









Traveler's Name:	Your Name Here	Departure Date:	2008-10-09
		Return Date:	2008-10-25

AUSTRALIA

Last Updated: 2008-09-21

[Click here for the most up to date Alerts and Advisory for this destination.](#)

-  **TRAVEL ALERTS** = Disaster  = Warning  = Caution  = Info
-  7/10 - 7/10 Computer automated terminal check-in systems at several airports in Australia have experienced a significant failure. Some flights at Brisbane Airport, Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport, Hobart International Airport and Gold Coast Airport were forced to cancel after the check-in system completely went down. Delays expected within the next 24 hours.
 -  7/10 - 7/10 Qantas Airbus A330-300 flying from Singapore to Perth with 313 people on board landed at Learmonth Airport near Exmouth after making a mayday call. [Details](#)
 -  3/10 - 3/10 Shortage of air traffic controllers is causing significant flight delays at Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport.
 -  22/9 - 22/9 Authorities warn central Sydney that a storm is coming and violent winds, hail and dust is expected. [Details](#)
 -  22/9 - 22/9 Rates of HIV infection in Australia have increased by almost 50%. [Details](#)

 **LOCAL CONTACT**

Embassy of Australia, Washington, DC.,
tel: (202) 797-3000,
<http://www.austemb.org>

Consulates General:

Los Angeles, tel: (310) 229-4800,
New York, tel: (212) 408-8400,
Chicago, tel: (312) 419-1480,
Atlanta, tel: (404) 880-1700,
Honolulu, tel: (808) 524-5050.

Australian Tourist Commission
Los Angeles CA
Telephone: +1 310 229 4870

Fax: +1 310 552 1215

<http://www.australia.com>

 **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

U.S. CITIZENS require a valid U.S. passport, valid for at least the entire length of stay in Australia. Americans must enter with an Australian visa or, if eligible, through Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). The ETA replaces a visa and allows a stay of up to three months. It may be obtained for a small service fee at <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au>. Airlines and many travel agents in the United States are also able to issue ETA 676. An onward or return ticket is also required.

All Visitors are strongly recommended to hold a return/onward ticket; sufficient funds to cover their stay; and all documents required for next destination.

NON U.S. CITIZENS: Residents of the United States of other nationalities such as landed immigrants are responsible for being in possession of their required travel documents, a valid passport. A visa may also be required. Check with the Consulate/Embassy or go to [Timatic](#)

The U.S. State Department strongly recommends that U.S. Citizens traveling to, or living in a foreign country register with the U.S. Government, through the State Department's travel registration website; [Travel Registration](#)

All children regardless of age (including newborns and infants) must have their own passport.

Minors travelling alone will require a passport, visa, where applicable, and other travel documentation in order to travel abroad. Check with Embassy or Consulate for required documentation.

In an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points. These often include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent(s) or legal guardian if not present. Having such documentation on hand, even if not required, may facilitate entry/departure.

It is the sole prerogative of each country to determine who is allowed to enter.

Same-sex marriages are legal in some countries, however, many countries do not recognize them. Attempting to enter as a same-sex married couple may result in refusal by local officials.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ENTRY REQUIREMENTS may result in being refused entry into the country and deportation of passenger on the same aircraft or first available flight.

To order or renew your passport, go to http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html or contact the National Passport Information Center.

National Passport Information Center
Toll free: 1-877-4USA-PPT(1-877-487-2778)
TDD/TTY: 1-888-874-7793
e-mail: npic@state.gov

HEALTH & MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

Routine immunizations should be up-to-date (i.e. tetanus-diphtheria, polio, etc.).

Ross River virus (RRV) and Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) can occur in Australia. Ross River virus is a mosquito-borne virus native to Australia. RRV is found in all States and Territories of Australia, but occurs more often in the northern States and in coastal areas. It generally results in a self-limiting flu-like illness but occasionally causes longer term joint pain and fatigue. Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE), also known as Australian encephalitis, is a mosquito-borne virus known to occur throughout Australia, but especially in the Top End of the Northern Territory and northwest Western Australia.

