

## *Australia Escapes*

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G'day,

Thank you for allowing us to assist you in planning your holiday to Australia. Here is a little information about Australia that we think you will find useful and interesting.

- **HAVE YOU PURCHASED TRAVEL INSURANCE TO PROTECT YOUR TRAVEL INVESTMENT?**
- **\*ALWAYS REVIEW** all documents immediately to make sure they are correct.
- **Visas and Passports:** Travelers to Australia need a valid passport or similar certificate of identification. *Everyone*, except travelers with Australian or New Zealand passports, requires a visa or an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) to enter Australia. Passport holders must hold a visa or ETA before traveling to Australia. **ETA's are available online now for... Tourists** (multiple visits with a maximum stay of three months per visit), and **Short Stay Business Travelers** (a single entry business visit for a maximum of three months). To apply for an Internet ETA you will need a current valid passport for each traveler and a valid credit card. Your application will be processed while you are on-line and the ETA is issued electronically within seconds. You will be informed of the result of your application before you leave the Internet ETA system. To apply for an ETA online go to [www.eta.immi.gov.au](http://www.eta.immi.gov.au) .
- Make sure your names we have for you are your legal names as they appear on your birth certificate/drivers license. **NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF THEY ARE NOT!** We suggest making two photocopies of all tickets, and travel documents. When you travel, keep one with you in a safe and different place than the originals.
- **\*DUE TO THE AIRLINES MAKING NUMEROUS SCHEDULE CHANGES**, Always Reconfirm All Flights, Seat Assignments, Frequent Flyer Number, Luggage Allowance And Weight Restrictions, 24-48 Hours Prior To Your Departure. You will find a list of airlines with their reservation numbers in our password protected Client Only website: [www.mccoyescapes.com/client/](http://www.mccoyescapes.com/client/). Your user name is "travel" and the password is "info1". In this site you can also preview some of the important information we will be sending you. Just follow the links to your destination. If you will be enjoying certified diving once you reach your destination, make sure you bring your Dive Card and Log Book with you. Do not schedule a dive within the preceding 24 hours of a flight.
- Frequent Flyer Numbers: **Always** make sure you bring your frequent flyer numbers with you and **reconfirm** they are in the record when you check in for your initial flights. We want you to earn those free miles so please pay attention to this.

### ***SOME AUSTRALIA FACTS:***

***Health Regulations:*** Vaccinations are not required unless you are coming from, or visited a yellow fever infected country or zone within six days before arrival. No other health certificate is required to enter Australia. For more information see [Department of Health and Aged Care](#) and [World Health Organisation](#).

***International Airports:*** Alice Springs, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne Airports are connected with domestic terminals. Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Sydney are separate from domestic terminals. All have shopping, dining, banking, currency exchange, disabled access, hotel reservation facilities, tourist information desks, major car rental companies and showers. Transfers between the airport and city center are available by taxi, shuttle bus and rail in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

***Customs:*** Australia has strict laws prohibiting or restricting the entry of drugs, steroids, weapons, firearms, protected wildlife and associated products. If you are not sure, declare it to Customs upon arrival.

**Quarantine:** Australia has strict quarantine regulations. Australia is free from many pests and diseases found elsewhere in the world. It's vital that you declare any food, plant or animal items upon arrival, including fresh and packaged food, fruit, eggs, meat, vegetables, seeds, animals, wood and plants. You can dispose of these items at bins found in international airports. For further information see the [Australian Quarantine Inspection Service](#).

**Tax Free/Duty Free:** Each traveler over 18 years of age can bring into Australia 1125ml of alcoholic liquor and 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco products duty/tax free. For other goods, including those intended as gifts, a duty/tax-free allowance of \$A400 per person or \$A200 per person under 18 is available. These articles must accompany you through Customs and cannot be intended for commercial purposes.

**Cash and foreign currency:** If you bring in or take out of Australia more than \$A10,000 cash or the equivalent in foreign currency (travelers checks excluded), you must declare it to Customs. Failure to do is an offense.

**Medications:** Medicines brought into Australia are subject to strict controls and should be declared on arrival. It is advisable to have a letter or prescription from your doctor describing your medical condition and the medication.

**Luggage inspection:** Luggage and handbags may be inspected before passengers board domestic and international flights. Also upon arrival into Australia all luggage may be inspected. You need to declare all quarantine items, otherwise you may be fined or prosecuted. For further information please see [Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs](#).

**Passenger Movement Charge:** Australia's Passenger Movement Charge (departure tax) is \$A38 per person and is pre-paid with your international airline ticket. Exemptions apply to children under 12 years old and 24 hour transit passengers. There can be other government, airport and sea taxes and levies applicable, which are usually included in your ticket.

**Currency:** The monetary unit of Australia is the Australian Dollar. Accepted credit cards are American Express, Bankcard, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa and JCB. Banks and various locations have ATMs. Your credit cards may need to be enabled for international access so contact your credit card provider. Changing foreign currency or traveler's checks can be done at international airports and most banks.

**Time zones:** There are three time zones in Australia, from east to west. Eastern Standard Time (EST) New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. Central Standard Time (CST) South Australia and Northern Territory. Western Standard Time (WST) Western Australia. CST is half an hour behind EST, while WST is two hours behind EST.

**Climate:** Australia is a vast country that has a wide range of climates. In the Australian winter you can ski in the southern states one day and be diving in the balmy waters of the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland the next.

**Clothing Suggestions:** Keep clothing light, layered and comfortable to cater for whatever you want to do. Protect yourself against the sun - don't forget to pack hats, sunglasses and suntan lotion. The seasons in Australia are the opposite of northern hemisphere. Summer months (December to February) are warm to hot. Bring lightweight clothes, but keep a jacket or sweater handy as nights may be cool. Winter months (June to August), wear warmer clothes plus sweaters, jumpers, a jacket or light coat. In the tropical areas, lightweight cotton clothing is suitable all year round. For special occasions like business meetings, theaters and formal dining, men may need a jacket and tie or suit and women a more formal dress.

**Electricity:** The electrical current in Australia is 220-240 volts, AC 50Hz. The Australian three-pin power outlet is different from some other countries so you may need an adaptor. If your appliances are 110V, you may need a voltage converter. Universal outlets for 240V or 110V shavers are found in leading hotels.

**Telephones:** Australia has a modern telephone system where you can make local calls, long-distance calls within Australia (STD), and International Direct Dialing (IDD) calls. Local calls from public payphones are not timed and charged at \$A0.40. Long distance and international calls are timed. Public payphones accept Australian coins and some accept credit cards and pre-paid phone cards.

**Mobile phones:** Mobile phones are available for rent, or bring your mobile phone with you. Australia's mobile network operates on the 900 and 1800 bands for GSM and 800 for CDMA. Contact your carrier for activating international roaming while you are visiting Australia.

**Email and Internet:** Internet and email access is available at Internet cafes, hotels, hostels and libraries. Australia uses RJ-45 telephone plugs and Telstra EXI-160 four-pin plugs. If your connection is not correct, a local electronic shop can help. Also check that your PC-card modem works in Australia.

**Postal services:** Post offices are open 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday with some city post offices open on Saturday morning. Stamps are available from hotels and motels, and selected retail outlets. Travelers can collect mail at post offices throughout Australia. Mail is held for 30 days free of charge and should be marked 'Poste Restante'. A passport is required when collecting mail.

**For More Information:** Visit [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com) for more great information on Australia.

Avabonzatime,  
Management and Staff  
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