



W O R K I N G H O L I D A Y V I S A



# AUSTRALIA

## Backpackers Guide

/ PREPARE YOUR TRIP

/ MUST SEES ACROSS THE CONTINENT

/ FIND A JOB IN AUSTRALIA

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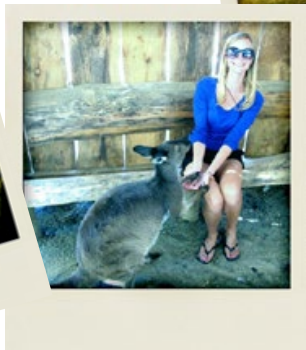
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CLICK & GO







# PREFACE

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Dear Reader,

First of all, thank you for purchasing this guide! This means that you too are about to set off on a superb adventure. So Congratulations! And read on...

Having had this experience ourselves, we wanted to summarize in this guide all the information that we searched for, before and during our trip. This guide is designed for those who want to travel and work in Australia on a limited budget. With a very practical approach, it will help you choose your destinations.

Since the Working Holiday Visa was launched, more and more under 30s take off for Australia. There are almost 150,000 Backpackers going to Australia each year (with almost 70,000 from the UK, Republic of Ireland, USA and Canada).

As large as Europe, this country has always awakened passion and curiosity, and with only 24 million inhabitants in a total area of 7 million square kilometres, what better place could you choose if you dream of freedom and space?

For us it's obvious, and has been for a long time.

Launched in 2011, we wrote The Backpackers Guide throughout our almost 2-year roadtrip in Australia. Since then, now living permanently in Australia, we update it and add to it regularly with the help of backpackers. This 6th edition is the result of our research in the field, as well as contributions from other backpackers currently travelling.

Happy reading to you all, and welcome aboard the memory machine that is AUSTRALIA!

# AUSTRALIA

IN SUMMARY

85% 2.8%

OF THE POPULATION LIVES  
< 50KM FROM THE SEA !

OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION  
ARE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (2018)

AU = GB x 31

AUSTRALIA HAS OVER 7 MILLION KM<sup>2</sup>, MORE THAN  
31 TIMES THE SURFACE AREA OF GREAT BRITAIN

40 000 000  
KANGAROOS

ESTIMATED NUMBER IN AUSTRALIA  
- VS ONLY 23 MILLION HUMAN BEINGS!

1/4  
1 RESIDENT IN FOUR HAS  
FORIEGN ANCESTRY

# 2 MILLION KM<sup>2</sup>

OF LAND IN THE CONTINENT'S HEART IS COVERED BY FOUR DESERTS

April 2019:

**\$1 USD = \$1.40 AUD**

**£1 GBP = \$1.83 AUD**

# 1770

JAMES COOK WEIGHED ANCHOR  
OFF THE AUSTRALIAN COAST

# THE LARGEST, FLATTEST & DRIEST ISLAND IN THE WORLD

**P O P U L A T I O N**

**5217**

**3 765 339**

**8 307 481**

**24 948 823**

**1800**

**1900**

**1950**

**2019**





# HISTORY

«IT'S A STRANGE  
PLACE»

LET'S SEE WHERE IT ALL STARTED...

# IT'S A STRANGE PLACE

## — LET'S SEE WHERE IT ALL STARTED...

The history of Australia's discovery is probably one of the most extreme in the world. Since Ancient times, when the Greek geographer Ptolemy suspected the existence of an unknown continent, the mythical "Terra Australis" has intrigued many.

The island's extreme landscapes have no doubt contributed to its story. At first glance, this arid land seemed to offer nothing, so was passed over by the first explorers, and the oldest of the 5 continents was the last to be colonised.

The original inhabitants of Australia are the aborigines. The first traces of their settlement date back to over 50,000 years ago when they arrived from Asia, taking advantage of the melting ice across the globe.

Historians estimated that there were around 300,000 aboriginal people spread across the island when the first colonizers arrived in 1778. The aborigines had very little, if any, contact with neighbouring lands, which helps to explain Australia's late discovery.

## DISCOVERY OF THE CONTINENT

The first visitors were probably Chinese navigators setting foot on Australian soil in the 11th century, but there is no real proof of their presence. It is only from the 16th century that European explorers, in particular the Portuguese, began to arrive. In 1606, Luis Vaéz de Torres was the first European to cross the strait separating New Guinea from Australia. He gave the strait his name, but just missed the continental island....

The first proven landing was the Dutchman, Willem Janz, who in 1606 weighed anchor on the West coast of the island on the way to Java. He found neither gold nor spices, and in his journal, described the land as "desert, peopled by savages". It was several decades before this mysterious southern land was revisited.

In 1642, Abel Tasman came across the South coast of Tasmania. At the end of the same century, the Englishman William Dampier, landed in the North of Australia to explore, but like his predecessors, he was not interested in such arid land.

French explorers also had a role to play in the discovery of Australia. In 1766, Bougainville decided to make sail for the Great Land in the south. He was stopped by the Great Barrier Reef and went north, not knowing that he had narrowly missed Australia.

Finally, in 1770 the English captain, James Cook, at the command of the Endeavour, dropped anchor on the South-East coast of Australia. From a modest family, he started his career as a simple sailor and became one of the most important English captains.

Two botanists had embarked as members of the crew on the Endeavour. They quickly discovered a number of important plants and animals in the bay, which was therefore named Botany Bay.

Several months later, Cook planted the English flag on Possession Island, claiming the East Coast of Australia as the property of King George III. He baptised it New South Wales.



# COLONISATION & EXPLORATION

In the 18th Century, the industrial revolution in England resulted in a large increase in urban population, and unfortunately also an increase in crime. Traditionally this problem was solved by execution, imprisonment or deportation. Between 1615 and 1775, almost 50,000 men, women and children were deported to North America to relieve congestion in English prisons. However, after the war of American Independence (1775 – 1783), England lost this colony. Temporary prisons were built on the Thames, but were soon overcrowded. It became urgent to find new territories to send London's criminals.

## Deportation to Australia

In 1788, after 8 months at sea, the first English fleet of 11 boats loaded with almost 750 convicts, landed at Botany Bay.

This area, contrary to the description given by Cook, was not suitable for permanent settlement as there was no drinking water, so the fleet set off again to explore the coasts further north.

Animals, convicts and soldiers disembarked in Port Jackson bay, 20km further north (today known as Sydney Harbour).

In February 1788 they flew the British colours, and the colony of New South Wales was born.

Captain Arthur Phillip officially took up his post as the first governor of the new colony. He attempted to establish amicable relations with the natives, who through fear had avoided all contact with these men from far away. However, the diseases brought from Europe spread rapidly through the aboriginal tribes and ravaged their population.

As early as 1789, the settlers captured aboriginals to try and communicate with them. In the colony, they soon went hungry, because the wheat would not grow and the animals escaped into the bush. In 1790, a new fleet bringing convicts and provisions arrived in the bay and saved the colony.

Gradually, the soldiers and new free migrants took aboriginal lands by force, and the colony spread to the West, contained only by the impressive Blue Mountains.

## Exploring the continent

Matthew Flinders was the first to travel around Australia by sea, and in doing so proved that Australia was a single island.

In 1802 he studied the South coast of Australia and met two French boats belonging to the geographer Nicolas Baudin.

The next year, fearing the establishment of trading bases in Tasmania, the English took possession of the island.

In 1823 the Blue Mountains were crossed for the first time, finally making it possible to explore inland.

In 1827, England, worried by the presence of French fleets, took over Western Australia (WA).

Australia's two main coasts were now property of the crown, and therefore the English no longer had to fear a potential settlement by French colonizers.



## SOME HISTORY...

It was now possible to concentrate on exploring and discovering this new land.

Charles Sturt must be mentioned as heading up one of the most remarkable expeditions in Australian history. In 1829 he sailed down the Murray River, convinced he would find an inland sea. Instead, he had to backtrack and sail upriver against the current until Sydney, rowing more than 1000km in 47 days.

In 1841, Edward Eyre, his aboriginal guide Wilye and four other men, left Adelaide to follow the coast of the Great Australian Bight (the large open bay off the central and western portions of Australia's south coast) from East to West. Four and a half months later, after crossing the Nullarbor plains covering 2000km on foot, Eyre and Willy arrived in Albany.

Thanks to these discoveries, colonies gradually developed in the main Australian towns we are familiar with today, and in 1846 most of the Australian coastline had been discovered. However, the continent's interior remained a mystery.

In 1844, a Prussian named Leichhardt and 8 companions left Brisbane, and after 4 800km on foot, arrived in Darwin 14 months later.

Four years later, Leichhardt set off again to cross the continent in a cart, accompanied by five companions, two aborigines and some animals. The expedition disappeared and was never found again. This is one of the biggest enigmas of the Australian bush.

In 1860 Stuart McDouall made it to the centre of Australia from Adelaide and once and for all put an end to the myth of an interior sea.

In 1859, the South Australian Parliament offered an award for any successful north-south crossing of Australia. An expedition was organized in 1860 by R. Burke and J. Wills. They left Melbourne in August with men and camels imported from Afghanistan. Halfway into the journey some of the men established a camp and settled there. Burke and Wills pushed on north to set up a new camp on the edge of Lake Eyre. Then Burke sent for the men who had stayed further south. He heard nothing from them, and decided to continue north. He died on the return journey. Only one man from the expedition survived, saved by the aborigines.

The exploration of Australia was long, cost many human lives and was only completed in 1930.

Following the exploration and early development of these new lands, around 170 000 free settlers arrived in Australia in the 1840s. However, this young country still suffered from a bad reputation, and the colonies were soon to request the abolition of deportations, which became definitive in 1868.

## THE GOLD RUSH & GROWTH

The exploration of new territory and the massive arrival of free immigrants allowed rapid agricultural development of the land. However, from 1830, rivalry developed between farmers whose lots were granted to them by the Empire, and the new squatters, freely helping themselves to land. Further tensions came from the aborigines who were chased from their lands and pushed ever closer to the interior deserts.



## Gold is discovered

The discovery of gold in New South Wales was to shake the foundations of this fledgling society in 1851. The news spread rapidly, and soon, all the Australian colonies were prospecting for these magic nuggets.

The colony that is now Victoria was concerned that their growth would slow due to the

discovery of gold in NSW, so encouraged its population to prospect too. Soon, they also discovered the precious metal.

Since the ground, and what was under the ground, belonged to Britain, the administration sold operating licences to work the land, payable monthly. In exchange, the British Crown granted settlers concessions and provided secure transportation of the gold collected.

In 1852, the news had spread to the extent that around 95 000 foreigners, mainly Europeans and Americans, came to try their luck in Australia.

This population influx created a certain amount of social tension, and collecting taxes in mining camps became increasingly difficult. Not long after, miners refused to pay the tax and revolted.

This led to the « Eureka Stockade » rebellion of 1854, between State troops and the miners, who demanded the abolition of mining licences and the introduction of universal suffrage. Rebels built a barrier on the road to Melbourne, and flew the flag of the “Republic of Miners”.

In 1855, the governor defused the crisis by abolishing licences and giving the miners parliamentary representation. The Eureka Barricade won its place in history, representing the symbolic date for the birth of Australian politics.

Universal suffrage was then adopted a year later in 1856. In the years following, the colonies became autonomous, and some drew up their own constitutions. South Australian women were the first in the world to win the right to vote in 1896.

The gold rush brought with it rapid population growth and contributed to the industrialisation of Australia, but gold also led to the appearance of new bandits.

## The appearance of “bushrangers”

“Bushrangers” were outlaws. They plundered convoys of gold, travellers and even stole cattle. They hid in the bush to escape from the colonial police.

Bushrangers often gained the sympathy of the public and the admiration of workers through their acts of defiance towards political power. The people saw these groups of rebels as heroes stealing from the rich and protecting the poor from injustice.

One of the most famous bushrangers was Ned Kelly, born in 1855 in Victoria.

He became legend when he was killed in a gunfight by the policemen pursuing him.

Ned Kelly and his band were the first to attack entire towns and raid banks. In 1880, he was arrested after a shooting and condemned to be hanged.

Even today the famous bandit with the iron mask remains firmly anchored in Australian memories. His image is reproduced as figurines, accessories, and sometimes even tattoos!



SOME HISTORY...

# DID YOU KNOW?

How did explorers estimate the height of the mountains they climbed?

They boiled water and measured the temperature at which it boiled.

This varies according to air pressure. For example, at sea level water boils at 100°C, but at 280m above sea level it boils at 99°C.

The first explorers in Australia were convicts... They tried to escape to join a utopian camp, around 600km south of Sydney.

Camels were imported to Australia from India specifically for the Burke & Wills expedition.

The Burke and Wills expedition took with them 80 pairs of shoes, 20 beds, 30 camels and 57 buckets!

The explorers ate everything they could find: camels' feet, possums, kangaroos, dingos, crocodiles... Leichhardt's favourite was wallaby !

The explorers followed the tracks of native aborigines to find their way... knowing that they would lead somewhere!



Explorers soon learnt to identify signs of water.... When they saw birds they knew that water was not far away. They also followed tracks left by aborigines or looked for the smoke from camps, because when they aborigines made camp, there had to be water close by!

Convicts often took part in the early exploration of Australia as servants, for example in Leichhardt's expedition in 1844.

The first live kangaroo was sent to London in 1779.

Enormous crowds queued to admire this fabulous animal from the other side of the world!

When the white fellas left for unknown territory, they were often accompanied by aborigines, who were guides, hunters and the youngest were servants.

Explorers left signs behind them by marking trees. The most famous of all is "The Dig Tree" at Burke & Wills Camp in Cooper Creek, South Australia.

The 19th century explorations were not enough to identify all the plant species in Australia! In 2007, in WA, almost 1500 species were collected..... not one had already been identified by scientists!

# AUSTRALIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY

## Towards independence

In the 1890s the 6 colonies in place at that time did not get on well. However, following an economic crisis they united and became a federation in 1901. On 1st January 1901 the Australian Commonwealth constitution came into existence after years of negotiations.

Between 1901 and 1911, the temporary capital was Melbourne. The states of Victoria and New South Wales, long term rivals, both wanted to have the capital city on their territory.

In 1908, in order to end this quarrel once and for all, the new capital was established in an independent territory situated at an equal distance between the towns of Sydney and Melbourne. The final capital was built and took the aboriginal name of Canberra.

## Australia in the First World War

Despite its independence, Australia kept close ties with Great Britain, and when war was declared with Germany in 1914, Australia immediately entered into the conflict in support of Britain. Almost 416 000 Australians were sent to Europe to fight alongside their allies.

In February 1915, the allies declared war on Turkey, which had chosen to side with Germany. The ANZAC (Australian & New Zealand Army corps) received the order to join with Allied forces and landed at Gallipoli on 25th April.

After 8 months of combat with no major advance, the decision was made to evacuate the Gallipoli peninsula. Around 8 700 dead and 19 000 wounded were counted on the Australian side. This battle was the 'baptism of fire' for Australia, and each year, Anzac Day commemorates the 25th April to honour the bravery of these soldiers.

Australians also set out to fight in France from 1916. They had already suffered significant losses after a few months due to the cold, the living conditions in the trenches and enemy attacks. In July 1916, Australia lost 23 000 soldiers in the battle of the Somme.

Australian soldiers played an important role in the end of the war, especially at the battle of Amiens, and in particular their routing defeat of the Turks at Damascus.

The outcome of the First World War was grim for Australia, with around 226 000 soldiers killed or wounded, representing the highest ratio of victims for the number of combatants (65%) in the entire British Commonwealth army.

## The Great Depression

The world economic crisis of 1929 struck hard in Australia, a country heavily dependent on exports. Nearly one third of the population was out of work, plunging families into poverty. The Australian Labour party won the elections but was incapable of coping with the crisis. In 1931, it handed over to the Conservative party which stayed in power for the next 10 years. Australia gradually recovered from the crisis by the end of the 30s.

Successive governments adopted conciliatory policies towards Japan in order to ensure a certain level of exports. However, worried by the expansionist ambitions of the Japanese the government decided in 1937 to implement a programme of rearmament.

## Australia in the Second World War

In 1939, when Great Britain declared war on Germany, again Australia immediately entered into the conflict in their support.

While the armies fought in Europe, the Japanese gained ground in Asia, so the Anzacs were sent to curb the Japanese attacks.

In 1941, following the raid on Pearl Harbour, Australia declared war on Japan. Aware of

its vulnerability, the country looked to a new protector and requested the support of the United States. In 1942 Australia was attacked on its own territory during the Darwin and Broome bombings.

In May of the same year, the Japanese were pushed back by an American-Australian fleet in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Battle of Midway not long after, put an end to the threat of Japanese invasion.

Australia then participated in the liberation of Papua, and several islands such as Borneo and Timor.

The Second World War finished with heavy losses for Australia: out of the 550 000 men engaged in the conflict 10 000 were lost on the Western front, and almost 17 000 in Asia.

## The postwar period...

In 1947, Australia launched a large-scale immigration policy to compensate for the dearth of workers after the war. Around 70 000 European migrants came to settle in Australia each year to bolster economic progress. The 98% British Australian society of the time was to change forever.

This population increase contributed to the country's remarkable expansion in the 1950s and 60s. Known as the "Golden Age of Australia", the country's economy soared during this period, following the discovery of new mineral deposits and the arrival of numerous immigrants who participated in the major projects launched across the country.

Thanks to a strong economy, the living standards of Australian families significantly increased, to arrive in 1965 at the highest living standard on the planet after the USA. During this same period, aboriginal revolts occurred, to obtain recognition of their rights to own ancestral land, and equal civil rights. In 1967, they were finally granted citizenship and the right to vote by referendum.

In 1973, Australia was hit by the oil crisis with high inflation and a significant increase in unemployment. The country entered into a recession marked by political instability. Australia began to target Asia in its trading, and in 1978 signed a trade agreement making

Japan its primary partner. Despite these actions, Australia could not avoid the negative economic impact of the world crisis, and the country only fully recovered in the 1990s.

## Australia since the 90s

In the 90s the desire for internal reconciliation grew stronger. A decision by the High Court in 1992 was crucial for the aboriginal people. In the Mabo vs Queensland affair, the Australian jurisdiction recognized the legitimacy of aboriginal land rights, rejecting the concept of Terra Nullius (according to which the continent was empty when the settlers arrived). Another judgement in 1996 angered farmers by recognizing the pastoral rights of an aboriginal tribe.

In 2007, the Prime Minister officially apologized for the mistreatment and injustices the aborigines have suffered over the past two centuries.

Economically, since 1993 when Australia had a 5% growth rate and decreasing unemployment, the country has succeeded in maintaining constant growth. The success of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 launched Australia into the 21st century with confidence. Currently, unemployment is low and inflation under control.

However, the Bali bombings in 2002 (88 Australian deaths) has increased the fear of terrorism in the country and the destructive bush fires in Canberra in 2003 and in SA in 2005 have impacted Australian morale.

Australia, like the rest of the world, must now face important questions such as how to maintain a stable economy, control immigration, conserve the natural environment, and tackle global warming.

The carbon tax on companies (\$23 per tonne of carbon) was recently introduced after years of debate.







# BEFORE YOU LEAVE

« **PACK EVERYTHING  
& FLY AWAY**

**YOU'LL BE FREE VERY SOON... »**

# PACK EVERYTHING & FLY AWAY

YOU'LL BE FREE VERY SOON...

## PREPARING YOUR DEPARTURE

*Useful tip: start preparing 6 months in advance if possible, 3 months at the latest. All contracts and administrative procedures (eg renewing your passport) require notice/take a certain amount of time, and if you do not leave enough you may have to pay more or even miss out!*

### Work

If you have a job, remember to check the notice period in your contract to resign in time. We advise you to leave your job in the best conditions possible – you never know, maybe there will be a job for you there when you get back! And if later you want to find a stable job in Australia, they will often ask for references from your previous employers at home.

### Flat/House

If you are renting, you should give the required notice to your landlord, from 1 – 3 months – check your contract.

### Change of address

Remember to inform your bank, your tax office, the Post Office (so they can forward your post) that you are changing address.

### Cancel your contracts

Cancel any contracts you have running, for example your telephone, internet... Check the

contracts as far in advance as you can so you know the terms and conditions. Then you can give them the notice period they request and avoid penalty payments etc as far as possible (although particularly for phone contracts these may be unavoidable...).

Watch out for contracts that are renewed automatically. In these cases you will need to inform the company in writing (send it recorded delivery to be sure), giving them the notice required in the contract, and well before the automatic renewal is scheduled to happen. You may need to do this up to a few months in advance... Sometimes moving abroad can justify ending your contract early (check the small print), so it is always worth asking!

For an example letter template to cancel contracts/change address for your telephone/internet suppliers, see [ANNEX1](#)

### JSA (UK)

If you are getting the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), you will need to contact your local Jobcentre before you leave the country. You can't get income-based JSA abroad.

## PAPERWORK

### Passport

A valid passport is mandatory to enter Australia.

Passports are delivered by the UK passport office and last 10 years.

You can obtain a passport either by queuing

up in person to submit your application at one of the passport offices in major cities, applying by post filling in forms picked up from your local post office (“Check and send” service available for postal applications from staff in many post office branches for <£10 to make sure you get it right first time), or online paying by credit/debit card then printing off and sending by post (no “check and send” service available if you complete online).

### FIRST ADULT PASSPORT

**WARNING:** it takes at least 6 weeks to get your first adult UK passport, and there is no quicker way to do it - the in-person urgent application procedure does not work for first-time passports!

Leave more time than this as the passport office does not guarantee how long it will take them to process your application and occasionally there can be delays. If you make mistakes on your form or if the application is incomplete they will send it back to you and you will need to start again (with another 6 weeks...). You can apply online or with a paper form. It will cost you £75.50 online, and £85 for a paper form (standard 34-page passport).

### RENEWING / REPLACING A PASSPORT

You can apply in person, online or by post (see “first adult passport” section above for more details), but renewal/replacement should only take around 3 weeks. Leave extra time though as this is not guaranteed. It costs £75.50 online, or £85 through the Post Office’s Passport Check and Send service.

