can view the photo (see Friends & Family section)
- Private – only you can view the photo

The active privacy setting for each individual photo is conveniently indicated with icons below the thumbnail. Be careful when you want to delete images. If your images are attached to a diary entry (see below) they will not show up there either anymore.

## 2.3 Diary

Homepage ► Top Menu ► My Bepacked ► Diary

### 2.3.1 Create / Edit diary entries

You can add as many diary entries as you like:

1. Pick a date from the calendar on the left
2. Enter a short title for your entry (eg. my first surfing experience)
3. Write to your hearts content in the message section
4. Choose the privacy setting for the diary entry (same system as for photos)
5. Choose to allow / disallow comments for this diary entry (further explanation below)

Once you have created a diary entry, it will show up in the list below the calendar. Clicking on the title will bring up the details on the right side where you can edit the diary entry, add/remove pictures or delete the diary entry altogether.

### 2.3.2 Diary entries with SMS

You can use an inexpensive local SMS (Text message) to create new diary entries or mark new location points in your travelogue. This enables you to update your diary for as little as 1cent and without the need to be connected to the internet.

The process is simple, just send a text message to the following phone number:

0407 909 663 if you have a Telstra SIM card

0403 236 412 if you have an Optus, Vodafone, Orange or another Australian SIM card

Of course this works only if you have previously entered your mobile phone number in your profile on bepacked.com.

The text message has to start with a “d” followed by a space. If you don’t precede your message with the d, the entry will be lost. Example for text message:

d Just arrived in Perth, the weather is fantastic and the cafés in Freemantle are awesome. This morning...

There are more options with using SMS for diary entries. To make most out of the use, we recommend reading the following document: [http://www.bepacked.com/content/docs/smsdiary\\_en.pdf](http://www.bepacked.com/content/docs/smsdiary_en.pdf).

Find below a quick reference of special sms instructions at the beginning of the SMS:

"d" is mandatory and must be the first character

"@xxxx" is optional and creates a new location at the xxxx Australian postcode

"private" is optional and marks your diary submission private

"friends" is optional and gives access for friends and family

This example, marks a new diary entry private and creates a new location point in Sydney (postcode 2000):  
d private @2000 Arrived by train in Sydney this morning and already went on a harbour cruise.....

### 2.3.3 Add photos to your diary entry

You need to save your diary entry before you can add photos to it. You also need to have the photos already uploaded to your photo album (therefore, always upload your photos first, before creating a new diary entry). Select the diary entry and click on the add/remove pictures link. Select the pictures you want to associate with the diary entry one at a time and click on "Add to Diary Entry". Add as many photos as you want and then click on the Save button.

### 2.3.4 Useful Hints & Important comments regarding the Diary

:

- If you want to add a new diary entry with photos, upload the photos first to the photo album (easier)
- The privacy settings for diary entries and associated photos are independent. This means that if you create a public diary entry and add 1 photo marked with public access, 1 photo marked with friends access and 1 photo marked with private access... the following happens: You will see 3 photos with your diary entry, your friends will see 2 photos with the diary entry and the public will only see 1 photo with the diary entry.
- You can check what the public can see at any time by logging out and having a look at your travelogue in the "Lookout" (Homepage ► Top Menu ► Lookout).
- Diary entries are always bound to a location. In step 1 of creating a diary entry (see above) you don't only choose a date but automatically also a location. Click on different dates in the calendar and you will see that the Location (above the calendar picker) changes depending where you were at the time. If you have a lot of location points, you can use this drop down list to display the from – to dates where you were in a particular location in the calendar.
- You won't lose any diary entries if you decide to delete a location point in the trip planner. All diary entries are kept safe and will be assigned to the last known location before the one you deleted.
- Deleting a diary entry where you have associated photos will not delete the photos from the photo album. You can use the same photo in more than one diary entry if you wish.
- Registered travellers have the ability to add comments to your diary entries if you click the appropriate tickbox. You will receive an email notification when someone adds a comment. You can delete comments any time you like.
- If you want others to have a look at your travelogue (maybe in a travel forum, facebook etc) you can send them directly to the right place with the following url:  
<http://www.bepacked.com/app/?travelogue=alias> (replace "alias" with your real bepacked.com alias)

## 2.4 Friends & Family

In this section you can give others special access to your diary entries and photos. People in this list will be able to see all diary entries and photos which you marked with friend access.

Friends will receive an email notification whenever you create a new diary entry, even when you sit at the beach and update your diary with a text message. You can easily keep many friends up to date at the same time.

In order to prevent abuse of this system, your friends will have to accept your invitation first. When you add a new friend to your list, we send out a confirmation request email with instructions how to quickly get to see your travelogue.

## 2.5 My Favourites

This is a useful window where you can keep "bookmarks" of locations for later viewing, even when you log back in days later. You may browse around the map, zoom in and see some interesting place, tour etc.. Just drag the icon to your Favourite Locations window or click the "Add to Favourites" when you have the detailed location window open.

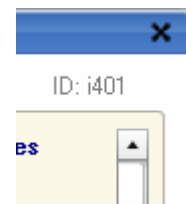
If you want to re-visit the bookmark, just click on it and the map will zoom into the area of the bookmark and open the detailed information window.

## 3 Other cool Features

### 3.1 Direct links to information records

You may find something interesting on the map that you would like others to have a look at. You can create a URL link which you can paste in an email, forum etc.

When you have a detailed information window open, you will see the ID number of this place/attraction etc. in the top right corner of the window, in this case i401 (Balmoral Beach in Sydney)



The URL link to go directly to the detailed information would be:

<http://www.bepacked.com/app/?infoid=i401>

Clicking on this link will open the bepacked.com map already zoomed in to the respective area and open the detailed description.

### 3.2 Comment and Rate map information entries

Please leave your personal comments and rate the information you find on the map. Each detailed information window has a "Comments" tab. Comments and ratings are very often the most useful information.

Comments reflect the actual experience of real travellers which can be different from the pictures and descriptions you see.

### 3.3 Help Bepacked.com grow

Bepacked.com is constantly evolving and growing. Your contribution of knowledge is of great help to others. Please share your knowledge by adding it to the map. All it takes is to register as a Content Provider and the rest is as easy as ABC.

Submissions through the content provider control panel will be permanently visible as an icon on the map and can even be enhanced wiki-style.

For more information go to: <http://www.bepacked.com/cp/>

### 3.4 Other useful documents

- We are continuously enhancing bepacked.com and will add new information to this document. The newest version can be found at: [http://www.bepacked.com/content/docs/usermanual\\_en.pdf](http://www.bepacked.com/content/docs/usermanual_en.pdf)
- Detailed explanations how to use mobile phones with bepacked.com: [http://www.bepacked.com/content/docs/smsdiary\\_en.pdf](http://www.bepacked.com/content/docs/smsdiary_en.pdf)
- Hints & Tips for hiring / renting / buying cars coming soon

### 3.5 Questions Suggestions or Tips?

Please use the forum at <http://www.bepacked.com/forum/index.cfm?forumid=2> . What you have to say is most likely of interest to other travellers as well!

Alternatively, send an email to [info@bepacked.com](mailto:info@bepacked.com)

## 4 ENJOY BEPACKED.COM !!!!