Visitors are permitted to bring reasonable quantities of prescribed (non-narcotic) medications. They should ensure they are clearly labeled and identifiable. For large quantities it is advisable to bring a doctor's certificate to produce to Customs if necessary and to an Australian doctor if required.

For more health information, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/notices.aspx> and <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

CUSTOMS IMPORT: DUTY FREE IMPORT

Visitors over the age of 18 years may import: 250 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco products and 1 liter of alcoholic beverages. Other dutiable goods to the value of \$A400 for adults (and \$A200 for children under 18 years) may be included in personal baggage, duty free.

U.S. EMBASSIES/CONSULATES

U.S. Embassy, Moonah Place, Canberra,
Australian Capital Territory 2600,
tel: (61)(2) 6214-5600, fax: 6273-3191,
<http://canberra.usembassy.gov/>

U.S. Consulate General, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney,

tel: (61)(2) 9373-9200, fax: 9373-9184,
emergency service tel: 4422-2201,
<http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/sydney>

U.S. Consulate General, 553 St. Kilda Rd., Melbourne,
tel: (61)(3) 9526-5900, fax: 9525-0769,
emergency service tel: 9389-3601.
<http://Melbourne.usconsulate.gov/Melbourne/index.html>

U.S. Consulate General, 16 St. Georges Terrace, Perth,
tel: (61)(8) 9202-1224, fax: 9231-9444,
emergency service tel: 9476-0081,
<http://perth.usconsulate.gov/perth/index.html>

LOCAL LAWS CUSTOMS AND RESTRICTIONS

As a visitor to any country you are not exempt from its laws, both civil and criminal and you cannot expect to receive special treatment. Your dress, general behavior and appearance may have to conform to local standards. You must be 18 years or older to buy or consume alcohol in public. Tourists may drive in Australia on a valid overseas driver's license for the same class of vehicle (licenses must be carried when driving in addition to a

valid passport). For long term stays over 90 days, visitors must obtain an Australian driver's license. Traffic drives on the left. Seat belts are compulsory and must be worn by drivers and passengers at all times. Strict drinking-driving laws apply. You must be over 21 years of age in order to rent a car (some companies have a minimum age of 25 years). A premium may be charged for drivers under 25. Hitchhiking is illegal in some states and is strongly discouraged throughout Australia.

Drug laws are strictly enforced. Criminal penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are strict and convicted offenders can expect severe jail sentences and fines.

WARNINGS

For a list of permitted and prohibited items in carry-on baggage and on board an aircraft visit:

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>

CHARACTERISTICS

The continent-nation of Australia is located between the Indian and the Pacific oceans. Its nearest neighbor is Papua New Guinea to the north. It is distinguished by its geographical isolation and its unique flora and fauna which that isolation has fostered.

GENERAL

Australia's crime rate is low. However, foreign visitors from the U.S. or elsewhere are targets for pick-pockets, purse snatchers and petty thieves. Automobile burglaries and theft of personal belongings also occur. Roads and streets are frequently more narrow and less graded than U.S. highways. Outside the major metropolitan areas, most highways are two-lane roads with significant distances between destinations. When driving in rural areas, particularly in the Northern Territory where there are no speed limits, drivers should be cautious of free roaming animals and road trains (several semi-truck trailers hooked together). It is dangerous to pass road trains and it is advisable to pull-over and allow on-coming road trains to pass to avoid being sideswiped.

It is recommended that you do not place valuables in your luggage, due to possible theft. Keep valuables in your hand luggage

For Facts, maps and more info visit:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>

MAJOR AIRPORTS

SYDNEY - Kingsford Smith Int'l Airport is 10 km from the city. BRISBANE - Brisbane Int'l Airport is 11 km from the city. PERTH - Perth Int'l Airport is 20 km from the city. CAIRNS - Cairns Int'l Airport is 6 km from the city. MELBOURNE - Tullamarine Int'l Airport is 19 km from the city. ADELAIDE - Adelaide Airport is 6 km from the city.

For more airport information and to view a map, visit: <http://www.worldairportguide.com/>

CLIMATE

Spring in Australia is Sep-Nov, Summer is Dec-Feb, Fall is Mar-May and winter Jun-Aug. The climate is generally pleasant without extremes in temperatures. About 40% of Australia is in the tropical zone (above the Tropic of Capricorn). The remaining areas lie in the temperate zone. The temperate regions experience all four seasons while those in the tropical zone have two (summer wet and winter dry).