Left it rather late....? Renew/replace your passport urgently (does not work for first time passports):

Book an appointment and go in person to a Passport Customer Service Centre (London, Liverpool, Peterborough, Glasgow, Newport, Belfast, Durham), and get your passport the same day (Premium service = £177), or delivered to your home within the week (Fast Track Service £142).

Check the website for times in each city. You are not guaranteed to get an appointment immediately, so you still need to book online in advance. For the documents you must send with your application or for any more information see: [www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports](http://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports)



## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Or call the Passport Adviceline:

Telephone: 0300 222 0000,

Textphone: 18001 0300 222 0222,

From outside the UK: +44 (0)300 222 0000.

Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, Saturday,

Sunday and public holidays, 9am to 5:30pm.

## Visa

A visa is mandatory to enter Australia.

The "Working Holiday Visa 417", is an option for 18-31 year-olds from the UK, Europe and Canada enabling you to travel across Australia and work during your trip.

To apply: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/417-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/417-)

**Since November 2018 Canadian and Irish citizens can apply for this visa up to 35 years old (inclusive).**

*Important tip : If you apply for the visa while you are 30, but turn 31 before a decision is made, the immigration might still grant you the visa.*

*If you are Canadian and Irish citizens and apply for the visa while you are 35, but turn 36 before a decision is made, the immigration might still grant you the visa.*

The WHV enables you to:

- Travel in Australia for 1 year leaving and re-entering Australia as many times as you want.
- Work in Australia (12 months maximum with the same employer in some areas).
- Study for up to 4 months.
- Apply for a second year visa if you meet the conditions.

For travellers over the age of 31 the only options are a 3-month tourist visa or a student visa.

The tourist visa is very easy to obtain: complete the online application and an E-visa is sent to your email address within 10 days. (We received ours a few hours after we completed the online form!)

Americans are able to get the "Work and Holiday Visa 462" which has the same benefits and requirements enabling you to live and work in Australia for a year except you cannot apply for a second year WHV.

To apply: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/462-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/462-)

## CONDITIONS TO OBTAIN YOUR FIRST WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

You must:

- be 18 to 31 years old when you apply
- have a valid passport
- not have any children under your responsibility
- be outside Australia when you apply
- not have already requested the same visa (there are different conditions to obtain a 2nd year visa)
- meet certain financial conditions (have enough money to live on during your stay). The official amount recommended is \$5000. In general they do not check up on this point, but it is recommended to go with this kind of budget anyway for your own comfort & security.
- meet certain conditions concerning your health (depending on your health status when you apply, they could ask you to go for medical checks (eg a chest X-ray) and you are asked to pay the costs for this.
- Purchase private health insurance (not checked but recommended).

## FEES

Online application :

- \$450 (+ 1.08% bank card fees for payments with Visa or Mastercard, +1,99% for American Express).
- Postal application: \$450 + \$80 administrative fee.

## HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

The WHV is delivered by the "Department of Immigration and Border Protection".

Applications are generally completed online but since May 2014 you can also apply by post, using an application (+\$80).

To apply online go to the Australian immigration website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing)

**WARNING:** *Don't use other websites! Some companies may offer to deliver your visa to you, but often the fees are higher.*

Online you need to create an account and fill in a questionnaire (approx 30 minutes).

1. Create an ImmiAccount on the immigration website, by selecting «Login to ImmiAccount».
2. You will receive an email with the title “Verify ImmiAccount Email Address”.
3. Click on the link in the email to confirm access to your account.
4. Click on “Login to ImmiAccount”
5. Click on “New Application”, then select “First Working Holiday Visa (417)”.
6. Fill in the online form.

If you have any questions you can write to: [eVisa.WHM.Helpdesk@immi.gov.au](mailto:eVisa.WHM.Helpdesk@immi.gov.au) quoting your transaction number (TRN).

**Useful tip:** Check your passport is valid for the entire duration of your stay in Australia. If you have to update your passport after submitting your WHV request, contact Immigration to give them your new passport details.

### THEN WHAT?

Once the application request is validated, you will receive a “Transaction Reference Number” (TRN) which you need to keep safely. Your request will be dealt with directly in Australia. The response time varies from 24 hours to a month, depending on whether Immigration checks up on anything or not. You can always check on your immi account the progress of your application.

### VALIDITY

If your application is successful, you will receive an email with the title : “Visa Grant Notification Application” saying “Applicant Approved”, and containing a file/dossier number and information about your visa. We strongly advise you to print this email and keep it safe. You do not have to go to Australia as soon as you receive your visa. You have 12 months to validate it by entering Australian territory. As soon as you enter, your visa is activated and is valid from that date for a duration of 12 months.

Your electronic visa (e-visa), is linked to your passport, so your passport will not be “stamped”.

If your visa application is refused, you will receive a reply stating the reasons for refusing. You cannot challenge their decision, and you

cannot be reimbursed the fees you paid for your application.

### MEDICAL TESTS

In certain cases, the Australian government may ask you to take medical tests (x-ray of lungs, HIV or hepatitis test etc.....). If this happens, you need to go to a medical provider accepted by Immigration and you must pay the costs. Visit Here is the list of accepted medical centres in the UK: [www.border.gov.au/Lega/Lega/Help/Location/united-kingdom](http://www.border.gov.au/Lega/Lega/Help/Location/united-kingdom)

### RENEWAL

The Working Holiday Visa is renewable once if you meet certain conditions (see PAGE 98).

### Driving licence

UK, Canadian and American driving licence holders can drive legally with their overseas licence in all Australian states except the Northern Territory. However, it is still recommended to obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) and it is also a quick and easy process, so we would recommend you take one with you for convenience (especially as you might decide to go to the NT at the last minute...!)

*Good to know:* in Northern Territory an International Driving Permit is mandatory even for English-language passport holders. The international driving permit is only valid for a 3-month stay in the NT. After 3 months you must apply to transfer your overseas licence to a NT licence – fees apply).

Foreign-language overseas licence holders must obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP), or an official translation by a certified translator. (It is easier to get an International Driving Permit...)

For more information on driving legally in Australia by State see: [www.austroads.com.au/drivers-vehicles/overseas-driver-licences](http://www.austroads.com.au/drivers-vehicles/overseas-driver-licences)

### APPLYING FOR AN IDP

You can either apply in person at the post office for only £5.50: [www.postoffice.co.uk/international-driving-permit](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/international-driving-permit) or apply by

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

post. There are several companies offering this service, including the AA (£8.50, leave at least 10 working days): <http://australia.gov.au/content/driving-with-an-overseas-licence>

You must send off an application including the following:

- Photocopy of your driving licence (both sides of the photocard).
- Photocopy of your passport ID page
- A recent passport photo signed on the back.
- The completed application form which can be downloaded online.
- A self-addressed envelope so they can send you back the International Driving Permit.

**Warning:** *do not send original documents!*

Make sure you still take your original driving licence with you and have it with you whenever you are driving. The international driving licence alone is not valid.

## FLIGHTS

**NB:** *It is recommended that you wait to receive your visa before buying your flight.*

### Companies

The main airlines are:

- [Qatar Airways](#)
- Emirates (stopover in Dubai)
- [Etihad](#) (stopover in Abu Dhabi)
- Vietnam Airlines
- Air France
- Singapore Airlines (stopover in Singapore)
- Air China
- Cathay Pacific (stopover in Hong Kong)
- Malaysia Airlines (stopover in Kuala Lumpur)
- Air India.

## Flight search engines

The most popular search engine to you can compare the price of flights is [SKYSCANNER](#).

### TICKET TYPES

The first question to ask yourself is whether to buy a one-way or return ticket. (It is not mandatory to purchase a return ticket to enter Australia). It is usually cheaper to buy a return than 2 singles.

There are also “open” tickets, or tickets which can be flexible at a certain cost. Some companies offer stopovers without extra charge, so why not make the most of it and stop over somewhere in the sun on the way! If you want to travel in countries other than Australia, you can also consider a « round the world » ticket. Travel agents (eg FlightCentre) and certain airlines offer this kind of service. RTW tickets start at around £1200 for 4 stops, 1 in each continent, going the same way round the world, and increase in price with the number of extra stops or changes to the classic itinerary.

### TIPS TO PURCHASE YOUR FLIGHT AT THE BEST PRICE

Use flight search engine websites like Skyscanner to find the best prices.

Watch out for a practice that is becoming increasingly common: IP tracking. Some sites memorize your IP address, and when you visit a site for a second time to reserve online, they increase the prices.

Purchase your ticket at least 5 months in advance for the best price. The best time to purchase your flight is early in the week off peak time.

Another way to pay a low price is to go out of season! The most expensive time to fly is between December and February. The cheapest time to fly to Australia is between May and July. Prepare to pay, on average, between £800 - £1200 for a return ticket.

Finally, if you really want to fly out in December, make sure to check flights on Christmas day or New Years Eve as usually tickets on those day are way cheaper.



## FLIGHT TIME

Flight duration varies between 23 hours (most expensive), and over 35 hours (cheapest). All flights have at least one stopover unless you're flying from the US or Canada which have direct flights to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

## HEALTH

### Vaccinations

No vaccines are required to enter Australia, but make sure your routine vaccinations are up to date. Try to fit in routine medical and dental checks before you leave (dentist, GP).

### Medication

Visit your GP for a list of medication to take with you according to your medical needs. For simple, over the counter medication (headache pills etc) you will find everything you need in Australian pharmacies so don't weight yourself down too much.

If you are on prescription medication, you are

allowed to bring a maximum of 3 months' treatment with you into Australia. You do not need to declare it to customs as long as you do not bring more than this, you bring the medical prescription and a letter from your doctor describing your condition (written in English), and as long as your medication is not one of the substances that are prohibited or require a permit (eg steroids).

If you are planning to travel in isolated places in the Outback early in your trip, bring a first aid kit with you. Otherwise, you can buy one later in Australia.

### Health care

Australia has signed agreements with the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta and Italy. These agreements entitle visitors from those countries to some subsidised health services for essential medical treatment while visiting Australia. The length of cover depends on your country of origin, for example, if you are a resident of the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland or Norway, you are covered for the entire length of your stay in Australia.



# BEFORE YOU LEAVE

## WHAT IS COVERED

As a resident of the UK, Sweden, Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta and Italy, you are entitled to the following health or injury treatments while you are in the country:

- Free treatment as a public in-patient or out-patient in a public hospital
- Subsidised medicine under the pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Medicare benefits for out-of-hospital treatment provided by a doctor

Irish visitors are entitled to:

Services as a public patient in a public hospital (including outpatient services) for medically necessary treatment medicines available on prescription which are subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), at the general rate.

In summary, if you receive essential medical treatment and medication as a public patient in a public hospital, you won't be charged for treatment or accommodation. Simply show your passport and/or reciprocal health care card when you arrive at the hospital. Note that emergency at hospitals will only cover real emergencies. If you choose to be treated as a private patient in a public hospital or as a private patient in a private hospital, you will be charged medical treatment and accommodation. Please note that these fees cannot be claimed from Medicare.

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED

Medicare will not cover:

- Medicine not subsidised under the PBS
- Treatment arranged before you arrived
- Accommodation and medical treatment in a private hospital
- Accommodation and medical treatment as a private patient in a public hospital
- Ambulance services
- Dental examinations and treatment
- Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, eye therapy, chiropractic services, podiatry or psychology
- Acupuncture
- Glasses and contact lenses
- Hearing aids and other appliances
- The cost of prostheses
- Medical costs for which someone else is responsible
- Medical services not clinically necessary

- Surgery for cosmetic reasons
- Examinations for life insurance, superannuation etc
- Home nursing

US residents should check if their insurance plan covers international travel. If not you should purchase international travelers insurance as it is required on the visa application.

## Travel Insurance

You should think about getting a travel insurance for Australia to cover the services not included in the Medicare insurance that are important for you and in case something goes wrong. It is also important when you want to travel overseas before or after your Work & Travel adventure in Australia.

If you are not a member of the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta or Italy you should check if your insurance plans cover international travel - sometimes it also depends on the length of your stay. If not, it is highly recommended to get a travel insurance - e.g. the travel insurance from World Nomads.

If you are a member of United Kingdom, you are eligible for Medicare, however, you aren't covered at work or if you need repatriation back to the UK. And if you intend to have a stop over in Asia or travel in different countries you will not be covered at all! Most of the time, backpackers decide to travel to other countries like Asia or NZ and only a Travel Insurance will cover you during this time.

Here are the two travel insurances we would recommend:

### WORLD NOMADS

[www.worldnomads.com](http://www.worldnomads.com)

One of the most popular travel insurances for backpackers is World Nomads that fits to backpackers' needs.

- **Flexibility:** You can buy online and extend your policy even from overseas.
- **Availability:** 24/7 emergency phone assist.
- **Adventure activities:** They cover a wide range of activities. The good thing is you only pay for the activities that you





# World Nomads

## World Nomads Travel Insurance

Simple and flexible  
travel insurance  
designed by travelers  
for travelers.



[GET A QUOTE](#)

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

really do.

- **Digital Gears:** Gears like cameras or Laptops are covered.
- **Destinations:** All countries in the world. So you can easily have a stop over for a few days or even a few months in other countries like Indonesia or New Zealand.

### GO WALKABOUT - RECOMMENDED FOR UK CITIZENS

[www.go-walkabout.co.uk](http://www.go-walkabout.co.uk)

- **Flexibility:** Go Walkabout travel insurance is very flexible, so if you need to extend the duration of your cover or add on an Activity or Work Pack, just send an email to the customer service and someone will then reply with a quote and a link to pay the additional amount – quick and easy!
- **Availability:** The Emergency Assistance line is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by medical professionals, who can offer advice about the best places to receive medical care, as well as liaise directly with medical facilities to pay your medical costs, if this is appropriate.
- **Activities:** 99 sports, activities and leisure pursuits are covered as standard (without extra cost) , but you can also cover a multitude of other activities with the addition of further activity packs.
- **Covered at work:** Go walkabout policies have been specifically designed to cover a large range of jobs you might be doing whilst away from the UK.
- **Covered when you are back in UK:** You are allowed up to 2 return visits back to the UK (of up to 21 days duration each time) during the policy duration.
- **Personal Belongings:** Go Walkabout covers baggage loss, personal belongings, travel documents, etc. It offers a large panel of policies allowing you to travel safely.
- **Trip cancellation:** Your travel ticket can be reimbursed under certain conditions.



**gowalkabout**  
travel insurance

**10% OFF - CLICK HERE**

**PROMO CODE  
ABG10**

## OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT FROM OVERSEAS

With some banks, you have the possibility to open your bank account before arriving in Australia. For example, the Commonwealth and Westpac both offer this option on their websites. The good thing about opening your bank account before arriving in Australia is that it will allow you to transfer money to your new bank account to avoid fees when changing money at the airport or in the city. For example, Westpac bank allows you to create a bank account online quickly. Once in Australia you will just need to attend an agency to confirm your identity and get a credit card.

## HOW TO TRANSFER MONEY TO AUSTRALIA

When you prepare your trip to Australia for your Working Holiday adventure, there is one important question: How to transfer money to Australia from your bank account without losing too much money? There are numerous options to do so but some of them will make you save money!

### Why to transfer money?

When you first arrive in Australia, you will need to have some money to eat and sleep before finding a job. Living expenses in Australia are quite high especially in big cities. Therefore only a bit of cash would probably not be enough for your first weeks there.

### Transfer money to/from Australia: best options

We tested a lot of options to transfer money overseas and here are some tips to get you save money on your international transfers.

First of all you would need to open a bank account in Australia. Indeed, when you work in Australia it is necessary to have an Australian bank account, as your employer

will not transfer your salary to an international bank account. The big four in Australia are Westpac, ANZ, Nab and Commonwealth. We recommend you to transfer your money from your bank account at home to your Australian bank account (or opposite) to avoid transfers fees.

#### BANK TRANSFERS: NOT THE BEST OPTION

International transfers can often be very expensive. Banks charge high fees and use lower exchange rates compare to the actual market rate. A good alternative is to choose a company that is specialised in international money transfers – for example TransferMate or CurrencyFair or TransferWise.

#### TRANSFER MONEY WITH SPECIALISED COMPANIES - RECOMMENDED

If you want to transfer money to Australia, CurrencyFair, TransferWise and TransferMate are definitely the best option to save money on your transfers. All companies are accredited and secured online platforms specialised in international money transfers. They are able to offer you good exchange rates (very close to the actual market rate) and only charge you a small transfer fee per transfer.

If you compare a transfer with your bank and one with specialised companies:

##### USING YOUR BANK

- You wish to transfer 1000£.
- You supposedly do not pay transfer fees (most of the time you do)
- Market rate is : 1£ = 1.8 AUD
- The exchange rate offered by your bank would probably be around 1.75
- So for 1000£ you will get 1750 AUD

##### USING CURRENCYFAIR (as an example)

- You wish to transfer 1000£.
- You pay 4 AUD transfer fees.
- Market rate is : 1£ = 1.8 AUD
- The exchange rate with CurrencyFair will be around 1.79 AUD
- So for 1000£ you will get 1790. There is a difference of 40 AUD!

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

### RECOMMENDED COMPANIES

Below is a presentation of the main transfer platforms that you can use. We personally tried all of them to determine their pros and cons.

#### Currency Fair

Through our partnership with CurrencyFair you will get **five transfers with NO fees**. Otherwise CurrencyFair charges a fixed transfer fee of \$4 per transfer (no matter the amount).

Characteristics:

- Fixed fee of 4AUD
- x5 Free transfers (from our link below)
- Exchange rate close to actual market rate
- Online assistance available
- Simple system
- Extremely secured (more info to provide when you create your account)
- Application available on your mobile phone

#### TransferWise

Characteristics:

- Offers the real exchange rate
- Online assistance
- 0.35% of the amount that's converted + £ 0.40 GBP (transfer GBP --> AUD)
- Simple and easy system
- Application available on your mobile phone

For more information about TransferWise:

[Money Transfer with TransferWise](#)  
[TransferWise Review](#)

#### TransferWise vs. CurrencyFair

The decision whether you should choose CurrencyFair, TransferWise depends on how much money and how many times you want to transfer to Australia or back home.

When you use TransferWise the transfer fee varies depending on how much money you want to transfer. The most money you transfer, the most fees you pay. Whereas CurrencyFair always charge the same transfer fee, no matter how much you transfer.



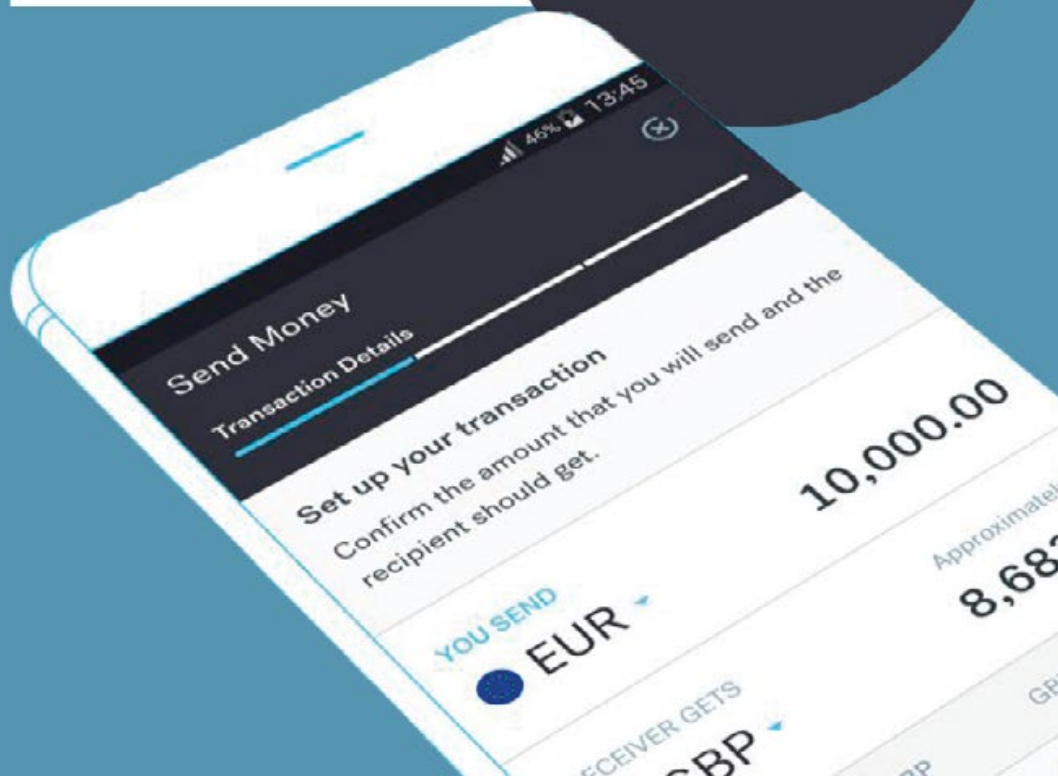
# TransferWise

- CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT -



**CLICK HERE**

**5 FREE  
TRANSFERS**





## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

# BUDGET BEFORE COMING TO AUSTRALIA

Take into consideration the following list when calculating your budget:

- Cost of a biometric passport: £75.50
- Cost of visa: \$450, around £250.
- Flight : prices vary according to season. High season is from December to March; low season from April to October. Prepare to pay around £900 - £1000 for a Paris-Sydney return ticket
- Funds required by the Australian government to undertake your trip: \$5000, around £2800.
- Health Insurance: around £35 per month.
- Savings, the amount depends on what you want to do. We would advise you to leave with an amount that you can live on for your first weeks in Australia, to give you time to complete the formalities on arrival, and find your first job.

For an estimated budget for a 2-person road trip, see [PAGE 67](#)

# CHOOSE YOUR ARRIVAL TOWN

The main towns are Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth in the south, and Darwin and Brisbane in the north.

