

📍 Koala at dusk

Trip Notes: Australia

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelers to Australia must hold a valid US passport with a minimum of six months beyond your date of return travel is required AND an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) is required to enter Australia. An ETA does not guarantee your entry into Australia, and it is the traveler's responsibility to divulge any information pertaining to, but not limited to, a criminal record, health records and all other reasons that may impede your entry into Australia. Travel Answers accepts no responsibility for inaccurate or false information.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- Download the Australian ETA app for free from the App Store (Apple) or Google Play store (Android). For more information see Apply Using the Australian ETA app.
- In most cases, you will be notified of the result of your application immediately. Sometimes there will be a delay (of up to 12 hours).
- Passengers traveling to Australia and transiting in New Zealand will require an NZeTA in addition to an Australian ETA.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Australia has multiple time zones. Australian Eastern Standard Time is 16 hours ahead for Eastern Standard Time and 19 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

CURRENCY

The official currency is the Australia dollar (AUD). Australia does not limit the amount of currency you can take into the country, but you will need to declare amounts over AU\$10,000. Find out more and obtain a reporting form on the AUSTRAC website at www.austrac.gov.au/travellers.

For current exchange rates, please visit www.xe.com/ucc/.

VACCINATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to Australia.

LANGUAGE

English is the national language of Australia. As a result of Australia's multiculturalism, you may also hear Mandarin, Arabic, Italian and many other languages.



📍 Sydney Opera House



📍 Uluru



📍 Kangaroo

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards are widely accepted but expect fees to be imposed for use. Check with your bank prior to traveling as to which Australian banks allow ATM withdrawals for free.

A credit card is required as a security deposit to check in to a hotel or rent a car.

POWER

Australia uses a standard electrical supply of 230 Volts (V) and 50 Hertz (Hz) frequency, with most areas transitioning to 230V while some, particularly Western Australia, remain at 240V (which is generally compatible). Devices need a Type I plug adapter (three flat pins in a triangle) to fit Australian sockets. Most modern electronics are dual-voltage (100-240V), but older or single-voltage appliances (like many US hair dryers) may need a voltage converter.

CLIMATE

Australia's seasons are the opposite of the Northern Hemisphere. The northern third of the country is tropical, while southern regions are temperate. Australia is the same size as the continental US, so summer and winter climates vary from area to area. Note that the months of December, January and February are humid, hot, and often rainy in the tropics.

PHONES

To dial Australia from the US: 011 + 61 + number.
To dial the US from Australia: 0011 + 1 + number.

TIPPING

Tipping is not generally a custom in Australia. Most Australians will either round the amount or simply leave the change. When visiting formal places, it is becoming customary to leave about 10% if you feel the service is worthy.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Australia is generally safe with low violent crime, but travelers should take normal precautions against petty theft in cities, be vigilant for terrorism and be aware of specific natural hazards like strong UV, dangerous marine life (seasonal), and remote wilderness dangers, while also practicing good road safety with strict speed limits and awareness of wildlife like kangaroos and road-trains.

SHOPPING

You'll find large department stores, arcades, malls, gift, and souvenir shops across Australia. Hours vary across the country but shops in tourist and city areas are generally open until 6PM, except for late-night shopping on either Thursdays or Fridays in different states. Australia has a Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10 percent. You may be able to claim a refund for the GST paid on goods if you have spent AUD\$300 or more with a single business, no more than 60 days before departing Australia. Tourist Refund Scheme facilities are in the departure area of international terminals.



Great Barrier Reef



Wombat



Bungle Bungle Ranges

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

For an Australian packing list, focus on sun protection (hat, SPF 50+ reef-safe sunscreen, sunglasses), versatile clothing (layers, shorts, light pants, swimmers), comfortable walking/hiking shoes, insect repellent, and essentials like a reusable water bottle, daypack, and any personal medications, remembering Australia's intense sun and varied climates, plus packing cubes for organization and adapting for seasons.

ETIQUETTE

Australian etiquette centers on being casual, friendly, and fair, valuing modesty, equality, and directness, but with an emphasis on queuing, punctuality (especially in business), using first names quickly, and being respectful in public spaces, including giving a "fair go" to everyone. Key points include firm handshakes, avoiding intrusive questions (salary, age), saying "please/thank you," cleaning up after yourself (especially at BBQs), and understanding the "stand on the left, walk on the right" rule on escalators and footpaths.

DRIVING

Australians drive on the left-hand side of the road. The speed limit is usually 60km/hour (35mph) in built up areas and 100km/hour (60mph) on rural roads and freeways. Seat belts must always be worn and talking on a cellphone is an offense.

Your driver's license needs to be in English with a photograph; if not, then an International Driver's License will be required.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026

- 1 January - **New Year's Day**
- 26 January - **Australia Day**
- 3 April - **Good Friday**
- 6 April - **Easter Monday**
- 25 April - **ANZAC Day (observed 27 April)**
- 25 December - **Christmas Day**
- 26 December - **Boxing Day (observed 28 December)**

In addition, Australia has several holidays that are declared by the State and Territory Governments.

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Australia](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)