The following temperatures are for Sydney:

October Min. 13 Max. 22
November Min. 16 Max. 23
December Min. 17 Max. 25<br

CURRENCY

Australian Dollar(AUD). There are currency exchange facilities available for all incoming and outgoing flights at all international airports. Traveler's checks should be cashed at banks or larger hotels as it may be difficult elsewhere. Some banks may charge a small fee for this service. The use of credit cards may be restricted in smaller towns, country areas and small retail shops.

Currency import-export restrictions: The import and export of local and foreign currencies are free. Amounts over \$AUD10,000 must be declared in an international currency transfer report Reporting forms are available from the Australian Customs Service at ports and airports. Export of local currencies AUD in cash amounts in excess of AUD 2,000 must have reserve bank approval.

For information on currency conversion and trends, visit: <http://www.oanda.com/>.

ELECTRICITY

240/250 volts, AC 50Hz with a 3 pin power outlet. A plug adapter is required. If you do not have dual voltage appliances, a voltage converter will also be required. Universal outlets for 240V or 110V shavers are usually found in leading hotels.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

2008-12-25 Christmas Day (Australia wide)
2008-12-26 Boxing Day (Australia wide)<br

DRIVING AND REGULATIONS

For an application for an International Driving Permit, visit http://www.aaanne.com/travel/idp_form1.asp

CRUISING

For cruise travel safety, health and security tips from the International Council of Cruise Lines, visit <http://www.iccl.org/>

USEFUL LINKS

For our Travel Resource Center, go to <http://www.eTravelAdvisories.com/code/resource.asp>

BUSINESS HOURS

BANKING HOURS: Banks are generally open Mon-Thur 0930-1600, Fri 0930-1700. In some states, selected banking facilities are available on Saturday morning.

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 0900-1700.

SHOPPING HOURS: Shopping hours vary from state to state. Generally, Mon-Fri 0900-1730, Sat 0900-1600. In major cities, stores usually stay open until 2100 one night a week.

BANKING HOURS

Visa ATM Locateur;

<http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/jsp/SearchPagejsp>

Mastercard ATM Locateur;

<http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/index.html>

SHOPPING

Australian opals and other precious or semiprecious stones, woolen sweaters, leather goods, Aboriginal art, Akubra hats and boomerangs are all popular buys.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

FOOD: Many restaurants are BYO (Bring Your Own Wine or Beer). In Australia, an entree means the appetizer and the main course is called the main course - helpings are generous. Devonshire tea is popular (tea accompanied by scones with fresh cream and jam). Pavlova, a rich dessert of meringue, fresh fruit and whipping cream, was invented here. Try the local seafood specialties - Barramundi is a favorite.

BEVERAGES: Beer is the most popular drink and brands vary from state to state. Australian wines are excellent and affordable.

TIPPING

Tipping is not the general custom. Service charges are not added to hotel and restaurant bills. In better-class restaurants, it is usual to tip food and drink waiters up to 10% of the bill for good service. Taxi drivers do not expect to be tipped but will happily accept a small gratuity. Porters at airports, and hairdressers do not expect tips but visitors may do so if they wish. At railway terminals, porters have set charges, but not at hotels. At any time, tipping is your choice.

RE-ENTRY

U.S. Citizens require proof of U.S. citizenship (eg. a valid passport). Residents of the United States of other nationalities, such as landed immigrants, require proof of status, eg. Landed Immigrant Stamp, student visa, etc.

INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you purchase travel insurance from your travel agent. Health plans only provide limited coverage while traveling outside of the country. Your travel agent can offer you a complete travel insurance package. Some credit cards do offer travel insurance, however they do not always provide adequate coverage. Review and understand the terms of your credit card insurance policy. Extra travel insurance can be purchased.

Most insurance companies do have exclusions in their coverages. Pre-existing medical conditions are not insurable. High risk activities such as skydiving, parachuting, and bunji jumping are also not covered by the insurance.

Understand the complete insurance coverage you have before travelling out of the country.

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