Sydney seems to be the most “logical” arrival destination. It is the best known city in Australia for it’s iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge. The weather is hot and humid during summer, and cool during winter.

Melbourne is the second city in Australia, attracting a large number of Europeans for it’s cafe culture, arty vibes.

Melbourne has warm summers and cold winters.

Brisbane is the capital city of the sunshine state, Queensland. It is popular with backpackers because it has the most sun (300 years per year!) and is right next to the Gold Coast. Brisbane has a sub-tropical climate.

Perth, more isolated on the west coast is growing rapidly and is perfect for those who want an immediate change of scenery. Perth has very hot summers and cool winters.

Adelaide, “city of churches”, is a lot more attractive than it sounds. Adelaide is bang on the doorstep of some of most famous wine regions. Adelaide has hot summers and mild winters.



Cairns, in the extreme north-east of Australia, is a mini paradise ideally-situated to access the Great Barrier Reef. With a tropical climate, it is hot all year round up there!

## Depending on seasons

In Australia the seasons are the opposite to the northern hemisphere (Europe, US & Canada)! Remember that when it's summer for us, it's winter in Australia!

### DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY - SUMMER

The Australian summer is a good time to visit the southern states (NSW, VIC, SA & southern WA). In general it is still quite hot - between 25 and 40°C, sometimes more! In Sydney, the weather is sometimes a mixed bag, because the heat can bring rain afterwards. But in general the weather is good and warm.

Useful tip: The main vacation period in Australia (the equivalent of our "summer holidays" ) stretch from mid-December to the end of January. Tourist sites are busier and hotel/campsite prices increase.

### MARCH TO MAY - AUTUMN

In Autumn you can travel more or less anywhere in Australia. In the southern half of the country, the temperatures are pleasant (20-25°C). In the northern half it is the end of the wet season, so it will be warm and humid. There is still a risk of flooding, so be careful! And you've already guessed it, ideally to avoid the humidity in the north and the rather cool temperatures in the south, is to visit the middle!

### JUNE TO AUGUST - WINTER

In winter, the best region to visit is the Top End, the most northern part of the country (North Queensland and Northern Territory). It's the dry season here, and temperatures are not extreme (but still 30-35°C).

In the south it can be very cool or even chilly. It even snows in the mountains of Victoria!

In Sydney or Melbourne, winter temperatures remain reasonable, starting at 10°C in the morning and 18°C in the daytime.

### SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER - SPRING

Spring is the second season where you can travel all over Australia. You just need to be careful in the northern part of the country because the wet season officially starts in October so it can already be very hot and humid. This season is ideal to discover the southern part of Australia without suffering the extreme heat of summer, and without the numerous tourists.

## Depending on your plans

### NEED TO BUY A VEHICLE?

If you are planning to buy a vehicle avoid arriving in a small town where the choice will be limited. Of course there is a lot of offers in Sydney. However, the prices are higher, especially in summer (November to January). If you want to save money when buying a vehicle (a van for example), there are not many buyers in Sydney in winter (June to August), so you can sometimes find some great bargains at cut prices!

### RESERVE A ROOM IN A YOUTH HOSTEL

We recommend you reserve at least 1 or 2 nights in a hostel so that you feel comfortable when you arrive. This will avoid tramping the town with your backpack looking for an available room. If you arrive in peak season (Dec/Jan) the hostels are usually full several weeks in advance.

From our website you can compare the youth hostels across the whole of Australia and reserve your room: [CLICK HERE](#)

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

### NEED TO WORK QUICKLY?

If you arrive with a limited budget, you will no doubt need to find a job quickly. If you want to work in town, how easy it is to find a job depends on when you arrive. Take into consideration that a big “wave” of backpackers arrive in Sydney between August and January.

If you want to work on the farms straight away, remember to check the fruit picking seasons, [PAGE 106](#).

### WANT TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

If you want to start your trip by discovering particularly distinctive regions, very different from your home country, start with the west coast and north of Australia.

On the other hand, if you do not feel comfortable with camping, we recommend you start with the east coast. It is more developed, you will have access to better services and more comfort (showers, toilets, supermarkets...), and will feel less isolated.

## CHOOSING YOUR TRANSPORT

### Without a vehicle

When you choose to travel in Australia without your own vehicle, your approach to the country needs to be a little different.

You will most often travel from town to town using different forms of transport. You will need to work in towns most of the time because the farms are in rural or even isolated areas. You can stay in backpacker hostels or even rent an apartment.

### ADVANTAGES

- Less risk (no exposure to the bush and its potential dangers, no risk of breaking down and therefore additional costs)
- Better social life (life in towns and staying in youth hostels makes it easier to meet people).
- No complications from buying and later selling a vehicle

### DISADVANTAGES

- More expensive (accommodation & daily life is more expensive than in rural areas)





- You will be dependent on others to get around (car-sharing, public transport...)
- More difficult to find work in the agricultural sector
- Limited opportunities to discover rural Australia and the Outback
- Transport costs (in town and across the country).
- Effort spent organizing travel (reserving tickets, looking for accommodation in town when you arrive...)

## Go on a road trip

Never-ending highways, fabulous landscapes and strange little towns hidden in the middle of nowhere... Australia is without doubt paradise for road trippers! In general it's very easy to drive in Australia, once (for those of you from USA/Canada) you get used to driving on the left! When you decide to travel in Australia, it is important to be aware of the number of kilometres between towns and to you're your itinerary: where you will stop, and in the most isolated areas, where you will fill up with petrol. The distances separating towns are huge and require some planning on your part!

## ADVANTAGES

- Freedom to discover the country exactly how you want to.
- More flexibility as you travel.
- Easier to find a job
- Storage space (no need to pack and re-pack your bags each time you move).
- Low accommodation costs (tent or sleeping in your vehicle).
- Outdoor life, closer to nature.
- Easier to meet the locals.

## DISADVANTAGES

- Mechanical problems could incur high costs.
- May feel more isolated (sometimes not so easy to meet people).
- Need a lump sum at the start of your trip to purchase the vehicle.
- Less comfortable living conditions (hygiene, not sleeping in a bed, limited cooking facilities, more exposed to weather conditions...).

## WHICH WAY ROUND?

If you want to set off on a road trip around Australia, we recommend you do some research in advance.

Even if for most of us travel equals adventure, it is still important to do a minimum amount of preparation. If you go off in the wrong direction there can be consequences.

For example, you can find yourself in a state where the fruit picking season has finished, arrive in the wet season or in winter, or experience other inconvenience.

To avoid this, we recommend you find out about the direction you are planning to take and build an approximate itinerary for your trip.

It is difficult to know how long you will need to cross a given state, but according to when and where you will leave Australia, try to develop a plan and check how you are going with it every 2 months for example.

## A RULE OF THUMB

If you are travelling for a year, count at least 2 months per State (excluding ACT and Tasmania).

Then check the seasons in each state, the fruit picking season and any other events that you don't want to miss, or that you want to avoid. You will often meet people who have poorly managed their time, and have to rush through a whole area of Australia!

## CRITERIA TO THINK ABOUT

- Seasons
- Bad weather
- Wildlife: whale migration for example
- Harvest seasons
- Specific events: festivals for example
- Visits from your parents or friends
- The airport you will leave from

*Depending on where you arrive, you can consider whether you want to start with a very distinctive, isolated region of Australia or with a more touristy area (east coast).*

## YOUR ROUTE

Those who cannot or do not want to do the full circle, will no doubt still need to do a half circle: either the east coast via the Red Centre

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

and Uluru, or the west coast. This choice has consequences because according to whether you choose east or west you will discover a very different face of Australia.

We strongly recommend you flick through our guide to decide which route interests you most.

To give you the big picture, the west coast is the wildest. Distances are long from one place to another (sometimes no town for 200km), but the coast offers magnificent views and beaches as far as you can see with no tourists! Ningaloo Reef in the northern part of WA is the "small barrier reef" of the west, less touristy than the Great Barrier Reef and closer to the shore. If you go there between March and July, you can try the unique experience of swimming with whale sharks.

The East coast, most populated and most often visited, also offers magnificent beaches, just like the image you have of Australia (surfers, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney.....). There are towns every 50km maximum and it is almost impossible to feel isolated.

The Northern Territory is also wild and packed with natural beauty for example Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National Park.

If you want to do a loop, the Red Centre is a unique experience in Australia, hosting all the country's major emblems: Uluru, Kata Tjuta et Kings Canyon.

## PACKING YOUR BAG

In general Australians are casually dressed. Given the remarkable quantity of sunshine, temperatures that can go above 40°C, you will obviously need to take sun cream and sunglasses. Shorts and T-shirts will be appropriate dress for most of your trip.

But, remember, it's not necessarily easy to avoid winter in Australia. And, despite our preconceptions, it can get cold! This vast continent has contrasting seasons and nights can be chilly.

It is recommended to take at least a big jumper/fleece and/or a jacket, but you don't need to overload yourself because you can always buy what you need over there.

If you are travelling and working in rural zones, bring comfortable clothes and shoes.

If you stay in town, standards of dress are

similar to ours. Australians dress up to go out, but they are less likely to refuse entry into a club for not wearing a shirt.

Remember that airlines set a weight limit for luggage. Usually it is 20kg for checked luggage (max. 2 pieces per person). With certain companies the limit is 30kg, or you can pay extra for another 10kgs!

Your hand luggage can usually be up to 7kg.

**Useful tip :** *Opt for a backpack, easier to carry and pack ! If you are planning to travel at some point it will be more convenient. 60/70L are appropriate. Choose a backpack with lots of pockets and compartments so you don't have to search for a small object in the central part full of gear! There are backpacks designed specifically for men or women (straps are placed differently).*

### DEPARTURE CHECKLIST - ANNEX 2



# JOIN THE COMMUNITY



[www.facebook.com/AustraliaBackpackersGuide](https://www.facebook.com/AustraliaBackpackersGuide)



[www.youtube.com/user/guidebackpackers](https://www.youtube.com/user/guidebackpackers)



[www.instagram.com/australia\\_backpackers\\_guide](https://www.instagram.com/australia_backpackers_guide)



[www.australia-backpackersguide.com](http://www.australia-backpackersguide.com)



A photograph of a green rectangular sign with white text. The sign is mounted on a post and is set against a background of a sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun partially obscured by dark, leafy trees. The sign's text is partially cut off on the right side.

To Free



A green banner with white text is overlaid on a background image. The background image shows a sunset over a road sign. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The road sign is partially visible, with the word "way" written on it. The green banner covers the top half of the image.

# ON ARRIVAL

«THE ADVENTURE  
BEGINS HERE!

READY TO GO?»»

# THE ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!

**READY TO GO?**

## FORMALITIES ON ARRIVAL

### At the airport

During your flight you should be given a landing card to complete (Incoming Passenger Card). On arrival at customs, you will give in your card together with your passport and your visa will then be activated for 12 months.

As in every foreign country, there are restrictions on food items you can bring in. All foods of animal or plant origin should be declared to customs. For more information on this subject, consult the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service website: [CLICK HERE](#). Each passenger can bring up to 50g of tobacco or 50 cigarettes and 2,25L of alcohol.

If you are planning on bringing a pet, remember that any animal coming from abroad will be placed in quarantine for a minimum of 10 days (conditions applied).

### TRANSFER TO YOUR ACCOMMODATION

If you want to go straight to your accommodation on arrival, some hostels offer a shuttle service (often free), so contact them in advance to find out about this.

Otherwise, a taxi is relatively expensive (approximately \$50), so go for public transport. Follow the signs, or ask an employee at the airport. Airport Link, the train line is accessible directly from the airport and cost \$18,70 to get to the city centre (there is no train circulating between midnight and 5am).

## Bank

To open a bank account in Australia, you can either :

- Open an account over the internet from the UK/Ireland/US before you leave. The main banks all offer this: ANZ, Westpac NAB and Commonwealth. Check with your bank in case they are linked with Australian banks, which could be another way to transfer money before you arrive.
- Go to the bank of your choice to open an account within 6 weeks of your arrival in Australia. (After 6 weeks it can be more difficult with stricter conditions.)

## CHOOSING YOUR BANK

There are many banks in Australia, but not all of them have branches in all the states. You will find these 4 banks across the continent:

- Westpac
- Commonwealth
- ANZ (Australian and New Zealand Banking Group)
- NAB (National Australia Bank)

We advise you to choose one of these banks so you can access your account and withdraw in any state or territory.

## OPENING AN ACCOUNT

Opening an account is easy and quick. Simply go to the bank you have chosen and ask for a current account ("day to day banking account"). You will need to provide your passport and an address (which can be your address in your home country or the address of your hostel, friend etc).

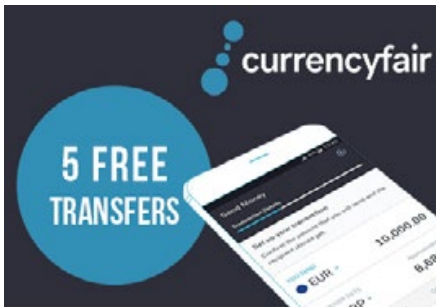


You will need to order your debit card that will be received to your postal address within a few days. Most of the banks will also offer you to open a 'saving account' that could be useful if you want to put some money aside. It may also be a good idea to open your superannuation account with your bank as it will make it easier to withdraw the money at the end of your visa. For example with Westpac, they will offer you to open an account with BT Super when you are opening a current account.

**Useful tip:** Find out about the conditions for your card, because some of them cannot be used to pay on the internet. A Visa card is best.

## MONEY TRANSFER

Once you have opened your Australian Bank account you can transfer the money you save for your trip. We recommend to use companies specialised in international money transfers. For more information on the best ways to transfer your money, go to [PAGE 29](#).



## WITHDRAWING MONEY

When you want to take money out from an ATM, make sure you use ATMs belonging to your bank. Otherwise you will be charged a commission (around \$2) for every withdrawal, whatever the amount. Avoid ATMs that do not belong to a particular bank, often found in bars, nightclubs or convenience stores (7Eleven for example) because they also charge fees.

You can also take out money in supermarkets, called « cash-out ». It's a simple and free way to get cash.

**Useful tip:** If you want to buy a van when you

arrive, make sure you have enough money available in your bank account. Payments will be in cash, so be aware of the maximum limit for cash withdrawal per day and per week set by your bank on your card!

## Telephone / Internet

If you want to take your phone from home, remember to unlock it before you leave so you can use it when you arrive and do not have to buy a new one (the system is different in Australia).

It is highly recommended to have a phone for your personal safety when you travel - in some isolated areas it may be your only means of communication, and the only way to call for help.

It is also essential to be easy to contact when looking for work.

## OPERATORS / OFFERS

The main operators are:

- Telstra
- Optus
- Vodafone
- Virgin
  
- Aldi

Telstra is the main telephone operator in Australia and covers practically all the territory, but the prices are higher than other companies. If you are planning to travel around the country, we recommend you go with Telstra to have best coverage. If you are going to stay in town you will have good coverage whichever operator you choose so you can go for the best offer!

Most backpackers in Australia choose prepaid sim cards. The simcard costs between 0 and 2 AUD, and then you pay to top-up as needed.

The prices are similar between operators (Telstra : 30\$ with unlimited text messages and calls + 3GB).

Once your prepaid card is activated, you usually have 30 days to use the units purchased.

If you have an internet connection you can purchase credit on your phone directly from the company's website. Otherwise, you can top-up in supermarkets, newsagencies and convenience stores like 7Eleven. In shops

## ON ARRIVAL

they will give you a receipt with a code on that you need to type in on your phone.

## INTERNET

### PUBLIC ACCESS

Internet access is often available in public libraries (free WiFi). Cyber cafes are also an option: prices vary by town/region (\$1-\$3 per hour).

Most McDonalds, Hungry Jacks (Australian name for Burger King), and some main shopping areas/shopping centres also offer free WiFi, although it can be slow/not working or not turned on (boot up your computer and check before buying your fastfood meal!), and free access time may be limited to 1 or 2 hours.

You can also find free access in some backpacker travel agencies or cafés in cities. However, outside the main cities (eg West coast, north, centre, outback) it can be very hard and expensive to connect (\$2 for 20 mins – 3 mins for 1 page to load...!) so we recommend purchasing a 3G or 4G thumb drive so you can connect wherever you are.

### 3G OR 4G THUMB DRIVES

For Internet, you can buy 3 or 4G thumb drives (Prepaid Mobile Broadband) which you connect to your USB port on your computer (\$50 on average). This enables you to connect wherever you are (access to Facebook and Twitter in Australia is usually free and unlimited).

Again the operator with the best coverage is Telstra, with Optus in second position. Prices vary from one operator to another: expect about \$30 for 15 Gigaocet.

### HOME BROADBAND

If you are house sharing, internet is often included in your rent for \$50/month. TPG is one of the best known companies but there are others (Dodo, Telstra etc.)

## Tax file number

A Tax File Number is a personal number which identifies you as an Australian worker for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Anyone who wants to work in Australia needs a TFN.

When you start a job, you must provide your

employer with your TFN within 28 days. After this date, you will be taxed on your salary. Make sure you obtain your TFN as soon as you arrive.

## HOW TO GET A TFN?

You can simply connect to the ATO website: [CLICK HERE](#). You will need your passport, a telephone number and an address in Australia (hostel, apartment, campsite, friend's address, poste restante etc); you complete a form online, and then you receive your TFN by post within 28 days (remember to use poste restante service (hold mail) at the post office if you do not know what your address will be in 28 days).

Requesting a Tax File Number is free.

For nomads, you can obtain your TFN by telephone: call 13 28 61 (Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm). A member of staff will give you your TFN after checking your identity (name, date of birth, passport number etc).

## FREELANCE WORK

If you want to do freelance work with self-employed status, you need to obtain an 11-digit ABN (Australian Business Number) which identifies you to the Australian government. If you are not sure whether you need a number and want to check, you can do an anonymous test on the ATO website. To take the test: [CLICK HERE](#)

You can request an ABN from the ATO, either in person at their offices, or on their website.

Remember that you need to obtain your TFN first because you will need it to obtain the ABN. Applying for an ABN is totally free.

When you have an ABN, taxes will no longer be taken directly off your salary before you receive it so you will need to put some money aside to pay your taxes at the end of the financial year (31 June). When completing your tax return, you will need to enter the revenue received under your ABN and those received under your TFN (as an employee). Therefore you will only complete one tax return with the information related to your TFN and ABN.

## Training and Certificates to work in Australia

Once arrived in Australia, you can obtain certificates for some kind of jobs. Most of those certificates are compulsory if you intend to work in certain industries.

### RSA CERTIFICATE

The RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) is a certificate showing that you know the regulations concerning alcohol consumption in Australia. It is essential if you want to work in hospitality.

Mandatory in all states, you obtain your RSA by taking part in a special course. With the RSA certificate you are allowed to work in all places where alcohol is served or sold (restaurants, bars / pubs, hotels, bottle shops) In the RSA training you will learn about the laws regarding alcohol and its consumption in Australia. You will also learn how to be responsible with alcohol by identifying intoxicated customers, people that are too young to drink, etc.

The laws vary from state to state and the RSA is not the same everywhere. It is not obtained in the same way in all states of the country.

**You can't get a RSA certificate that is valid for all over Australia.**

In Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory and in New South Wales it's possible to do the entire course online. In Victoria it will need to be in a classroom. In New South Wales the RSA course differs from the other courses provided in other states or territories. So if you want to work in hospitality in NSW you will have to obtain a unique RSA certificate, only valid in this state.

The Online training takes about 4 hours and allows you to download your certificate after completing the training (except in Victoria state). We recommend the company Express Online Training (40592 Accreditation) which have several offers for different states.

To get your RSA Certificate for NSW:

**RSA NSW - \$124 (SAVE \$26)**

To get your RSA Certificate for VIC:

**RSA VICTORIA - \$60**

To get your RSA for other states:

**RSA OTHER STATES - \$24 (SAVE \$25)**

For more information on the RSA: [CLICK HERE](#)

### WHITE CARD

If you intend to work in the construction industry in Australia, the White Card Certification is a compulsory requirement. This training aims to provide workers with safe work practices, risk management, personal protection, and safety signs, equipment to prevent accidents at the work place. This training provides you principles of health and safety in the construction industry and information about preventing workplace injury, workplace injury management and workers compensation system.

All states and territories of Australia have agreed to implement the National Code of Practice for Induction for Construction Work. It means that the White Card from any Australian state or territory will be recognised nationally.

To get the White Card, you can get trained in a classroom or do an online course. Once you have completed the online assessment and paid your course, you will receive a Statutory Declaration Form that needs to be completed and mail back to the training company, together with certified ID documents.

The White Card certificate does not expire and you will never have to do this course again once it is completed.

To get your White Card (valid for all states):

**WHITE CARD - \$39 (SAVE \$20)**

### RSG / RCG

The RCG (Responsible Certificate of Gambling) for NSW or RSG (Responsible Service of Gambling) for the other states is a certificate which allows you to work in **gambling establishments**. It is mandatory in

## ON ARRIVAL

many States in order to work in pubs or bars, or any other gambling establishments (race courses etc). The RSG course aims to train people to detect, and if necessary assist, a problem gambler. It also trains you on the use of the Pokies. The RSG / RCG would usually be asked in addition to the RSA.

All states of Australia have different regulations surrounding the Responsible Service of Gambling:

- New South Wales: RCG is compulsory
- Queensland: RSG is compulsory
- Victoria: You have 6 months after starting employment to get your RSG
- South Australia: You have 6 months after starting employment
- Western Australia: RSG is not required
- Northern Territory: You have 3 months after starting employment
- Tasmania: RSG is compulsory.

Some States allow you to complete the course online but for others you still need to attend an approved classroom.

In New South Wales and Victoria, training must be completed in classroom. Online training is not available.

In South Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Queensland, training can be done online or in a classroom.

In Western Australia the RSG is not necessary.

The RCG certificate obtained in NSW is the only certificate valid in NSW. NSW does not accept certificates from other States' training programs. QLD does not accept certificates from other States' training programs.

