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Australia & Oceania Description. Oceania, the planet's smallest continent, is without doubt one of the most diverse and fascinating areas on the planet. A large percentage of geography experts now consider the long-established continent of Australia to be more accurately defined as Australia/Oceania. There are many regional options when planning a cruise on Oceania Cruises. Cruises to Europe, The Caribbean, South America, Africa & Asia, South Pacific, Alaska Cruises, Canada & New England on an intimate Oceania Cruise ship. Australia whose name comes from the Latin word australis, meaning "southern", has a population of 23,480,939 and gained its independence in 1901.. The initial inhabitants of Australia traveled here from far-southeast Asia, and from the Torres Strait islands. From their initial settlements in the north some 70,000 years ago, their individual lifestyles and cultural traditions eventually spread ...Oceania (UK: / ˈ ɔː s i ː ˈ n i ː , ˈ ɔː ˈ i -, - ˈ e ː n -, / ˈ ɔː ˈ i ː ˈ æ n i ː / (), / - ˈ ˈ n - /) is a geographic region comprising Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Spanning the eastern and western hemispheres, Oceania covers an area of 8,525,989 square kilometres (3,291,903 sq mi) and has a population of 40 million. Situated in the southeast of the Asia ...