The RSG Certificate once obtained does not expire and you will never have to do the course again.

For an online course valid in all states (except NSW and Vic) we recommend you to use Express Online Training.

**RSG / RCG - \$24 (SAVE \$25)**

This qualification is nationally accredited. In Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory, and South Australia this qualification is completely recognised. For the other states you can use the statement of attainment received to apply for recognition of prior

learning. In most cases you will only have to do a short bridging course to get full qualified in that state.

For more information on the RSG, [CLICK HERE](#)

## ACCOMMODATION

### Backpacker Hostel

Youth hostels are everywhere in Australia. Appreciated by newly-arrived backpackers, they provide an ideal solution while you get your bearings and find alternative accommodation or purchase a vehicle.

Hostels offer cheap accommodation with a dormitory bed from \$15 for 1 night (although check prices if you want a private room - doubles in Sydney in high season start from \$70!). Reductions are often offered if you stay for 1 or more weeks.

Beds offered range from private rooms to dormitories (mixed or single-sex) from 8-12 people. The more privacy you have the more you will pay! You will have to share kitchen and bathroom. Most hostels also have a communal area with a billiard or ping pong table and a television.

Hostel prices can vary according to the time of year. They can also be completely full in large towns and cities: check they have space before arriving on the doorstep.

Here are the main Backpacker chains which you can find in all Australian towns:

- YHA
- NOMADS
- VIP

In Sydney, for 2 weeks in a backpacker hostel in a dormitory for 8 people, count on paying around \$450.

### HOW TO FIND A HOSTEL?

Hostels are easy to recognize thanks to their signs. You can also ask at Visitor Centres who can usually provide a map for you to find the hostel of your choice. Given the number of options, this is also a good way to get some advice on which to choose.

But to find the best deal available and get comments from other visitors, we recommend to use the website HostelWorld. You can get access to live prices by clicking [HERE](#), or on the banner below.

## House-Share

If you stay in town a long time the ideal option is to share an apartment with several other backpackers or locals. You have your own room and share the kitchen and bathroom with the other tenants.

Rent is usually paid weekly and varies according to the town and area you are in. Plan on spending \$250/week for a small room. Couples will easily find offers between \$350-400 / week in town centres (Sydney for example).

*NB : House shares are more expensive in the centre of town than on the outskirts.*

## WHERE TO FIND HOUSE SHARE ADS?

The first step to find ads for sharing apartments is THE reference website in

Australia : «Gumtree » !

[www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)

You can also look at what's available on websites specialized in house-sharing:

[www.share-accmodation.net](http://www.share-accmodation.net)

[www.housemates.com.au](http://www.housemates.com.au)

[www.flatmates.com.au](http://www.flatmates.com.au)

Shops, bars, cafés, backpacker hostels often have a notice board with house share ads. Take a look at these to find some bargains.

In town, always look around you. You can find ads all over the place (supermarkets, stuck to lampposts...). Word of mouth is also very effective for finding a place, so talk about it to everyone you meet – you never know!

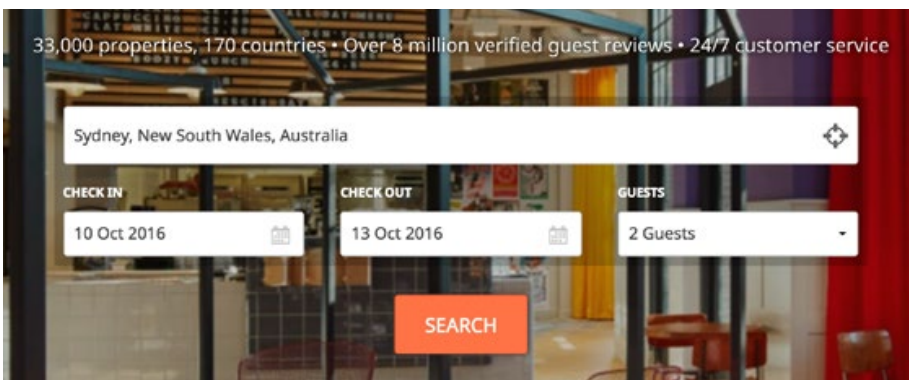
Bear in mind that in Australia you can rent for 1, 2 or 3 weeks, as well as for longer periods. Most landlords will ask for a deposit, the "bond". The amount varies (usually 1 or 2 weeks' rent), and you get it back when you leave as long as there is no damage to the property or contents during your stay.

## Renting an apartment

It is easy to rent an apartment in Australia



# HOSTELWORLD



## ON ARRIVAL

if you want more privacy. The procedure is relatively simple and very similar to Europe and North America. You usually rent through an agency rather than directly from the owner. When you visit an apartment, you can take an “Application form” which, if you are interested in renting the property, needs to be completed and given to the agency along with other documents. You will need to provide information such as your passport number, your previous address, your employment, financial and professional references...

You should also supply copies of:

- Your passport, driving licence
- Your employment contract, your last payslips...
- References from previous landlords or agencies, or even your employer.

The more documents and references you can provide, the better the chance that you will succeed in convincing them to give you the apartment.

When you have finally obtained the apartment you want, you should have an appointment with your landlord where you inspect the apartment together and complete a Tenant-Landlord check list (Condition Report) recording the state of the apartment and everything in it. You keep a copy of this.

*NB: If you are on a working holiday visa (WHV), agencies may want to avoid renting to backpackers, so it may be difficult to find an apartment unless you flat-share with others.*

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

To rent an apartment, you will need to pay: The deposit (The bond). The amount varies according to the type of accommodation (expect to pay 4 weeks’ rent for an empty apartment).

The first month’s rent, or at least the first 2 weeks, payable in advance.

Read the conditions carefully on your contract to avoid any surprises. Check the duration of your rental because it can be expensive to get out of a contract early in Australia.

Please also note that owners in Australia have the right to ban pets from their property.

Rent prices can be very versatile depending on the size of the property, location and number of tenants. But to give you a rough idea, here are a few examples:

- Share room Sydney CBD: From \$150/ week
- Private room Sydney CBD: From \$250/ week

## Other options

### COUCH SURFING

“Couchsurfing” can be option to help you out when you first arrive in a new country. Practical and cheap, it has been becoming increasingly common over the past few years.

You can stay temporarily, free of charge, with a resident who can offer their sofa, a sofa bed





or sometimes even a guest room. This friendly and open concept offers an opportunity to meet people and to get some great local tips from your host!

To take part in couchsurfing, you need to sign up (free of charge) on the website, in order to see the ads: [www.couchsurfing.org](http://www.couchsurfing.org)

You will need to provide personal information and will have access to files about the hosts.

(NB Don't count on couchsurfing in cities such as Sydney where accommodation is expensive and everyone would like to couchsurf! It's very unlikely you will find anything.)

## WORKING AS AN AU PAIR

Another simple idea: you receive accommodation, food, and payment in exchange for work within the household, mainly looking after the children in your host family. They may also ask you to do other tasks such as housework, preparing meals etc. You work around 30 hours a week for a salary of around \$250.

To find a host family you need to sign up with specialist organizations (most of which you have to pay for).

[www.aupair-australia.net](http://www.aupair-australia.net)  
[www.aupair-world.co.uk](http://www.aupair-world.co.uk)

It is also possible to contact families directly by looking for ads for "family wants au pair" (on Gumtree for example).

## WWOOFING

Wwoofing is very popular in Australia. You receive accommodation and meals in exchange for working on the farm. Your hosts provide a roof (caravan, room, tent), and feed you, in exchange for your help managing their property.

To take part in the programme you need to sign up on the website and pay to gain access to all the contacts on the site :

[www.woof.com.au](http://www.woof.com.au)

For more information on Wwoofing, go to [PAGE 94](#)

## HELP EXCHANGE

This programme is based on the same concept as the wwoofing. You again need to sign up to the website on their website and become a member to access the ads:

[www.helpx.net](http://www.helpx.net)

## DAILY LIFE

### Food shopping

In Australia, there are 3 main supermarket chains: Coles, Woolworths and IGA. Coles and Woolworths (or "Woolies") offer good products at reasonable prices. Prices vary according to their location (isolated or not). IGA supermarkets are generally smaller and slightly more expensive. Their own brand "Black & Gold" has reasonable prices. Outside of these big chains, you can find Foodworks or Aldi in certain states.

To save money, look for the "Reduced" products that you can find at the end of the day in each category. In general, counter products that you buy by weight are less expensive than pre-packaged products (eg. Bacon, ham, cheese) and for fresh produce go to a market (better prices and better quality).

You can get cash back in Australian supermarkets paying with your bank card which can be convenient instead of having to find an ATM. They will ask you "Any cash out?".

Alcohol is sold exclusively in "Liquor Shops" or Bottle Shops often referred to as "Bottle-o's". You will find them right next to supermarkets or in shopping streets.



# TRAVELLING

« YOU THINK YOU'RE  
GONNA LIKE IT? »

HELL YEAH!!!



# WITHOUT A VEHICLE

## Train

Australia has long distance trains with budget and first class, with lines that link the main points of interest along the coasts. There is also a route between Adelaide and Darwin linking the coast with the centre of the country. Some routes have specific names like the Indian-Pacific (Sydney to Perth 65 hours of travel time), the Ghan (Adelaide to Darwin via Alice Springs), the Queenslander (Brisbane to Cairns, 32 hours of travel), or the Overlander (Adelaide to Melbourne).

There are 5 main rail companies in Australia: CountryLink, Great Southern Railway, Queensland Rail, Transwa and V/Line.

Budget classes have reclining seats, and on the longest routes, sleeper carriages are available. Travelling by train is generally longer and more expensive than by bus.

## PRICES

Reservation is compulsory for all train travel! You can buy a single ticket or a Pass with some companies.

You can pay reduced prices if you have cards such as the YHA card (\$15 for one year).

Some example prices for the main routes (with a reduction card, otherwise add 50% to these prices...):

- Sydney - Perth : à partir de \$650
- Sydney - Brisbane : \$130
- Sydney - Melbourne : \$130
- Melbourne - Adélaïde : \$99
- Sydney - Adélaïde : \$899
- Brisbane - Cairns : \$221

All prices can be consulted on the Rail Australia website.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Rail Australia website :  
[www.railaustralia.com.au](http://www.railaustralia.com.au)

## Bus

Bus services in Australia are comfortable and well-organised. Long-distance buses (or "coaches") have air conditioning, toilets, reclining seats, wifi, and show films during the journey. All buses are non-smoking. The national bus service is managed by Greyhound Australia.





Australia is a vast continent, so be aware that travelling by bus takes a long time. For example, the journey from Sydney to Melbourne takes 15 hours, between Adelaide and Perth, around 39 hours and between Brisbane and Cairns 30 hours.

**Premier Motor Service** is a private company for budget travellers. They serve many of the same destinations as Greyhound. You can buy a Pass and stop off as many times as you want. They prices are often cheaper than Greyhound.

### USEFUL TIP FOR TRAVELLING BY BUS:

The company Firefly offers attractive prices for bus journeys between Sydney / Melbourne and Adelaide.

For example, the journey between Sydney and Melbourne costs \$65.

More information and reservations at:

[www.fireflyexpress.com.au](http://www.fireflyexpress.com.au)

## PRICES

Again, it is possible to opt for a Pass. Companies offer different options (according to the number of stops, or kilometres...

For example (with Greyhound) :

Sydney - Cairns : \$479

Brisbane - Cairns : \$340

You can stop as many times as you want. You can also choose to get a package with nights in hostels or tours already booked for you.

With Premier Motor Service :

Sydney - Cairns : \$309

Brisbane - Cairns : \$211

### MORE INFORMATION:

#### **Greyhound Australia**

[www.greyhound.com.au](http://www.greyhound.com.au)

#### **Premier Motor Service**

[www.premierms.com.au](http://www.premierms.com.au)

## Plane

Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport is the main international airport in Australia.

The cities of Melbourne, Brisbane, Cairns and Perth are also well-served by international flights. Given that Australian cities are far apart, flights are the best way to travel from

one town to another. The safety standards for internal flights are high and they run on time with a wide choice of flights. Between the most popular destinations such as Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, there are many flights each hour.

The further in advance you can reserve, the lower the prices will be. In general, you will get a better deal if you travel on weekdays.

## MAIN COMPANIES

### **Jetstar**

[www.jetstar.com](http://www.jetstar.com)

### **Qantas**

[www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au)

### **Virgin Blue**

[www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com)

### **Tigerair**

[www.tigerair.com](http://www.tigerair.com)

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.airlineandairportlinks.com](http://www.airlineandairportlinks.com)

## SEARCH FLIGHTS ENGINE

### **SKYSCANNER**

[www.skyscanner.com.au](http://www.skyscanner.com.au)

### **I WANT THAT FLIGHT**

[www.iwantthatflight.com.au](http://www.iwantthatflight.com.au)

## Car Sharing

Car-sharing (or "lifts") is quite common in Australia. It enables both driver and passenger to travel from city to city at a lower cost. There are numerous offers from people who want to share their car to reduce their expenses.

It's also a great way for those travelling alone to meet people and share their experiences. You can find ads offering lifts on notice boards in shopping centres, shops, forums, Facebook groups or in hostels.

There are also some dedicated websites:

[www.catchalift.com](http://www.catchalift.com)

[www.needaride.com.au](http://www.needaride.com.au)

[www.shareyourride.net](http://www.shareyourride.net)

[www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)

## Hitch hiking

Hitch hiking may seem like a good way to travel. However, remember that in Australia it is illegal in most states and is discouraged due to the risk to personal safety, especially if you are travelling alone.

## Hire a campervan

Hiring a campervan is the best solution if you want to travel, but do not want to buy your own vehicle. There is a wide choice of rental companies across the continent, but not all companies are available in every state. If you are under 24 years of age, make sure you inform them of this before you rent because not all companies accept young drivers. An international driving licence is not compulsory if your original licence is written in English, although it can be nice to have as back-up as occasionally certain individuals may not accept the original. If your original licence is in a foreign language an International Driving Permit is compulsory and you must also be able to show your original driving licence. Some rental companies require a photo ID licence, so if your original licence does not include this, you should also get an International Driving Permit.

There are offers for every budget, from a large camping car (Motorhome) to a small basic van (LowTop). Be aware that prices are not fixed.

Prices change according to various criteria:

- Type of vehicle
- Season
- Availability
- Advance reservations (how many weeks or months in advance)
- How long you rent for
- The level of comfort/equipment included
- Type of Insurance Coverage
- Returning your vehicle in a different town to your starting point (one way fee)

If you would like to compare the different offers available, we recommend the search engine of our partner "Motorhome Republic": To compare prices over 50 suppliers: [CLICK HERE](#) or on the picture below (No commission charges for using this service).

## RENTAL COMPANIES

### **Mighty**

[www.mightycampers.com.au](http://www.mightycampers.com.au)

### **Travellers Autobarn**

[www.travellers-autobarn.com.au](http://www.travellers-autobarn.com.au)

### **Jucy Rentals (East coast)**

[www.jucy.com.au](http://www.jucy.com.au)

### **Hippie Camper**

[www.hippiecamper.com](http://www.hippiecamper.com)

### **Spaceships (East coast)**

[www.spaceshipsrentals.com.au](http://www.spaceshipsrentals.com.au)

### **Britz**

[www.britz.com.au](http://www.britz.com.au)

### **Maui**

[www.maui-rentals.com](http://www.maui-rentals.com)

### **Apollo**

[www.apollocamper.com.au](http://www.apollocamper.com.au)

### **Wicked**

[www.wickedcampers.com.au](http://www.wickedcampers.com.au)

### **Camperman**

[www.campermanaustralia.com](http://www.campermanaustralia.com)

### **Cheapa Campers**

[www.cheapacampa.com.au](http://www.cheapacampa.com.au)

## INSURANCE

In general you will have mainly 2 options. The first is "Standard" insurance that comes automatically with the vehicle. This is free but you must leave a deposit (on average \$2,500 for a classic campervan). If you have an accident and the company must repair the car, they will use your deposit, but you will not be responsible for any remaining costs.

The second is "Comprehensive" insurance, to be paid as an extra on top of the cost of renting the vehicle (around \$25 per day for a classic campervan). This reduces your excess (the amount you must pay out of pocket before the insurance kicks in when you make a claim) to \$0 so that you are completely covered and have nothing to pay in the case of an accident. We would recommend this option for those who do not want to worry about unexpected costs during the trip.

Some bank cards (visa premier, gold mastercard) or travel insurances may also cover you if you have an accident.





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motorhome  
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**Compare  
prices**

**Good deals**



# TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

## RENTAL PRICES & DEALS

### HOW MUCH IT COST

To give you an approximate idea, budget between \$30 and \$60 per day for a classic van, and \$25-30 per day for insurance.

The longer you rent for, the lower the daily price. Some companies apply a minimum rental duration (7 days or sometimes 2-3 weeks in school holidays).

The minimum age to hire a vehicle in Australia is usually 21 years, and prices are usually higher for under 25 year-olds.

In high season, reserve as far in advance as you can as vehicles sell out quickly.

### GETTING A GOOD DEAL

If you want to save money on your campervan rental we recommend to :

- Book in advance
- Avoid high season
- Travel over 14 days

We also recommend using comparison sites to get the best prices. Because they have access to reduced prices from different campervan suppliers. Therefore you are guaranteed to pay less than if you go directly to a campervan hire company. Most suppliers have some discounts on specific vehicles and timeframes. So once again, the best

way to check these special deals is to go on *MotorHome Republic*. They have a page with all these discounts.

You can check all the best deals here:

[www.motorhomerepublic.com/australia-special-offers.html](http://www.motorhomerepublic.com/australia-special-offers.html)

### PROMO CODE

With Travellers Autobarn you can get a **5% discount** on your campervan rental in Australia & New-Zealand. You just have to go on their website and use the following promo code: **GUIDEBACKPACKERS** (minimum of 10 days hire).

## Car rental

### RENTAL COMPANIES

If you are planning on a short trip, or will be sleeping hostels, car hire could be a better option. Cars are cheaper to hire than vans and you can travel faster.

Some of the main car rental companies:

**Avis:** [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)

**Budget:** [www.budget.com.au](http://www.budget.com.au)

**Europcar:** [www.europcar.com.au](http://www.europcar.com.au)

**Hertz:** [www.hertz.com.au](http://www.hertz.com.au)

**Thrifty:** [www.thrifty.com.au](http://www.thrifty.com.au)



**Airport**rentals.com.au

# The best way to compare car rentals in Australia!

Compare  
prices



Good Deals



## PRICES & CONDITIONS

You must be over the age or 21 to rent a car. An international driving licence is not compulsory if your original licence is written in English, although it can be nice to have as back-up as occasionally certain individuals may not accept the original. If your original licence is in a foreign language an International Driving Permit is compulsory and you must also be able to show your original driving licence. Some rental companies require a photo ID licence, so if your original licence does not include this, you should also get an International Driving Permit.

Prices are around \$50/day. The lower prices mean that the excess (the amount you must pay for any claim before insurance pays) is high, over \$2000, so if you want to avoid the risk of paying this cost, you can take out additional insurance to lower the excess (around \$300). In this case you will be paying about \$75 a day. Daily prices are lower when you rent a vehicle for several days.

## RELOCATION

Relocation is a way to make savings if you do not mind driving long distances in a short space of time. You must drive a car back from one town to another, often in 1-4 days. The main advantage is the price. In general use of the car costs you \$1/day and often includes a full tank to start with, and sometimes the company even covers your petrol costs (with receipts).

But this attractive idea is more limited than it may first appear. Often there is little choice for the dates and destinations and the durations are short (so not much time to visit anything on the way).

Relocation is a great way to get from destination A to destination B with the flexibility of your own vehicle at an unbeatable cost! (compare bus vs relocation!)

Most companies offer relocation – look at their websites or Facebook pages. Here are some websites that centralize relocation deals available:

[www.transfercar.com.au](http://www.transfercar.com.au)

[www.imoova.com](http://www.imoova.com)

[www.drivenow.com.au](http://www.drivenow.com.au)

[www.vroomvroomvroom.com.au](http://www.vroomvroomvroom.com.au)

## PURCHASE A VEHICLE

Buying a car is an important choice because it will completely change your experience in Australia. Whatever the type of vehicle, mobility and freedom in such a huge country open up a lot of possibilities.

Whether you want to discover Australian landscapes or visit potential employers, with your own vehicle your travel options are taken to a new dimension.

If you do choose to buy a vehicle you will have to make the following decisions: which model is best suited to my needs? Where can I find one? What are the requirements for registering the vehicle?

## What type of vehicle?

### CAR

Unless you are travelling for a short time (eg 1 month), purchasing a car can be the most economical approach. Your own vehicle offers you the best level of mobility to visit employers from town to town.

On the other hand, especially if you are planning to travel for a long time, bear in mind that there is not much living space in a car, and you will need to buy plenty of camping equipment (tent, cooking utensils, blankets, water container...) and often move it to the front seats every night to create sleeping space in the back of the car. (Many cars sold on by other backpackers come ready-equipped with camping gear included in the price of the car. Otherwise check out Gumtree and ads in hostels and on campsite notice boards for second-hand camping equipment, which can save you \$200-300)

### ADVANTAGES (VS CAMPERVAN)

- Cheaper to purchase
- Faster (you can drive the legal speed limits of 110km/hour across Australia, and up to 130km/hour in NT; easier to overtake road-trains, trucks, vans, cars with caravans...)
- Lower petrol consumption (vs campervans)
- Better suited to towns
- More comfortable to drive

## DISADVANTAGES (VS CAMPERVAN)

- Less convenient sleeping arrangements – you need to sleep in a tent, in your car or in a hostel
- No living space inside the car
- The car will fill up quickly and if you sleep in it (unless the vehicle is custom-fitted with 2 levels at the back) you will need to move your camping equipment into the front seat every night to make space for your bed in the back
- More exposure to weather conditions (cooking and spending most of your time outside the car)

- Better cooking facilities
- Appreciated employers who may

## DISADVANTAGES (VS CAR)

- Slower (80-90kms/hour) with less motor power to overtake road trains
- More cumbersome to get around and park in towns
- Higher petrol consumption
- More expensive to buy
- Less comfortable to drive
- Also needs camping equipment (but often comes with the van if buying from backpackers)

## CAMPERVAN

Travelling in a van is the most comfortable way to discover the Australian outback, and could be an advantage to find picking work.

### ADVANTAGES (VS CAR)

- Protection from weather conditions
- Living space
- Storage space available and bed always made (no need to move your camping equipment into the front of the vehicle and set up your bed each night)
- Convenient and economic accommodation
- More storage space

### DIFFERENT MODEL & PRICES

There are different types of campervans, and they are not kitted out in the same way. Prices vary according to fittings and equipment provided, the vehicle's age, condition, and number of kilometres.

Prices start around the \$3,500 mark, but the most popular cost on average \$4-6,000. Therefore the cost is relatively reasonable and they offer a good level of comfort. These vehicles will already have a lot of kilometres on the clock but Australian vehicles often do more than 300,000km! Here are the different categories of campervan:



# TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

**Classics:** small campervans usually furnished with a double bed and a « mini kitchen » at the back. Some have a convertible bench/bed for the night which increases living space. They cost from \$4,000 – \$7,000 according to the van's kilometres, year and facilities.

**Pop tops:** campervans with pop-up roof so you can stand up inside the vehicle. They are usually better-equipped, with a seat inside, a small kitchen including sink, and a small fridge. They are more expensive to buy but offer more comfort. Expect to pay around \$7,000.

**4WD vans:** 4 wheel drive vans, not that common for backpackers, more expensive to buy but enable you to go off-road. They are usually furnished like small campervans, only the vehicle's frame changes. You can use roads closed to 2 wheel drives (unsealed roads with corrugations, beaches, some national parks not open to 2 wheel drives...), and can explore the territory more. Prices start around \$6,000.

**Useful tip:** *prices are more expensive on the East coast during high season, and prices are generally higher on the West Coast (due to the mining boom).*

## 4WD VEHICLES

A 4 wheel drive vehicle gives you the opportunity to leave the most popular routes, use roads that are closed to conventional vehicles, and also makes driving on unsealed roads generally more comfortable. This could be important for the more adventurous travellers who want to venture further into the Outback.

Certain roads/routes (such as the Gibb River Road), sites, and National Parks (for example Purnululu of Bungle Bungles fame, sandy François Peron at Shark Bay, or Cape Leveque near Broome...) are only accessible in a 4 wheel drive vehicle, especially in the Outback, in the north of Western Australian and in the Northern Territory.

You can visit many of the most famous sites (except the Bungle Bungles), and the vast majority of National parks in a conventional vehicle. However, there are usually additional sites and camping areas that are 4 wheel drive only and usually quieter, emptier and more isolated. Weigh up the cost of occasionally paying for a day excursion (\$250-500 per person) to visit 4WD sights, against the higher purchase price of your own 4WD vehicle (\$2,000-4,000 more) and the potential damage to it driving on roads with sometimes extreme corrugations. Never underestimate





the preparation necessary when driving on 4WD roads: the volume of traffic decreases dramatically (and this can mean low to zero in the Outback!) so you need at least 1 extra wheel, ample stocks of water/food, and something to create shade to wait for help if you breakdown.

You will need a high clearance 4WD with snorkel to be able to use all 4WD roads. Beware of 4WD routes with floodways and rivers to ford if you have only a standard 4WD.

## ADVANTAGES

- More comfortable to drive on unsealed roads and tracks
- Access to less touristy sites and the most isolated areas
- Easier to find free camping spots down unsealed roads, or by going off-road
- Access to beaches
- Smaller/cheaper vehicle (vs campervan) when you take the ferry, for example: Tasmania, Kangaroo Island...

## DISADVANTAGES

- More expensive to buy
- Less living space: more time spent outside the vehicle (meals /maybe sleeping)
- High petrol consumption
- Less storage space, quickly full of camping equipment

## Buying a vehicle

### WHERE TO FIND A VEHICLE?

If you arrive in one of the main Australian towns, we recommend that you go to a “Car Market”, especially if you are looking for a Campervan. This is a good opportunity to compare a choice of vehicles, and given that most Car Market sellers are backpackers, vehicles are often ready-equipped with all you need to travel and camp.

The most famous is the Kings Cross Market in Sydney. This is subsidized by local government to get “unofficial” backpacker car sales off the streets, and takes place in the basement of a multi-story car park. The conditions are very advantageous: sellers only pay a small amount (\$60-100) to rent a parking space in the car park for a week to sell their vehicle

to potential buyers who come to look at the vehicles on offer. You need a pink or white slip to be allowed to sell your car at the market, so you must take it to a garage in advance for sign-off as roadworthy. You receive a pink slip if it has nothing wrong (so you pay \$60 for a week in the car market), or white slips if you have non-serious problems with your car (eg seat belt strap is frayed, exhaust leaking slightly...). You can still sell it but must display the white slip so potential buyers are aware of the problems, and you pay \$100 for a week in the car market).

**Useful tip:** *beware of the car dealership down the road – it is not the same and does not offer the same advantageous conditions.*

Here is a list of the different ways to buy and sell vehicles:

- Ads on Gumtree  
[www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)
- Car Market at Sydney
- Posters (on your car, in shop windows, notice boards in shopping centres, big supermarkets, hostels, youth hostels)
- Other internet websites (for example)  
[www.drive.com.au](http://www.drive.com.au)  
[www.carsales.com.au](http://www.carsales.com.au)  
[www.ozrvsales.com.au](http://www.ozrvsales.com.au)  
[www.cars4backpackers.com.au](http://www.cars4backpackers.com.au)  
[www.buyandsellaustralia.com.au](http://www.buyandsellaustralia.com.au)
- Local papers (free or with charges)
- Garages

### SHOULD I BUY FROM A DEALER OR AN INDIVIDUAL?

90% of the time, backpackers buy their vehicle from an individual. Prices are better, and it is easy to find ads. It is only a good idea to buy from a dealer if you cannot find what you need by other means; if the dealer offers guarantees (which you do not get from an individual); or if they offer a guaranteed “buy-back price” in the context of an overall good deal (ie a great buy-back price is easy if the car was overpriced to begin with.....).

### WHEN TO BUY?

It is not recommended to buy a vehicle in Australia from your home country. It is

## TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

essential to check the vehicle's condition, and also become familiar with Australian requirements and the (simple) paperwork to buy and licence a vehicle.

In the low season (from March to September) prices will be lower as there is less demand. However, there will also be less choice.

### DECODING THE ADS

Here are some rules and tips to help you with your purchase. The price should not be THE choice criteria. Prices are often negotiable (as many travellers need to sell quickly). Decide on a price range and stick to it.

We recommend you choose a model that is common in Australia (eg Ford Econovan, Toyota Hiace, Mitsubishi L300, Kommodor or Ford Falcon Station Wagon), so that it is easier to find parts and easier to sell on at the end. Don't be intimidated by the long list of equipment in camping cars, as most backpacker vehicles for sale will already be equipped.

### WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE YOU BUY

Australian vehicles often have more kilometres on the clock than the European equivalent. Many campervans, station wagons, or 4W drives have over 200 000 km, but are still up to making a second or third tour of the continent.

Ask about the service history of the vehicle, and check the receipts. This will give you an idea of its general condition and whether or not it has been well-maintained by previous owners.

#### What you need to consider:

- Year the vehicle was made.
- Model / Brand
- Number of kilometres
- Maintenance / Service history and previous owners of the vehicle
- State of registration and number of months left on the registration
- General condition of the vehicle
- Petrol or diesel consumption
- Storage and living space
- Equipment

If your vehicle does not come equipped with



Sydney Travellers Car Market

camping equipment, or if there is not enough, you can find all you need in the big chains (Kmart, Target, Big W) at reasonable prices. Also check out Gumtree for individuals selling off loads of camping gear they no longer want – you can find some great bargains, as long as you can travel to pick them up.

For a list of points to check when buying a vehicle, go to [ANNEX 3](#).

## The Process of buying a vehicle

If you have seen a vehicle that you like, first of all you should **contact the seller** to see the vehicle.

Then, it is time to **check the vehicle**. Check the tyres, the engine, check that all doors and windows close and open correctly. Also check the inside of the vehicle, if there are two batteries, make sure the electric system is working. Check there is a spare wheel... You want to make sure you buy a roadworthy vehicle to get you to where you want to go.

**Take it for a test drive.** Driving it will allow you to check the sound of the engine, check if there is any smoke coming out of the exhaust, the brakes, etc. Before sitting behind the wheel, make sure the car is registered. If the owner refuses to let you try the vehicle, do not buy it! If you have any doubt, you can always get it inspected by a qualified mechanic.

Should you wish to buy the vehicle after testing it, comes the **admin part**. You should complete the transfer of property papers with the seller. The slip will basically transfer the ownership of the car; it will include the car details, the seller details and the new owner details. Beware any car sale that does not include a roadworthy certificate.

Finally you will have to **pay** for the vehicle. Most of the transaction are in cash, unless you are buying from a car dealer.

Once purchased, you have 14 days to pay the transfer fee and put the vehicle in your name, (otherwise there is the risk of incurring a fine).

To do so, the best option is to visit the Registration Center in the state you are

buying the vehicle (for example Department of Transport for WA or Roads and Maritime Services for NSW). Registration requirements vary between the states and territories, but generally involve identification documents (passport), your drivers licence, a postal address in Australia (in the state where the vehicle is registered), the transfer of ownership and a roadworthiness certificate.

## Registration (“rego”)

“Registration” or “Rego” is compulsory to drive a vehicle legally in Australia. It is the equivalent of vehicle tax stickers/ vehicle licensing in the UK and similar to the registration required in the US. However, in Australia the government has recently done away with stickers in windscreens. Now, the whole system is computerized.

Rego is valid for 3 to 12 months (according to how much you pay), and covers third party insurance for medical (covers injury to a third party if you are involved in an accident) and legal, but not damage to the other person’s vehicle if the incident is your fault. You would need to purchase an additional car insurance to cover damage and repair costs to a third party’s vehicle.

Be aware that legislation is different depending on the state where the vehicle is registered (rather than where you are when you buy your vehicle). If you buy your vehicle in NSW (in Sydney for example) but the vehicle you purchase is licensed in a different state, you must follow the rules of this other state where the vehicle is licensed. Otherwise, you must re-register the vehicle from scratch (more costs and more paperwork).

Some states are stricter than others. For example, in some states you must pass an MOT at an approved garage to obtain a roadworthy certificate to be able to renew the rego, or when ownership of the vehicle changes. States which require a mandatory garage check to renew the registration are NSW & NT.

Some states are more relaxed than others. For example, Western Australia and South Australia do not require the garage check. Finding a vehicle with rego in these states can

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save you money – no obligation to make minor repairs identified in a garage check before renewing rego or selling on your car... (best to pay for repairs that are important for safety though!!!)

If you have questions concerning the rego of your future vehicle you can contact the nearest RTA office (Roads and Traffic Authority) directly. Here are the specifics for each state:

**Warning:** *Prices quoted are an indication only. They can vary according to the type of vehicle, the age of the driver....etc*

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- Rego renewable online for 1 year only
- Mandatory safety check (e-Safety Check or Pink Slip) when renewing vehicles over 5 years old (check must be conducted at an approved garage in NSW – certificate is valid for 42 days). Therefore you need to be in NSW.
- The cost of rego varies according to the weight of the vehicle: between \$245 and AU\$450
- Add to this the cost of third party insurance (Compulsory Third Party or CTP or Green Slip) the cost of which is also variable: between \$350 and \$600 according to the age of the driver, age of the vehicle, year driver's licence obtained... etc
- Official website: [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

## ACT

- Rego renewal online for 3, 6 or 12 months.
- Inspection Report mandatory to purchase or sell a vehicle (approx \$50).
- No mandatory safety check when renewing, except for vehicles running on LPG.
- Prices: \$900 for 1 year (vehicle between 976 kg and 1154 kg)
- Official website: [www.rego.act.gov.au](http://www.rego.act.gov.au)

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- No mandatory safety check required to renew or even to sell – the most relaxed state!
- Renewal online for 3, 6 or 12 months. (Therefore you can buy a vehicle

in Sydney with a WA rego, with no mandatory repair costs (no safety check to buy/sell), renew the rego online, and sell on to a new buyer at the end of your trip without ever going to WA.)

- Price for 1 year: \$20.48 for 100kg (multiply the weight of your vehicle by \$20.48) + one-off administrative fee. Plan to spend approximately \$500 for a campervan.
- Warning: vehicles registered in WA must be equipped with an immobilizer (to prevent crime related to joyriding). Check on the internet if your car model is already equipped. For example, Ford Falcon Station Wagons after 1990 are.
- Official website: [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au)

## QLD

- Rego renewable for 6 months to 1 year
- No mandatory safety check for renewal
- Garage Check (Safety Certificate) mandatory to buy/sell a vehicle, valid for 3 months or 1000km. Check must be conducted at an approved garage in QLD, therefore you must be in or travel to this state to purchase or sell vehicles licensed in this state.
- Tariffs: an online calculator on the government website provides you with the estimated costs (depending on the weight and cylindrical capacity of your vehicle). Budget from \$250 to \$600/year.
- Official website: [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)

## VICTORIA

- Rego renewable online for 1 year,
- Safety check (Roadworthy certificate) mandatory to sell the vehicle or renew the rego, at an approved garage.
- Prices: online calculator on the official website. Budget approximately \$700 for 1 year.
- Official website : [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## SA

- Rego renewable online for 3 or 12 months
- No mandatory safety check (unless the rego has been left to expire)
- Prices: online calculator. Prices vary according to the weight, cylindrical capacity etc...

- Official website: [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au)

## TASMANIA

- Rego renewable for 6 or 12 months
- Renewable online or at the Department of State Transport
- No mandatory safety check required (unless rego has expired more than 3 months ago).
- Prices: budget between \$500 and \$600
- Official website: [www.transport.tas.gov.au](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au)

## NOTHERN TERRITORY

- Rego renewable online, over the phone or in person for 6 or 12 months
- Mandatory safety check (Roadworthy Certificate) to renew the rego for any vehicle over 10 years old.
- Prices: \$577 for a vehicle with cylindric capacity between 1501 and 2000 cm3.
- Official website: <http://transport.nt.gov.au>

**Useful tip:** Check the vehicle's history on the internet using the registration number on the number plates to check whether there are any unpaid fines. For example, for NSW at: [www.sdرو.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sdرو.nsw.gov.au)

## RE-REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE

Re-registering your vehicle can be a good way to change its state of registration, and therefore the rules around buying and selling the vehicle. For example, you are in Melbourne, and you want to buy a vehicle but it is registered in NSW. Depending on where you are planning to go, you can cancel the registration and re-register it in a new state (for example in Victoria). This can also be a good option if your vehicle is registered in a very strict state. You can re-register in a more convenient state.

To do this you need to:

- Cancel the vehicle's registration with the transport department of the state where the vehicle is currently registered. The vehicle is then "unregistered" so the rules from the state where it was previously registered no longer apply.
- Then go to the nearest transport office (you are allowed to drive there without registration) and re-register the vehicle (for the price of a new registration).
- In most cases you will need to pass an MOT (roadworthy inspection)



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- Pay the registration fees
- Your vehicle will then be registered in the new state where you are at that time.

## RENEWING REGISTRATION

If you need to renew your vehicle's registration, go to a transport office (if you are in the right state), or go online and pay over the internet before the registration expires.

## Insurance & Roadside Assistance

### INSURANCE

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

In Australia, there are 2 types of insurance.

**Compulsory Third Party Insurance** is mandatory, integrated into your rego, covering any bodily damage that could happen to other people. Except this mandatory insurance, all the others are optional. You are not legally obliged to take out a contract with a private company, but you may want to in order to have better coverage (for example damage to a third party's vehicle).

The main companies are NRMA, AAMI and RACQ.

Several types of insurance are on offer:

- Insurance covering **MATERIAL** damage to others (**Third Party Property Damage**). This can be a reasonable price for budget travellers.
- The same insurance + cover for fire and theft (**Third Party, Fire and Theft**). Here, prices start to be higher.
- **Comprehensive insurance** (theft, fire, material damage to a third party's vehicle, or to your own vehicle...) This is expensive.

For each type of contract you can obtain a free quote on line with the main companies. Prices vary according to your age, the number of years you have been driving, the age of your car...

We recommend you at least take Third Party Property Damage Insurance because if you collide with someone else's Mercedes, it could cost you a lot!

### ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Avoiding accidents is one thing, but avoiding breakdowns is really another altogether! Roadside assistance could be very useful if you have an engine problem in the middle of nowhere (IF you have telephone signal to call them....!). You can sign up to roadside assistance and become a member with a company that covers you in this situation. If you breakdown you call the company and they put you in touch with the nearest affiliated garage to come out and tow you. If the problem is minor they can fix it where you are. If it is more serious, they will tow you to the nearest garage.

Whichever company you choose, you will be covered across the continent.

#### DIFFERENT COMPANIES & SERVICES

There are a number of companies to choose from, each offering services with different price ranges. Here are the most well-known:

- **NRMA**
- **RACQ**
- **RACV**
- **RAA**

Again, prices vary according to your age, your vehicle, vehicle weight etc... For basic assistance, budget at least \$100/year for an average vehicle.

If you want to sign up for insurance and roadside assistance, we recommend you sign up with the same company... You could benefit from better prices and other advantages...

## What do you do if you have an accident ?!

Don't panic! Park at the side of the road and walk to the other vehicle involved. All accidents must be reported to the police, unless they are minor. When you call the police, they will tell you whether a police agent will be sent out to you, or if you must drive to the nearest police station. Then contact your insurance company. Some companies will refuse to cover you if you do not contact them immediately.



- Make a note of the following information: names and addresses of witnesses, of the other driver (and of the vehicle's owner, if this is different from the driver).
- Note the vehicle brand, model, and registration number.
- Exchange insurance and contact information with the other driver.
- Record the damages to each vehicle and any injury to the different parties. Note the details on the scene (visibility, traffic conditions, state of the road etc), the details of the collision (speed and impact points).
- Draw a sketch of the accident including the road and the positions of the vehicles involved.
- Keep all this information for the insurance report.
- Take some photos of the accident and surroundings.

## Selling your vehicle

First of all prepare the following documents:

- Sales act
- Registration certificate (rego) – this may just be an email if you paid online or a paper receipt if you paid in a post office.
- Service history: receipts and all information you have about repairs

You may need to take your vehicle for a safety check. This is mandatory when selling or buying in certain states such as Queensland, Victoria and Australian Capital Territory. This means that for these states when you want to sell you must be in the state in which your vehicle is registered. Remember that in these states, safety checks must be conducted in garages approved by the relevant state and the certificate is usually valid for 30 days or 1,000km.

If your vehicle is registered outside of these states, but you are in one of these states when you want to sell, you cannot transfer the rego to a local purchaser.

Therefore, you can either sell without rego,



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or change the rego, or change the rego to register the vehicle in the new state where you are now. In this case, you must meet the requirements of whichever state this is. For example, in Western Australia you will need to have installed an electronic immobilizer if your vehicle does not already have one, in order to be allowed to sell your vehicle.

However, remember that if you have a Western Australia registration you can sell it in Sydney and the new owners can re-register the vehicle on the internet without ever having to go to Western Australia.

**Useful tip:** *A vehicle with valid registration will be much easier to sell!*

The next step is advertising.

If your vehicle has more than 200,000km on the clock, it is unlikely that locals will be very interested. In this case it is best to target backpackers.

Make an ad, with some good photos that are clear and show the advantages of your vehicle. State the year, the kilometres, how many months of rego are left, when the vehicle was last serviced, information on repairs or parts you have replaced, and general service history, and any other information to attract buyers. It is useful to go into detail on equipment provided with the vehicle (extra battery, camping equipment, games, surf board, guitar....)



Display your ads on noticeboards in supermarkets, backpacker hostels, libraries, campsites... and also on *Gumtree*, Facebook pages, groups and specialist websites:

- [www.drive.com.au](http://www.drive.com.au)
- [www.carsales.com.au](http://www.carsales.com.au)
- [www.ozrvsales.com.au](http://www.ozrvsales.com.au)
- [www.cars4backpackers.com.au](http://www.cars4backpackers.com.au)
- [www.adpost.com/au](http://www.adpost.com/au)
- [www.buyandsellaustralia.com.au](http://www.buyandsellaustralia.com.au)

If you have to sell quickly, you can go to a dealer, who will accept your vehicle with or without rego. However, dealers are likely to want a significant reduction, and you may get a price 30% below what you hoped for.

If you have to sell quickly, you can go to a dealer, who will accept your vehicle with or without rego. However, dealers are likely to want a significant reduction, and you may get a price 30% below what you hoped for.

According to the season and where you are, plan 2-3 weeks to be sure to sell your car. If you only have a couple of weeks, aim to in a major city where backpackers arrive, and also be aware that markets are very different. For example, Gumtree worked very well in Perth, but not at all in Sydney – the best opportunity to sell in Sydney was by far and away the car market. In winter, there are regular cases of backpackers having to sell their vehicles for a fraction of their value or even abandon them at the airport because they run out of time and have to fly home.

Once you have sold your vehicle, you must inform the Road and Transport Authority (RTA) of the state, either by sending back the detachable « seller » sheet from the booklet used to transfer vehicle ownership, or directly online. It is the responsibility of the buyer to ensure the transfer of ownership has been successfully completed. If it has not, the buyer may end up paying fines or being held responsible for road infractions committed by the previous owner!

## AVOIDING CON ARTISTS

Watch out! When you post your ad on the internet, you may be contacted by con-artists who pretend to be buyers, and ask if they can send you the money by Western Union or

Paypal without seeing the vehicle.

Due to “professional reasons” they cannot come and inspect the vehicle, and offer to buy without even seeing it! Don’t ever accept this kind of offer, and accept only cash or a bankers draft as payment.

## DRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

### The rules of the game

Remember that to drive in Australia it is best to have an International Driving Permit to show alongside your original licence (and this is compulsory if your original licence is not in English).

### THE MAIN RULES

- Drive on the left
- Seat belt wearing is compulsory
- Traffic coming from the right has priority
- Drink driving is illegal (Legal limit of 0.05%)
- Illegal to telephone while driving

### SPEED LIMITS

Speed limits change according to the state. Usually 50-60km/hour is the maximum in urban areas, reduced to 25km/h near schools. On highways, the speed limit rises to 110km/h, except Northern Territory where you can drive at up to 130km/h on the Stuart Highway.

Speed limits are usually clearly indicated by road signs. There are relatively frequent speed traps (radars) on Australian roads, especially in more urban areas.

### Road Conditions

The main roads are all sealed and well-maintained. You can drive the full circle around Australia and even cross North to South via Uluru without leaving sealed roads in good condition.

Unsealed roads are less frequent but can be found across the territory, usually access roads for National Parks, viewpoints, and camp spots.

In the Outback there are many unsealed roads,



## TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

rarely used by tourists.

In the north roads can be flooded especially in the wet season. If you come up against a flooded road, stop and evaluate the depth of the flood water. It is best to not take the risk, turnaround, and find a different route to get where you are going.

### WILDLIFE

Animals such as kangaroos and cattle, frequently cause accidents on the roads in Australia, especially at night.

It is recommended to stop driving at around 5pm in the afternoon before dusk (when wildlife starts to move around more), and not to start until 8 or 9am the next day (again to miss the dawn time when wildlife is very active).

But keep an eye out throughout the day – we came over a hill in NSW at 3pm in full sunshine to find a huge kangaroo sitting comfortably in the middle of the highway staring at us!

If you see an animal at the edge of the road, slow down !

If an animal jumps out on you suddenly, it is often better to hit the animal (although it will cause damage to your vehicle) rather than to brake suddenly and violently, which often results in a loss of control of the vehicle, causing death or serious injury for the driver/passengers.

### ROAD TRAINS

Road trains are another hazard in the Outback. These huge truck convoys can be metres long, and carry very heavy loads, so they need a VERY large amount of time to brake and slow down.

Keep your distance, and make sure you have extra time to overtake.

(Even if you are travelling at 100km/h you may need 2.5km to overtake a road train).

Although if you are chugging along at 90km/h in a campervan you may find that the road trains overtake YOU!





## Road signs

Most road signs are similar to those you see in Europe and North America:

- Blue signs indicate rest areas, service stations/roadhouses, hotels....
- Temporary yellow signs indicated altered road conditions or road works.
- Green signs indicate major roads (highways, secondary main roads...)
- Tourist routes are shown on brown road signs, often with a letter « T ».
- Warning signs in Australia inform you in advance of the potential hazards on the road you are about to take. They can be yellow, red or orange.

The most frequent warning signs:

- Wild animals or cattle on the road
- Floodway (road may flood)

## Fuel

There are plenty of service stations in large towns and in the surrounding areas, but in rural areas they become scarcer. In some

isolated areas it is recommended to carry a can of fuel with you (if you are able to store it outside of your vehicle, ie on roof racks if you are driving a car).

For example, on the Nullarbor Plains, or in the north western part of Australia, there may be 250km of road without a service station. Avoid driving with less than one third of your tank full – you just need to make one wrong turning to be in a situation where you may run out of fuel and be stranded.

## Parking

In Australian cities, green parking signs indicate how many hours you are allowed to stay in limited duration parking places (P1, P2 = 1 hour, 2 hours...)

For example, a sign showing 1/2P means that you can stay for only 30 minutes, whereas 2P means you can stay for 2 hours.

Electronic parking machines are easy to find in pay for parking areas. The system is simple: pay in advance for a limited duration. Your parking space has a number, and the parking



# TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

metre will record the time you can park until.

To park in major cities, either you spend a significant amount of time looking for a reasonably priced parking space, or your park in the suburbs (near parks, in residential areas where there are no restrictions, or in supermarkets or fast food car parks – check they are not reserved for customers only and that there are no time limits) and travel into the centre.

## Toll Roads

In Australia, nearly all highways are free. The only toll roads you will find are around the biggest cities: Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. However, there are no toll booths to pay on the roads, so you have to pay before if you can by phone or on the internet, or you usually have 2 or 3 days to pay after taking the toll-road (slightly more expensive).

You can also buy a pass for several days (Electronic pass) or register your car with a credit card number in advance (E-Tag) so payments are then automatic. (Cameras record your registration number each time you use the road and payments are deducted accordingly). These systems are designed for residents and are not very convenient for tourists.....

For more information, visit these links:

- [QUEENSLAND TOLL ROADS](#)
- [SYDNEY MY E-TOLL](#)
- [ROAM SYDNEY](#)
- [MELBOURNE CITY LINK](#)
- [EAST LINK MELBOURNE](#)
- [GO VIA \(BRISBANE\)](#)

## Quarantine zones

Interstate quarantine prohibits transporting certain food products between states. The aim is to protect the agricultural industry in each state by preventing contamination from diseases or pests imported from other states.

Check points and “Fruit Fly exclusion zones” exist between states to prevent these food products from crossing the borders.

The exact list of prohibited products varies from state to state, but in most cases the

following are prohibited without a permit :

- Fruit and vegetables
- Plants and flowers

WA, SA (including Kangaroo Island) and Tasmania apply more severe restrictions.

### WA:

Geographical distance and isolation has provided a natural barrier for WA to avoid animal and insect pests, and crop diseases, and they would like to keep it that way, which explains why their rules are so strict. Nuts, grains, fruit and vegetables (even dried), plants, flowers, honey and animals are prohibited from crossing the border into WA.

### SA and Kangaroo Island:

Fruit, vegetables are honey are prohibited.

### Tasmania:

Fresh fruits and vegetables, and fish (fresh or frozen) are prohibited.

If you want more information on any of the states, you can consult the following Australian government webpage: [www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au](http://www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au)

# GETTING READY FOR YOUR ROAD TRIP

A road trip in Australia is the best way to discover this huge country. To enjoy your trip as much as possible, it is important to be ready before hitting the road: know what equipment you need, where you are going, the budget required etc. Here are some tips to help you to get ready.

## Equipment

If you are going to rent a campervan, all the equipment should already be there. If you are buying one, most of the time, it would also be fully equipped. Some people will also choose to buy an empty van and to equip it themselves.



## CAMPING EQUIPMENT

- Chairs and camping table
- Kitchen utensils (plates, pan, sponges etc)
- A torch/flashlight. You can also buy a lantern so you can eat dinner outside. Choose LED lights rather than light bulbs (use fewer batteries). Solar lamps are best: although a little more expensive to buy initially they are cheaper long term as you do not have to pay for batteries.
- Gas bottle for your cooker
- Esky to keep your food cold
- Good knife or axe to cut wood
- A pair of binoculars
- Sleeping bags, tent, pillows...
- Water tank.

## WATER

The North of the country is the hottest and most humid (especially in certain seasons), so make sure you have enough water to last you at least 3 days.

At least one water container is essential. Plan to bring a stock of drinking water and also non-drinking water (to wash yourself and the dishes, etc). But always take more than you

need in case you are stranded somewhere due to rains, a breakdown, or in case you cannot fill up where you intended to.

Expect to use around 12L water per day for 2 people. Taps supplying drinking water are available in most towns (service stations, visitor centres) and caravan parks, but be prepared as in some towns and rest areas in very dry/desert areas (North-West coast, red centre), refill opportunities are not easy to find.

## VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

### FUEL

A container of fuel is advisable if you have a vehicle with high fuel consumption, if you will be going off-road, and if you are able to store it outside your vehicle (for safety reasons). You may need to travel long distances before finding a service station (up to 500km), but usually there is a station every 200-300 kilometres on sealed roads.

Plan where you will fill up using your guidebook – service stations are indicated. Bear in mind that it is not recommended to keep fuel inside your vehicle, so if you have a car without roof-rack you may want to weigh up the risk of running out of fuel with the risk



# TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

of it overheating.

Fuel is much more expensive in the north-west of Australia, so taking containers of fuel could be an option for long journeys. You can find these in DIY or camping shops (Bunnings, Mitre10, BCF...) or in some service stations (but more expensive).

## BATTERY

Most campervans are equipped with a second battery offering you longer battery-life, very useful for computers, telephones etc.

If you are equipping your campervan yourself, remember to add a second battery. It is not expensive and you will soon see.... It will change your life! It is also considered an advantage when re-selling your vehicle.

## POWER INVERTER 240V

For station wagons you can buy power converter devices from electronic or car shops, that plug into your cigarette lighter and can be used to charge computers, telephones, Kindles, IPODs etc while driving.

Be aware that more complex devices (eg computers) may reject the current provided, at least when using the cheapest models, so it may be worth investing in a high quality model from \$60.

You can use it to recharge all your devices as you drive. It will take around 3 hours of driving to recharge a computer.

An alternative option is to stop off at a public library or to spot power points in public places (public toilets, shopping centres, MacDonalds...).

## JUMPER CABLES

Make sure that your vehicle has this well-known accessory, or go to your nearest branch of Supercheap Auto to purchase it! They can be very useful if you have problems with your battery after staying in the same place for a few days!

we also recommend you to have the minimum required for car maintenance and servicing (engine oil, coolant, car jack, some tools).

## HYGIENE EQUIPMENT

An outdoor camping lifestyle requires new habits when it comes to hygiene.

**Solar showers** are cheap (from \$10), and can help you significantly reduce your caravan park costs. 1-2 hours of exposure to the sun on the roof of your vehicle is enough to have a hot shower (check the temperature before you get under the shower).

**Useful tip:** Use your windscreen sun visor as a bathmat so you can shower barefoot!

In between showers, **baby wipes** or similar hygiene products (moist toilet tissues / Wet Ones) around \$5 for a box of 80, can be very practical.

## FIRST AID KIT

You should have a first aid kit available in your vehicle to clean an injury or a bite: adhesive bandages, antiseptic liquid, compress, antivenom...

## GAMES & FUN

You should also have some board games when you travel. You should also have a surf board, soccer ball, playing cards... everything that can distract you on the beach or in the van when it is raining outside! If you are planning to do some snorkelling you should also buy your own equipment as it will cost you more to rent it everytime.

## BUDGET

If you want to set out on a road trip, make sure you arrive with as big a budget as you can! Backpackers often expect to find a job immediately on arrival in Sydney (or other town) and want to save to buy their vehicle... the reality is not quite as simple! Given the cost of living in a city, it is difficult to make significant savings.

Your road trip budget will depend on several factors such as the number of kilometres you plan to cover and the places you will go to (fuel is more expensive in isolated areas).

We have taken as an estimate \$125/week for food.

For fuel, we have estimated 100km/day using 10L/100km (average fuel consumption for a campervan, or driving much faster in a station wagon), with the average fuel price at \$1.5/L.

Be aware that on the west coast once outside of Perth and into the isolated areas above Geraldton, and in the Red Centre, the fuel price is more likely to be \$1.5-2/L.

The camping budget has been calculated by estimating 1 night every 4 nights in a caravan park at \$30 per night.

In total, we arrive at about \$1,500/month (with no extras, and covering only 3000km!) Then we need to add any miscellaneous extras/spending money, and also budget for excursions you may want to take.

**NB** : Remember that this budget is only an estimation to give you an idea.

## Shopping

### FOOD

Go to supermarkets or shopping centres to buy food.

In Australia, just 3 main chains carve up the entire food shopping market across the country: COLES, WOOLWORTHS and IGA.

Coles and Woolworths (nicknamed Woolies) offer good products at reasonable prices. The prices vary according to the location of the shops (more expensive in isolated areas). IGA branches are in general smaller, with slightly more expensive prices. Their own brand, Black and Gold is cheap.

Outside of these major brands, you can find a few convenience food stores Foodworks or Aldi, but they are only in certain states.

For fresh produce remember to go to markets.

Heavily taxed or imported products are expensive, such as alcohol, tobacco.

Here are a few example prices (approximate only):

- 1 packet of breakfast cereal : \$5
- 1 pack of 6 beers : \$18
- 1 frozen pizza: \$6
- 1 bottle of wine : \$9
- 1 shower gel : \$5
- 1 takeaway pizza: \$12
- 1 fast food menu: \$8.5
- 500g hamburger: \$5
- Chicken Nuggets 400g : \$5

- 1 loaf of sliced bread : \$1
- A bottle of Coke : \$2 (cola \$1)
- 1 Camembert cheese: \$9
- 1kg of pasta : \$2

## CAR AND CAMPING ACCESSORIES

Super Cheap Auto or Repco are good shops to find cheap car accessories. These 2 companies are spread across Australia and you can find everything you need to look after your van or car.

Camping shops are easy to find in Australia – remember that camping is a national sport! – and several chains share the market: Camping world, Anaconda, BCF... But not all the shops are established in all the states.

Bunnings & Mitre 10 are the top 2 DIY shops. They also have an “Outdoors” section selling camping material.

Big W, K-Mart & Target are the main general stores in Australia, where you can find everything from cheap clothes, to furniture and interior decorations, camping material, sports and electronic accessories.... You can find them in most Australian towns and they have very competitive prices.

## PETROL

Petrol in Australia is a little less expensive than in Europe but a little more expensive than in North America. However, the price can increase x 1.5 times in isolated areas. Petrol prices can vary greatly and is more expensive in larger cities. Diesel prices are similar to those for unleaded petrol unlike in other countries. There are 4 main types of petrol available:

- Unleaded: around \$1.34
- Diesel : around \$1.46 (sometimes more expensive than petrol)
- E10 : around \$1.35

Please note that prices vary depending on the petrol stations, where you buy petrol etc. You can follow the prices of petrol on this website: [CLIQUEZ ICI.](#)

# TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

## TOBACCO

Highly taxed in Australia, prices are higher than in continental Europe and North America. Budget around \$45 for a 50g packet of tobacco and almost \$25 for a packet of 20 cigarettes. Shops are free to fix their own prices.

## ALCOHOL

Again, highly taxed, alcohol is also more expensive than continental Europe and North America. There is some reasonably priced wine thanks to local production. Beer is expensive and spirits even more so. Budget around \$45 for a pack of 30 beers, almost \$18 for a pack of 6, or around \$3 per individual portion bottle.

## How to save money?

### LOOK OUT FOR PROMOTIONS

Australians LOVE promotions, sales etc.. for every type of product. In all the big stores (especially chains like Coles and Woolworth), there is an area where they put products that are close to their sell-by date, with reduced prices. This usually happens at the end of the day. The products are labelled "reduced for quick sale", and are sold at bargain prices! In the main supermarkets there are also shelves or displays at the end of rows dedicated to cut-price products/ promotions.

### CHEAP SHOPS / SECOND HAND

If you need some clothes, kitchenware, or books, and don't want to spend much money, charity shops such as Red Cross, Vinnies ou Salvos offer some great bargains.

Clothes: it's easy to find T-Shirts from \$2 in very good condition, shoes from \$5 and trousers for \$8-10.

Kitchenware: there are plates, cups, glasses.. for \$1.

There is often also a variety of equipment (camping chairs, blankets, jewellery...) at unbeatable prices!

If you love reading, these shops offer a wide range of books for 1 or 2 dollars, whereas a pocket paperback book in Australia can cost up to \$20!

These shops are in all Australian cities and even in small towns, but are slightly more expensive in larger cities compared to very small towns.

Think of looking for ads on Gumtree or Facebook too. Sometimes people give away mattresses and camping material that they no longer want.

### USE TILL RECEIPT COUPONS

When you do your shopping in the main supermarket chains, you get coupons on your till receipts with 4 to 8 cents per litre of petrol, valid in partner petrol stations.

This gives you \$2 to \$4 saving each time you fill up... And taking into account the number of times you will fill up in a year, the savings are significant!

### BUY FROM THE DELI COUNTER

In supermarkets it is advisable to compare prices between pre-packaged products on the shelves vs at the deli counter. Cheese and cold meats are often cheaper at the deli counters.

### GROUP OFFERS ONLINE

Websites like Groupon, Ouffer and All the Deals have daily deals with prices slashed for products, excursions, evenings out, and services.

- [www.groupon.com.au](http://www.groupon.com.au)
- [www.ouffer.com](http://www.ouffer.com)
- [www.allthedeals.com.au](http://www.allthedeals.com.au)

### GO TO MARKETS

Most towns have a big fruit and veg market, often at the weekend, where you can make significant savings (approximately 20% cheaper than supermarkets). Ask at Visitor Centres.

### DUMPSTER DIVING

See what you can find in the waste bins of major supermarkets. This practice is not that well-known, but is a way to collect a wide range of food products, still fine to eat, that are thrown away every day by supermarkets.

### USE A JERRY CAN TO STORE FUEL

When you fill up your vehicle and the prices are advantageous, fill up an extra jerry can. This will save you money and will be useful for you later.

### AVOID CARAVAN PARKS WHEN YOU ARE ON A ROAD TRIP

When you have already cut down to a minimum what you spend on food and petrol, the last way to make savings is to be as independent as possible.

The 3 main advantages of a caravan park are showers, running drinking water, and washing machines. An alternative approach would be to invest in a solar shower (from \$10) that plugs into the cigarette lighter in your car, and to do your laundry by hand or in public laundries. Use an Esky ice box for a fridge. Given that a night in a caravan park will cost at least \$30, you will soon get your money back on all of these purchases and you can save hundreds of dollars per month.

### AVOID PEAK SEASON

Avoid travelling in peak seasons (school and public holidays), because the price of caravan parks, national parks and any other excursions are higher than usual. If you need to fly (internal flight or to neighbouring countries), it is usually cheaper mid-week vs the weekend.

### BUY A PASS FOR NATIONAL PARKS

In most Australian states you can buy a Pass for all (or nearly all) the national parks in the state. If you are intending to visit several national parks, think ahead. The Pass will be much cheaper.

### FIND FURNITURE IN YOUR STREET

If you are planning to live in town, and need some furniture for your flat or house share, a walk round your neighbourhood just before rubbish collection day can be useful. Residents often leave bulky items out for collection in the street, and you can often find items that are in good condition: tables, chairs, lamps, microwave ovens, mattresses, sofas etc...



# CAMPING IN AUSTRALIA

You will not have any difficulty finding places to spend the night in Australia. Camping is part of Australian culture, and the wide open spaces offer numerous camp spots.

We recommend you avoid caravan parks as much as you can to reduce your expenses. Backpackers just starting out on their roadtrip often feel obliged to stay in a caravan park every 2 days, because they are not yet used to this lifestyle. After a while you realise that it is possible to reduce this to once a month or even less...

**Warning:** *When travelling, always pay attention to the weather conditions ! If you choose a camp spot close to a waterway, be particularly careful about the risk of flooding, especially if it is the rainy season. But even in the dry season you could be in for a surprise!*

## Where to camp?

### GUIDES

We recommend that you buy a guidebook so you can find suitable camping spots

throughout your travels.

**Camp Australia Wide** or **Camping Around Australia** are the most popular. They summarize all the free and cheap camp spots in Australia, listing the facilities available at each site, directions to get there, with very useful roadmaps.

You can also download applications on your mobile such as **Wikicamps** that will give you all the campspots available in Australia.

The hardest part will be to choose your spot at the campsite. What are your priorities? Far away from the rubbish bins, close to the toilets, or next to the fireplace so you can make a campfire.

## CARAVANPARK

There are Caravan Parks everywhere in Australia, usually signposted on the road with blue signs. They offer affordable prices, and laundry, BBQ and limited camp kitchen/cooking facilities, showers/toilets...

You can choose between a site with or without electricity ("powered" or "unpowered"). If "powered" you can connect to the electricity if you have a campervan. The most sophisticated caravan parks even have a TV





room, swimming pool, games room, tennis court, and the option to purchase internet or wifi time...

Prices vary according to the facilities offered, but also the location (close to a town or tourist site), and the season. Most caravan parks offer reduced prices by the week (from a 10% reduction, to a free night). Budget on average \$35-40 per night for an unpowered site for 2 people, going up to \$40-50 in NT towns like Broome and Darwin in high season.

Here is an example list of prices for 1 night and 2 people in a campervan:

### **Low season:**

Powered site : between \$25-35 on average

Unpowered site : between \$20-30 on average

### **High season :**

Powered site: between \$35-55 on average

Unpowered site: between \$32-50 on average

## **CAMPS SPOTS**

Camp spots are areas that have been set up for camping. They usually have pit toilets, and sometimes have a water container (often not drinking water) and barbecues. Showers are harder to find.

These sites are in convenient locations, but

the best of them often have charges attached. However, prices are very reasonable, most often below \$10 per person per night.

Facilities vary widely between camp spots. It is rare to have electricity in these often isolated places and often there will not even be water – so check in advance or come prepared with plenty of your own drinking and washing water.

Sometimes these camp spots can be difficult to get to. There are often unsealed roads and weather conditions can result in road closures. In high season and on weekends we recommend you arrive early enough (between 3 and 4.30pm) to be sure to get a space.

Most camp spots allow a limited number of nights (1 to 30).

## **REST AREAS**

Rest areas are designed for people who want to stop, sleep and hit the road again the next day. They are completely free.

Managed by the part of the Australian government responsible for roads, they are often right next to the road, and can be noisy during the night, especially if they also accept trucks/big rigs.

The services they offer vary widely (usually



## TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

pit toilets except in South Australia, serviced rubbish bins, and sometimes non-drinking water). Water tanks are quite common but can be empty and cannot be trusted as drinking water. It is rare to find safe drinking water or showers.

Make sure you check your guidebook to choose 24 hour rest areas so that overnight camping is authorized and you avoid the risk of a fine. Some are day rest areas only.

### FREE CAMPING

Free camping is officially prohibited in most areas of Australia, but in practice states and even areas within states have varying levels of tolerance (usually according to whether they have had problems with budget travellers free camping there in the past).

If you try to free camp in towns, on the beach or in National Parks you risk a fine from \$50 to \$1,000. In national parks at least on 2WD roads rangers will move you on /fine you if you try to free camp.

However, you can usually free camp in the Outback or in isolated areas in very discrete locations with few people around. Travellers with 4WD vehicles will find it easier to access

convenient off-road spots than those with conventional vehicles.

Some states are more relaxed and accept free camping more, especially Tasmania.

If you see a blue sign with RV on it, this mean that the town accepts campervans so you can sleep there without risking any problems.

## The camping lifestyle

### HYGIENE & LAUNDRY

As mentioned before, you will have to get used to a new lifestyle while camping. The best option for your shower is to purchase a solar shower, especially if you are palnning a road trip in isolated areas. Otherwise, you always have the option of showers in roadhouses, petrol stations, public toilets etc.

In most coastal towns, cold showers are supplied free of charge. You can also pay a few dollars (\$2-5 depending on the area) for a hot shower in service stations, Roadhouses, backpacker hostels and Visitor Centres.

Public swimming pools are also a good way to freshen up and have access to a shower. You



can find them in most towns and usually cost less than \$5.

For your laundries, it is very easy to find automatic washing machines in even small towns and in all caravan parks. In general these public machines do not wash quite as well as your machines at home so avoid overloading them. Prices as usual vary according to where you are, but the cost is usually from \$3 (sometimes \$4) for a machine wash, and \$2 for 20 mins or \$3-4 for 45 mins of drying machine time depending on their supplier/type of machine.

**Useful tips:** buy washing liquid rather than powder, as powder can leave marks on your clothes in these machines. Check the rim of the washing machine for powder left from previous users before you put your clothes in so you do not get it on your clean wet clothes as you take them out!

When the season is right, it is also nice to handwash. It refreshes your clothes and doesn't cost anything. A bucket, washing line, and some soap or a capful of Dettol (gentle disinfectant) is enough.

## PESTS, ANNOYANCES

### FLIES

*"You eat them, you drink them,  
you breath them"*

This quote from John Hood, a Scotsman who visited his son in 1841, neatly summarizes the experience you will have in some areas of Australia. Unfortunately you are going to have to live with flies for at least part of your trip.

Although rare in urban areas, they can become very irritating in the Outback, especially in the north-west and centre of the country, and especially in desert environments (get ready for Coober Pedy!).

Until a real solution is invented, here are some tips to help you avoid going crazy!

First of all, be aware that bright colours and white attract flies more. You can buy a head net to wear over your hat and face, found in service stations/ road houses/ visitor centres in affected areas and in camping/outdoor shops.

There are fly repellent products, but they are often expensive and not very effective. Don't

leave food lying around. Flies like the sun - there are often fewer of them in the shade, and the flies go to sleep and wake up with the sun. A fly swot can help you to vent your frustration on these pesky insects but will not seriously get rid of them.

If you are living in your car or camper van, you can use a mosquito net to cover the entrance to the boot/trunk in "extreme" fly situations, to provide a sanity-conserving fly-free area to eat or rest. In general when the flies are at their worst there is little wind to disturb your net, so it is easy to set up, and will also come in handy in the tropical north to protect against mosquitos.

### MICE

In certain areas of the country, mice are everywhere and can easily get into your vehicle. Don't leave any food lying around (keep food in sealed containers) and close the doors whenever you are not directly next to your vehicle.

If you need to get rid of them there are several solutions (sticky tape, poison, traps), the most effective of which is a trap with the stereotypical piece of cheese!

If you get really desperate, you can always pay for professional pest control.

### ANTS

It is common for ants to form a small colony in your car or campervan. Again, don't get any crumbs or any food outside of tightly sealed containers in your vehicle, and be especially careful with sugary products.

To get rid of them, there are ant traps - little containers with poison in which work quite well (on sale in supermarkets, around \$5 for 3 traps).

### FLEAS/BEDBUGS

Infestations of parasites are also quite common in campervans and cars that are lived in. You may even unknowingly inherit them when you buy your vehicle from previous owners.

In this case we recommend biting the bullet and paying for professional pest control. It is very unlikely you will succeed in getting rid of them with over the counter sprays/bombs, especially if they have settled in.

# ROAD TRIP - ITINERARY IDEAS

## East Coast: Sydney to Cairns

The East Coast is undoubtedly the most taken route by travellers and the most touristy region of Australia. You can easily access all the spots through sealed road so you don't require a 4WD to visit this part of Australia.

It offers countless (patrolled) beautiful beaches, a generally pleasant climate and a great variety in scenery. The main cities on the coast are Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns. They are all very touristy, lively, dynamic and multicultural. For those that aren't used to road trips, like the ocean and don't like to be too far out of the cities, then it's the perfect route to take.

Apart from the big cities, travellers on the East Coast especially like the Whitsunday islands, Fraser Island, the Great Barrier Reef and the great tropical forests of the North.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Time needed:** more or less three weeks

**Distance:** 2500 kilometres between Cairns and Sydney

**Seasons:** The North and the South have two different seasons. Therefore it's best to travel during mid-season, which is April-May and September-October. Beware of the wet season from November to February North of Australia. Beware that it is winter in the South (Sydney, Melbourne..) and from June to August it can be quite chilly!

**Where to sleep:** Free campsites can be hard to come by on certain parts of the Coast (Gold Coast, Mackay, etc.) So think about having a small budget to pay for camping (caravan parks) especially if you are travelling during high season.

## West Coast: Perth to Darwin

The particularity of the West Coast is its wild side. Apart from Perth, you don't come across any big cities, only smaller towns and villages. Distances between towns are vast and nature still has the upper hand on this coast. Beaches, as magnificent as they are wild follow one and other and are sometimes completely deserted. The adventurers, at peace with nature that want to avoid the tourists should, without a doubt, choose the West Coast.

You can discover wild canyons, huge and deserted beaches, the small barrier reef, feed dolphins at Monkey Mia and many other beautiful gems. If you want to be off the beaten track and want a bit of adventure, this route is for you. Marine creatures lovers will also be satisfied as the West Coast is the ideal place to swim with whale sharks (May-July).

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Time needed:** Take about one month from Perth to Darwin

**Distance:** 4000 kilometres on the coast.

**Season:** Same as with the East Coast, best to go in mid-season (April-June or September-October).

**Where to sleep:** Free camp sites are pretty easy to find on the West Coast, you won't have any problems finding places to spend the night, for free or at minimal cost.

## From North to South: Darwin to Adelaide

It's about literally crossing Australia over land. Nature lovers and fans of massive spaces will be in their element. However, you will not see much on the road as it's pretty. The Northern Territory is the state where you will come across the most aborigines and the place where you will come closest to the ancestral culture of Australia.

This route will give you the opportunity to

discover some amazing sites like the Kakadu National Park, Mataranka, the famous Daly Waters pub and also Uluru (Ayers Rock) You will pass less towns and more roadhouses, make sure you stock up on water and fuel.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION: NORTH TO SOUTH

**Time needed:** Take at least 1 month to 1,5 months

**Distance:** 3000 kilometres

**Season:** July-October

**Where to sleep:** There's a great number of free camp sites all along the Stuart Highway. Avoid being too isolated and try and stay in places where you have 'neighbours'

### TRAVEL INFORMATION: NORTH TO THE CENTRE

**Time needed:** Take three weeks from Darwin to Alice Springs

**Distance:** 1500 kilometres

**Season:** April-May or September-October

### TRAVEL INFORMATION: CENTRE TO SOUTH

**Time:** More or less two weeks

**Distance:** 1500 kilometres

**Season:** March-May or August-October

## South Coast: Melbourne to Perth

The scenery in between Melbourne and Adelaide is of a magnificent beauty. You leave Australia's most cultural city to discover the well known 'Great Ocean Road' and the famous Twelve Apostles. If you can try a little detour to visit Kangaroo Island, a little piece of paradise, still well preserved.

Pass through Adelaide, the city of churches, in order to face the desert plains of the 'Nullarbor' with a straight stretch of 146 kilometers. This

part of the route may sometimes seem quite long but cliffs and emptiness are part of the adventure. Thereafter you will be able to refresh in the shade of the Valley of the Giants and discover the wild and beautiful beaches of the South-West region.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Time needed:** anywhere in between 3 to 5 weeks from Melbourne to Perth.

**Distance:** More or less 4000 kilometres

**Season:** October-March

**Where to sleep:** A lot of free campsites all along the coast. You might have some difficulty finding free ones in the more touristy areas. (Great Ocean Road for example).

## Tasmania

Tasmania, the smallest state in Australia exists for 21 percent out of national parks. The landscape of the island is completely different to the Australian Outback. There you will find hills, deep forests, lakes,.. but also dream beaches with white sand and crystal clear water, especially on the East Coast.

Tasmania is the only place in the world where you can spot the Tasmanian Devil in his natural habitat. You can reach Tasmania by ferry, from Melbourne (with or without vehicle) or you can fly by airplane to Hobart or Launceston.

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Time needed:** Take two weeks to do the whole tour

**Distance:** More or less 2000 kilometres

**Season:** Tasmania can be quite chilly. The best time to visit is between October-March.

**Where to sleep:** Tasmania has many camp sites and most towns are equipped with area's for free camping of at least cheap camping.



# TOURS & CRUISES

During your stay in Australia, you will no doubt be tempted by one or more of the excursions, cruises, or organised tours available. Here are some practical tips to help you make the right choices.

## Organised tours

If you are not planning on purchasing a vehicle, an organised tour can be an ideal way to visit a tourist destination or region. The main advantage of these tours is that transport, accommodation and usually also food is included. If you are travelling alone a tour can be cheaper than if you organize everything yourself (hire a car, accommodation, food..... etc).

## POPULAR DESTINATIONS

- East Coast
- Red Centre (Cairns - Darwin)
- Uluru - Ayers Rock
- Kimberley

- Blue Mountains
- Ningaloo Reef
- Kangaroo Island
- Great Ocean Road
- Kakadu & Litchfield National Park

## Excursions

“Excursion” refers mainly to activities that you cannot easily organize for yourself : boat cruises, diving etc...

## MAIN EXCURSIONS ON OFFER

- Whitsunday Islands Coast
- Fraser Island
- Great Barrier Reef
- Shark Dive
- Whale Shark Dive
- Surfing lessons
- Whale watching

## How to book?

To reserve a tour or excursion you usually have 3 options :



## ON THE SPOT

If, for example, you would like to go on a cruise in the Whitsundays and you are able to travel there by yourself (to the Airlie Beach departure point), you can just go to one of the agencies at the port who are offering these excursions.

This doesn't work for all tours though, because many companies don't actually have a "shop" to sell their services.

The advantage of reserving on the spot is that you can check the weather and reserve at the last minute, the day before your tour leaves.

The disadvantage is that the tour could sell out in high season.

## VIA A TRAVEL AGENCY

There is an impressive quantity of travel agencies aimed at backpackers in Australia. Sometimes the staff will even stop you in the street!

The advantage is that they can advise you regarding all the different companies offering the same excursion (but check whether you think they are "neutral" because they may have deals with certain companies).

You can also negotiate reduced prices with them, compared to the on the spot price, especially if you are a group or if you want to reserve several excursions. For organized tours, this option is recommended because the agent will look after everything (transport, accommodation... etc).

The disadvantage of reserving with an agency is that you will have to commit to a specific date. If the weather is bad on that date, you have to make do. It can also be difficult to choose given the wide choice of agencies all offering different prices.

## ONLINE

You can also reserve your tours over the internet from travel agencies or direct from tour operators. This can be convenient if you are on the road, if you want to reserve a popular tour well in advance to make sure you get a place, or if you just don't want to make the effort to travel to where the agencies/tour operators.

## How to save money?

Compare the tour price with how much it would cost you to do it yourself (van or car hire + accommodation? + excursion?). Each case is different, and sometimes it will be cheaper to do it yourself, sometimes not...

If you are in a group, reserve together to get a group price.

And if you are planning on doing several excursions, try to reserve them together and negotiate a reduction.

If you have a car and can get to the place yourself, check out what's on offer at the Visitor Centre before going to agencies. They regularly offer reductions.

You can also turn up as the excursion is boarding the bus or boat, and see if you can get a cut-price last-minute or standby ticket.

Maintain a healthy scepticism concerning amazing reductions advertised in travel agency windows – they usually stay the same all year round!

Compare prices and try to negotiate a better price with the agencies.

For excursions in large towns or cities, have a look on group discount websites such as Groupon, as they regularly have advantageous offers.

Travelling in the low season can sometimes also mean lower prices. This does not always work for the excursions themselves, but is always relevant for vehicle hire and accommodation!





# WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

« PICK, SERVE, CLEAN,  
COOK, PACK...  
THEN DRIVE !!! »

# PICK, SERVE, CLEAN, COOK, PACK... THEN DRIVE !!!!

*Australia is considered as the new Eldorado by many economists, and is one of the few countries to have escaped recession. With uninterrupted growth since 1994 and an unemployment rate of 5,1% in 2018 it is not surprising that in the past 6 months over 100,000 foreigners have moved there!*

*In this favourable climate for those seeking work, the market is also conducive to temporary jobs. Whether in agricultural or urban regions employers often prefer to employ young people for short periods of time to meet their seasonal needs for workers. Temporary employees do not receive the same benefits as permanent workers, but the hourly rate is usually higher which works to your advantage.*

*However, in this context it is just as easy to take the wrong approach or follow false leads to find a job. This guide is here to help and orient you at each step, and those steps will be different depending on whether you want to work in town or in the countryside.*

*Reminder: every individual needs a Tax File Number (see [PAGE 42](#)), to find a job in Australia.*

## WORKING IN TOWNS

### Jobs for everyone

In town, certain job categories do not require a university degree, or even any particular skill.

#### HOUSEKEEPING

**Housekeeping** involves cleaning homes, hotels, hostels, shopping centres, or offices.

These jobs are often part time (from 20 to 25 hours per week) and pay at around \$25 per hour. You can also clean your hostel (several hours per day), and have free accommodation in return.

#### HOSPITALITY

**Bars, hotels and restaurants** employ a large number of backpackers, especially in the summer season. However, there is also a lot of demand from backpackers for this type of work, so try and arrive early in the season to be able to find a job easily. You can work as a waiter or waitress, a kitchen hand, do the dishes or work on the bar..... These jobs are often quite well-paid, from \$20 to \$25 per hour (sometimes more during the weekend).

Remember that in Australia, you need a certificate for all jobs where you serve alcohol. The RSA certificate can be obtained by completing a day of training about Australian legislation, and you have to pay for this yourself. Budget \$100 to get your certificate.

#### SHOPS

There are a lot of jobs available in **shops**, such as fast food restaurants, clothes shops, and all kinds of small independent shops. Pay rates are between \$20 and \$26 (better pay at the weekend).

**Supermarkets** offer a large volume of jobs all year round, but cashier and shelf-stacking jobs are often already taken by Australian students. Pay rates are around \$20/hour.

#### FACTORIES

Working in a **factory** is another to make money. These are usually food factories (fish, seafood, meat....), and the working conditions



are often difficult. Salaries range from 19 to \$25 per hour.

## CONSTRUCTION

If you have some experience in construction, joinery, etc, you could also try your hand at these jobs in Australia. These jobs are often well paid and there is high demand for workers.

To find work in this area it is recommended to go via a temping agency specialized in this area.

## OTHER TYPES OF CASUAL WORK

Many other casual jobs are available in Australian towns. If you have difficulty finding a job, widen your search to also include less sought after jobs (maintenance in caravan parks, gardening, golf courses, removals, babysitting etc).

You can also look for work all year round in industrial zones in large towns, carwashes, and car rental companies.

## Training and Certificates

### HOSPITALITY

#### RSA

- Mandatory training to be able to work in any place that sells alcohol. State-specific – the certificate is only recognized in the state where it was obtained.
- 3-4 hour training, either online or in a training centre.
- Prices range from \$50 to \$150 depending on the state.

TO GET YOUR RSA IN NSW: [CLICK HERE](#)  
TO GET YOUR RSA IN VIC: [CLICK HERE](#)  
FOR ALL OTHER STATES: [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information go to [PAGE 45](#).

#### RCG or RSG

- Mandatory training to be able to work in a casino, gaming establishment.
- Training online or in a training centre.
- Recognized across all states.
- Prices: from \$35 to \$120, and can be purchased as part of a pack with several certificates (including the RSA – see



## WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

above) which gives you a reduction compared to purchasing each certificate separately.

TO GET YOUR RSG: [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information go to [PAGE 46](#).

### BARS/COFFEE SHOPS

- Additional, optional training can help add strings to your bow in hospitality/ bar/ restaurant service. How to make cocktails, barista courses, etc.
- These could give you the edge if you want to work in this area.

### CONSTRUCTION

#### WHITE CARD

- Mandatory training to be able to work in construction.
- Recognized in all states
- 2 to 4 hour training, either online or in a training centre
- Prices : \$50 to \$80

TO GET YOUR WHITE CARD: [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information go to [PAGE 45](#).

#### BLUE CARD

- Extra training in addition to the mandatory White Card training for transport and delivery.
- Recognized in all states
- Training online or in a centre
- Prices: from \$55

#### FORKLIFT LICENCE

- Training to learn to drive a forklift truck.
- Recognized in all states
- On site training for 1 to 2 days
- Prices: From \$200

## For the most qualified

The Australian **medical industry** is lacking in workers and offers numerous opportunities for those with relevant qualifications. Hospitals often use specialised interim agencies for temporary contracts. Nurses in particular are in demand in Australia. However, you do need to register as a nurse in each of the states you wish to work, and obtain an equivalence.

The **financial sector** offers jobs for those with specific skills and qualifications along with business attire.

Workers skilled in **new technologies** are also very much in demand in large towns. Certain recruitment agencies are specialised in this area Web-designers, graphic designers, software specialists can easily find work.

Foreign workers qualified in **construction** are also highly appreciated, but you do need to obtain recognition from the TRA (TRADE RECOGNITION AUSTRALIA) and a Green Card (NSW, WA), Red Card (VIC) or Blue Card (QLD). All the information about how to do this can be found at: [www.visabureau.com/australia/builders-and-construction-workers-australia.aspx](http://www.visabureau.com/australia/builders-and-construction-workers-australia.aspx)

**Telemarketing** can also be open to foreigners, but you need strong motivation as your salary is often closely linked to your sales results.

Finally, there can also be opportunities in **secretarial work**, but you must have good written English and client-facing skills.

## How to find a job in town

If you intend to look for a job in a town, here is some advice to avoid making common errors. Of course there are many ways to identify opportunities, and the best method is to use them all! However, sometimes you need to be patient because the job search may take several weeks.

Stay motivated, keep making an effort, and in particular, meet people, let them know you are looking for a job. Word of mouth is always effective in Australia!

Tourist offices/Visitor Centres (in small towns) are also often a good place to start in your job search, as they often have a list of all the employment agencies in the town, or even in the region.

It can be a good idea to go further out of very competitive town centres. There are so many jobs in suburban areas usually well-connected with public transport.

Prepare your resume, dress well, and prepare a short presentation of yourself and your skills ready for interviews so you are confident.

# GET YOUR RSA AND WHITE CARD

**RSA**



**NSW**

**124\$ - ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**RSA**



**QLD/NT  
SA/WA**

**24\$ - ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**RSA**



**MELBOURNE**

**60\$ - ON-SITE COURSES**

**WHITE  
CARD**

**39\$ - ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**GOOD DEALS**

# WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

## DOOR TO DOOR

A great way to find a job is by going door to door. Go out into the town and tour round the shops with your CV. This will give you a feel for the job market. Also ask prospective employers if they know someone who is looking for a new employee. You can also ask those who have already found a job, how they found it, if they had any obstacles. We tend to talk to others who are job-seeking like us, but in fact it's those who have found employment who have more answers to give us.

## EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

### GENERAL AGENCIES

Very common in large towns, these agencies are very popular. You may need to go there every day to consult the new job offers as soon as they are put up. It will usually be mandatory to register in their database and provide a CV. Here is a list of the most popular agencies for backpackers:

- The Job Shop  
[www.thejobshop.com.au](http://www.thejobshop.com.au)  
Agency specialised in jobs for backpackers.
- Aussi Jobs  
[www.aussijobs.com.au](http://www.aussijobs.com.au)  
This website lists all types of employment that can be filled by travellers in Western Australia.
- Jobaroo  
[www.jobaroo.com](http://www.jobaroo.com)  
Covers several job topics, especially fruit picking and information about working in Australia.
- Skill hire  
[www.skillhire.com.au](http://www.skillhire.com.au)  
Specialised in jobs in Western Australia with many agencies in the key towns of this state.

### AGENCIES FOR QUALIFIED JOBS

- Drake International  
[au.drakeintl.com](http://au.drakeintl.com)  
Recruitment company covering all types of work, with branches across Australia.
- Kelly Services Australia  
[www.jobs.kellyservices.com.au](http://www.jobs.kellyservices.com.au)  
Recruitment company covering all types of work, with branches across Australia.

- IPA Personnel  
[www.ipa.com.au](http://www.ipa.com.au)  
Recruitment company covering all types of work, with branches across Australia (except Northern Territory & Tasmania).
- Manpower  
[www.manpower.com.au](http://www.manpower.com.au)  
Recruitment company covering all types of work across Australia.
- Adecco  
[www.adecco.com.au](http://www.adecco.com.au)  
Recruitment company covering all types of work across Australia.
- DSC Placements  
[www.dscpersonnel.com.au](http://www.dscpersonnel.com.au)  
20 year-old employment agency. Most jobs in Sydney and Brisbane, specialised in industrial work.
- Future Prospects  
[www.future-prospects.net](http://www.future-prospects.net)  
Specialised in IT. Recruits for jobs in and around Sydney. They have a division called Mac People specialised in desktop publishing and graphic design.
- Hays Personnel  
[www.hays.com.au](http://www.hays.com.au)  
Classed as one of the best international employment agencies, they operate across Australia.
- AustraliaTeacher  
[www.australiateacher.com](http://www.australiateacher.com)  
Specialised in the education sector, recruiting teachers.
- Jonathon Wren  
<http://www.wrencareers.com/>  
All types of work, national
- Agencies in the medical sector  
[www.nursingaustralia.com](http://www.nursingaustralia.com)

### CENTRE LINK

These agencies are the equivalent of Job Centres in the UK, collecting job offers by sector and geographical area. There are offices in most towns and you can look at their job offers for free on computers made available to the public.  
Tel.: 132 850 (in English)  
Tel.: 131 202 (other languages)  
[www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

## WEBSITES & FORUMS

These sites are used by backpackers, so the jobs are pounced on and disappear quickly – so react fast!

[www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)  
[www.mycareer.com.au](http://www.mycareer.com.au)  
[www.careerone.com.au](http://www.careerone.com.au)  
[www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)  
[www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)  
[www.randstad.com.au](http://www.randstad.com.au)  
[www.jobs.com.au](http://www.jobs.com.au)  
[www.downundr.com](http://www.downundr.com)  
[www.workingin-australia.com](http://www.workingin-australia.com)

### CLEANING

[www.spotless.com](http://www.spotless.com)  
[www.havencab.com.au](http://www.havencab.com.au)  
[www.mastercare.com.au](http://www.mastercare.com.au)  
[www.airlitegroup.com.au](http://www.airlitegroup.com.au)

### HOSPITALITY

[www.troys.com.au](http://www.troys.com.au)  
[www.frontlinehospitality.com.au](http://www.frontlinehospitality.com.au)  
[www.pinnaclepeople.com.au](http://www.pinnaclepeople.com.au)  
[www.nosh.com.au](http://www.nosh.com.au)  
[www.stedmans.com.au](http://www.stedmans.com.au)  
[www.hanleyhospitality.com.au](http://www.hanleyhospitality.com.au)

### CONSTRUCTION / MINES

[www.troys.com.au](http://www.troys.com.au)  
[www.plumbingcareer.com.au](http://www.plumbingcareer.com.au)  
[au.theconstructionjob.com](http://au.theconstructionjob.com)  
[www.constructjobs.com.au](http://www.constructjobs.com.au)  
[iminco.net/mining-jobs-no-experience](http://iminco.net/mining-jobs-no-experience)  
[www.spotless.com](http://www.spotless.com)

### PROMOTION & EVENTS

[www.promostaff.com.au](http://www.promostaff.com.au)  
[www.sportsrecruitment.com](http://www.sportsrecruitment.com)  
[www.promotional-models.com.au](http://www.promotional-models.com.au)  
[www.promopeople.com.au](http://www.promopeople.com.au)

## PRESS

Most Australian newspapers are a rich source of employment offers. They also give you an overview of the different salaries and qualifications requested for the type of job you are targeting.

Each main Australian town has its own daily newspaper and the number of job offers vary. However, you will find the most offers in the Saturday edition.

Here is the list of the main papers with the best « employment » sections.

### NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

*The Australian*  
[www.theaustralian.com.au](http://www.theaustralian.com.au)

### BY STATE AND TERRITORY

#### NSW

*The Sydney Morning Herald*  
[www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au)  
*Daily Telegraph*  
[www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph](http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph)

#### VICTORIA

*The Age*  
[www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au)  
*The Herald Sun*  
[www.news.com.au/heraldsun](http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun)

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*Adelaide Advertiser*  
[www.news.com.au/adelaidenow](http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow)

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*West Australian*  
<http://thewest.com.au>

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY

*Northern Territory News*  
[www.ntnews.com.au](http://www.ntnews.com.au)

#### QUEENSLAND

*Courier Mail*  
[www.couriermail.com.au](http://www.couriermail.com.au)

#### TASMANIA

*Mercury*  
[www.news.com.au/mercury](http://www.news.com.au/mercury)  
*Examiner*  
[www.examiner.com.au](http://www.examiner.com.au)

## OTHER APPROACHES

Word of mouth is a good technique to find leads and to find out where there is a need for workers.

It is often useful to go to Backpacker hostels. Most of the reception areas have a noticeboard with job ads.

The main supermarkets also have noticeboards with job offers and also ads from those looking for work.

Notice boards outside schools and universities can also have job offers for work like babysitting, housekeeping....



# MINING JOBS

## What kind of jobs?

The main profiles required for mining jobs are engineers, technicians and machine drivers.

However, mining sites are gigantic in Australia, like huge campuses or mini towns, completely independent, and so to meet the needs of these communities there are also many less qualified jobs on offer: maintenance, cleaning, cooking.

## Working Conditions

Conditions in the mines can be difficult. Most mining regions are in hot, arid zones (sometimes above 45°C). Working hours are long and weekends are rare.

The most usual schedule is to work several entire weeks without a day off, and then take a full week of leave. The isolation can put some people off this kind of work, because outside of the mining complex there is nothing for hundreds of kilometres.

## How to find a job?

Mining jobs tend to be reserved for Australians or long term ex-pats. Recruiters prefer to take employees on for long contracts, so the Working Holiday Visa could be a disadvantage.

Also there is specific training that must be completed on-site – another reason for recruiters to avoid high employee turnover. But there can still be good opportunities if you are motivated.

### GET TRAINED UP

It is recommended to get the White Card to demonstrate that you already have some knowledge of safety procedures. If you have any other qualifications which could be relevant, make sure you highlight them (machine or forklift operation etc..).

### FIND CONTACTS

If you can meet someone in Australia who already works in a mine this could be a great help. Networking works in Australia, especially

in this relatively closed environment.

Your contact can explain to you how he or she got in, and maybe give you the name of a person to contact.

### CONTACT RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

Recruitment agencies will usually be your main way in, but don't waste time with specialist mining agencies if you do not have any relevant experience on your CV. Go to agencies like "Regional Work" instead. In the Perth region, you can also look at ads in the Sunday papers.

### TRY YOUR LUCK IN PERSON

Being there in person is always an advantage to get a job – if any places come up, those who are there waiting in the wings will get first choice. But don't cross the entire continent especially!

### MAINTENANCE PERIODS

During maintenance periods the mines are closed or being renovated, and sometimes they recruit unqualified workers for short missions. This is a good way to gain initial experience in the mining sector.

# FRUIT PICKING

Fruit picking is a general term that covers all agricultural work. Some of these jobs are ideal for those who want to work short or medium term to finance their trip.

They are very popular with Working Holiday Visa travellers because they do not require any particular skills and there are many jobs available across the continent. Each Australian state has a wide range of fruit and vegetables to harvest at different times throughout the year.

These jobs are an opportunity to meet Australians from all states as well as backpackers from all over the world.

Usually the work is arduous testing your levels of physical fitness.

You will sometimes be working bent down to the ground or on a ladder holding up your arms. The work is often repetitive and tiring.

## Job types

### PICKING

Picking is the number one type of job in agricultural work. But there are different types of picking. You can collect fruit or vegetables, from the ground or from trees, in very different working conditions. Some fruits are easier to pick than others. For example, **cherries** have the reputation for being easy to pick and well-paid. On the other hand, **tomatoes** and **onions** generally have a bad reputation.....

**Apples** are easy once you get the hang of picking them quickly and often. The picking is selective. As soon as you have picked them, you put them in the bag around your waist and later empty it into the bin. For the first few days it is normal to have aching shoulders! Be gentle in your movements because some types of apples are easily damaged and the farmer will often examine the quality of the fruit that has been picked.

**Oranges** are quick to pick once you have mastered the « twist » (twist your wrist to pick them without taking off any skin). You

can pick using bags or buckets depending on the farms. **Strawberries** give you backache (collected at ground level).

**Vegetables** are also collected from the ground and so put your back to the test!

Generally, your experience of picking will depend enormously on the farmers, their way of working and the overall atmosphere. Give yourself a few days before finally making up your mind.

Picking from trees often involves using ladders which can make the task more complicated. On the other hand, if you have back problems, picking on the ground can be painful. Try to find the type of picking which will suit you best.

Picking can be selective or exhaustive.

**Selective picking** involves choosing the fruit or vegetable to pick according to its size, colour or both. The farmer will no doubt show you samples of what should be picked. This involves smaller quantities than massive picking and so will have an influence on your payment if you are paid according to how much you collect.



## WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

**Exhaustive picking** involves collecting more or less all the fruit produced by the tree. You only take out damaged fruit. Easier than selective picking, this type of picking usually happens at the end of the harvest season.

### PACKING

This involves sorting and packing fruit and vegetables. The working conditions are similar to factories. The environment is often noisy and the task completed in a production line. These jobs may also be paid according to the quantity you sort or pack. Expect that you will need a few days to get up to speed.

### PRUNING

Cutting back trees or vines using pruning shears. These jobs, often well paid, need a good level of physical fitness. They are usually carried out in winter in difficult weather conditions.

Pruning shears can be electric or manual depending on the region and the type of pruning. Pruning can be paid according to how much you get done, or paid by the hour,

depending on the type of trees. Manual pruning shears require repeated effort from your hands and can be painful to start with.

### THINNING

Thinning out tree fruits before the harvest season. You pick the smallest fruits so that the others have space to grow big. The farmer will show you what size fruits to leave. Thinning needs a certain amount of patience and a sharp eye.

### PLANTING

Planting varies enormously according to the fruit or vegetables concerned. It is often done manually, but use of machines (tractors) is occasionally necessary for the biggest trees. To plant young trees you will need to use a pick and shovel on a daily basis!

## How to find a job ?

Every year thousands of travellers cross the continent looking for work in the agricultural sector. There are several ways to find work fruit picking, but the best bet is always to use them all at once to increase your chances.

### OVER THE PHONE

Use the farm contacts in this guidebook, [PAGE 120](#)

This will enable you to contact the farms directly and ask if they need fruit pickers, so you don't have to cover a lot of kilometres with no guarantee of finding work.

When you contact them, use the opportunity to find out about the local fruit picking situation this year.

Even if the answer is negative, ask some questions, as the information can be valuable. Maybe they could direct you to another farmer who is looking for workers, or let you know about the season – early this year? Late?

### DOOR TO DOOR

Door to door is one of the best ways to find a fruit picking job. Farmers appreciate meeting you before giving you a job and it is easier to make a good impression compared to the phone.



Visit farms during their working hours so you are more likely to find someone on the property.

If there is no one there, it can be useful to prepare a note to leave in their letter box explaining that you are looking for work. See the example in ANNEX 5.

However, be aware that door to door searches in agricultural regions, often isolated, can take time and even entail a significant cost (fuel).

## BOOKS

National Harvest Labour is available for free in most Tourist Information/Visitor Centres. In each state it informs you which fruit/vegetables are harvested in each season. A new updated addition is available annually with the seasonal and harvest dates for that year.

## WORD OF MOUTH

Again, talk about it with everyone you meet. Talk to locals when you do your shopping, talk to backpackers you meet in hostels or in pubs.

## BACKPACKER HOSTELS

Check the noticeboards in backpacker hostels. Sometimes, you can give your name at reception to be added to a list of people looking for picking jobs.... But if you are not staying in that hostel, it is much less likely it will work!

## WORKING BACKPACKER HOSTELS

Certain youth hostels (located in agricultural areas) offer to find you picking work. This can be convenient but there are no guarantees: the wait can be long depending on the seasons, and some people take advantage to a certain extent.

## HARVEST TRAIL

<https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest>

Phone : 1800 062 332

Useful tip : call in the morning before 11am to have a better chance.





# WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

## INTERNET

You can also use the internet to find contacts or apply for a job directly on farm websites.

### YELLOW PAGES

[www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au)

Type “orchard, fruit & berry growers, vegetable growers, wineries...” in the search field with the relevant region.

### GUMTREE

Act as soon as a new ad is posted. If anyone asks you to pay them a deposit – run for your life!

[www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)

### SPECIALISED SITES

[www.jobaroo.com](http://www.jobaroo.com)

[www.pickingjobs.com](http://www.pickingjobs.com)

[www.jobsearch.gov.au/harvesttrail](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/harvesttrail)

[www.workstay.com.au](http://www.workstay.com.au)

[www.wineindustryjobs.com.au](http://www.wineindustryjobs.com.au)

## CENTRELINK

CentreLink is a state service centralizing job offers by sector and geographical area.

They have offices in most towns and you can consult job offers free of charge on the computers made available to the public.

[www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

## CONTRACTORS

In some towns, farmers work with independent recruiters. When you go to see them on their farm, they will say to you “for recruitment we use...”.

If this happens a few times you will need to contact this agent to try and find work in the town.

## OTHER IDEAS

Temping agencies can be found in all towns. The best known to backpackers are Madec ([www.madec.edu.au](http://www.madec.edu.au)) and Skill Hire ([www.skillhire.com.au](http://www.skillhire.com.au)).

Look for ads in supermarkets or the local newspapers (some free of charge).





### Working conditions

It is usually easier to find a job when you have your own car and accommodation. Remember that these jobs require a good level of physical fitness as they will use muscles you did not even know existed!

Most fruit-picking jobs will be in difficult weather conditions.

Nevertheless, this type of work is accessible for most people. You don't need to be sporty. Girls do very well as they are more agile than men in some tasks.

Everyone can find their niche in this kind of job, as long as they have willpower and courage.

### WORKING HOURS

When the crop is ready for harvest, the farmer will expect high productivity, and may even ask you to work 6-7 days per week. But in agricultural regions with limited tourist activities, it can be to your advantage to fit in the maximum number of hours per week so that you can get back to travelling as soon as possible. The weeks tend to

go by more quickly when you work every day... so why not? Often working hours are only from 8.30am til 3pm due to the difficult working conditions and high temperatures in the afternoon.

### ACCOMMODATION

Caravans, tents or rooms may be offered to pickers for a symbolic amount. If this is not the case, the best solution is to live in caravan parks or backpacker hostels nearby, or to bring your campervan to the property.

Some farms provide kitchens and laundry (washing machines and dryers) for their employees. Find out in advance about the facilities on the farm and how much you will be charged.

### SALARIES AND TERMS & CONDITIONS

Pay rates vary according to the farms and the different types of jobs. They can be paid weekly, by the hour, or by production (per basket, per tree, per punnet....)



# WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

Pay rates are between \$10 and \$18 per hour (most often around \$14) and are generally higher for big fruits.

Employers pay pickers every week or every 2 weeks.

We would advise you to ask about payment before starting and if the amount is not fixed to ask for an approximate range.

When the pay rate is based on your productivity, don't be surprised if you do not earn as much as you had hoped in your first pay packet, but persevere so that you will get more next time.

## Advice to pickers

### WHILE YOU'RE SEARCHING

You need to be organized to find a job in Australia. First of all, organize where you will stay according to the seasons and your budget. Start looking, or at least listening out for opportunities, before you need to work! Call farms directly, and if they don't have any work on offer, ask them questions: When are you going to start the harvest? How's the season this year? All this information can orient you in your job search. You can even ask them if they have other contacts who could be interested. Talk to other backpackers, who can also give you information on the regions they have already crossed. Stay positive, persevere and you will find a job!

### ADEQUATE CLOTHING

Make sure you have plastic boots, trousers, and long-sleeved T-shirts to protect you from insects, scratches from tree branches and from sunburn.

A hat is essential as it covers the back of your neck, your forehead and face.

A rain jacket could be useful (sometimes supplied by your employer).

Bring bottles of water, sunscreen, a headnet and insect repellent so you can stay calm even when under attack!

If you didn't bring these clothes with you and you want to buy them cheaply, go to charity shops (known as "Op-shops") like The Red Cross, Salvos, Sammy's, or second hand shops, where you will find what you need going for a song!

### ON THE FARM

- Pick with both hands independently – it's a lot faster!
- When picking in trees, start from the top and work your way down little by little so you do not have to carry a full bucket or bag when you climb up.
- Avoid damaging the fruit, most farms with check the quality of the fruit you collect.
- Avoid moving around unnecessarily. Pick methodically, from zone to zone.
- Don't overload yourself! Look after your back... You need to stay the course.
- Try to develop an effective picking technique suited to your task.
- Careful about where you put your buckets of fruit.
- If you are in a couple try to develop a technique where you to pick together even more effectively than alone...
- Help each other out!
- Go for it and give all you can the first day, and then later find your speed so that you can hang in there for days/ weeks.

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Do your best to receive all payment for every day you worked before you leave.

Make sure you obtain a payslip for your tax declarations, in case of a disagreement, or for information such as ABN, tax paid (mandatory for your Tax Return).

If your employer doesn't pay you and refuses to pay you even when you have spoken to him about it, do not hesitate to contact Fairwork at [www.fwa.gov.au](http://www.fwa.gov.au)

Ensure that your employer gives you the form correctly filled out to renew your visa.

See [PAGE 99](#).

## VOLUNTARY WORK

Voluntary work is unpaid and takes place in small to medium-sized farms. For your work your hosts will provide accommodation and food. The main advantage is working with some very interesting, kind employers, and being able to live close to nature. The work they will give you varies depending on the farm, the region, and the time of year. You may end up doing all kinds of jobs like cutting wood, looking after animals, gardening, collecting fruit or vegetables, planting....etc.

You must meet certain criteria to be able to do voluntary work:

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- You must sign up for the voluntary work programme
- You must have a good enough level of physical fitness to be able to do farm work

You will be required to work 4-6 hours a day on average.

There are several programmes of voluntary work. The best known are Wwoofing and Help Exchange.



**Warning:** volunteer work no longer allows you to extend your visa for a second year since 2015.

## Wwoofing

The Woof (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) programme originated in England in 1972, was very successful and was later extended to the rest of the world. Almost 50 countries currently participate in the programme, based on mutual benefit. Previously limited to farms, woofing is now possible in families, bed and breakfasts, hotels...

Starting in Australia in 1981, it is now very popular with people of all nationalities who want to experience voluntary work.

To be part of the programme, you need to become a member. Sign up online and pay the inscription fee on the Wwoofing website: [www.wwoof.com.au](http://www.wwoof.com.au).

After paying the membership fee you will have access to all the contact details of all participating hosts, receive your membership card (valid for 1 year) and access to the mobile application.

Membership fee: \$70 per person (\$120 for 2).

## Help Exchange

This programme can only be found online. It lists all farms, ranches, bed & breakfasts or hotels willing to accept voluntary workers in exchange for accommodation and meals.

There are 2 levels of enrolment:

- Free membership after completing an online form. You can see some of the hosts participating in the programme but you cannot contact them.
- Premium Inscription: you can see all the hosts who have signed up to the programme, with their contact details, and detailed comments posted by previous volunteers.

Membership cost 20€ (for 1 or 2 people). No catalogue is provided – it's all online: [www.helpx.net](http://www.helpx.net)

# Volunteering

## LAND CONSERVATION

**Conservation Volunteers Australia**, (Ballarat, VIC), actively contributes to conservation. You will be required to make a financial contribution for your accommodation and meals. Tel: 1800 032 501  
info@cva.org.au  
<http://conservationvolunteers.com.au>

**Bunya Mountains National Park** (Dalby, QLD) specialises in protecting the park's flora and fauna. Tel : 13 74 68

**Earthwatch** (in Melbourne) is an environmental organisation committed to research to support conservation and biodiversity. Tel : 03 9016 7590  
[www.earthwatch.org/australia](http://www.earthwatch.org/australia)

## COASTAL CONSERVATION

**Coast Care Australia** (Head office Sydney) With more than 6 000 groups across the country, this movement focuses on the sustainable management of Australia's natural resources.  
Tel : 02 9412 1040  
[www.landcareaustralia.com.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au)

**Order of underwater coral heroes** (Airlie Beach, QLD) monitors reefs and the marine environment.  
info@ouchvolunteers.com  
<http://www.ouchvolunteers.com/>

## WILDLIFE RESCUE AND PROTECTION

**Australian Koala Foundation** (Brisbane, QLD) This Foundation works on koala conservation in the wild and conserving their habitat.  
Tel : 07 3229 7233  
[www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com)

**Dolphin Discovery Centre** (Bunbury, WA) They count on the help of volunteers to manage the interactive zone. They also respond to visitors to raise awareness about the risks to the species.  
[www.dolphindiscovery.com.au](http://www.dolphindiscovery.com.au)

**Kangaroo Wildlife Shelter** (Victoria) if a family refuge for Kangaroos and Wombats.  
[www.kangoolawildlifeshelter.org.au](http://www.kangoolawildlifeshelter.org.au)

You can also find volunteer opportunities on the website **SEEK** Volunteer : [www.volunteer.com.au](http://www.volunteer.com.au)

# PAPERWORK TO COMPLETE

## Tax file number declaration

When you start a new job, you need to complete a form called "Tax file number declaration" in addition to an optional job contract.

Information required includes your TFN, an address in Australia (give the address of your employer, hotel or caravan park), and your fiscal status (resident or not). This form is then sent to the tax office by your employer.

## Tax return

When you work in Australia, you must pay tax to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Throughout the year, tax is taken directly off your salary before it is paid to you. The % tax paid depends on your fiscal status (resident or not).

Since January 2017, all backpackers with a working holiday visa (or work and holiday) are considered as non-resident for tax purposes. A fixed rate of 15% is applied (from 0 to 37,000 AUD earned in fiscal year).

For others, you are considered a resident if:

- You have been in the country 6 months (in the fiscal = tax year, or continuously), and during that period you have worked and lived mainly in the same place.
- You are a student in Australia on a course lasting more than 6 months.

If in doubt, you can do the test "Are you a resident?" on the ATO website: [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

## NON RESIDENTS

**From 0 to \$80,000:** 32.5 cents for each dollar received.

## RESIDENTS

- **From 0 to \$18,200:** no tax
- **From \$18,201 to \$37,000:** 19 cents per dollar received.
- **From \$37,001 to \$87,000\$ :** \$3,572 AUD plus 32.5 cents per dollar received.

There is a SIMPLE TAX CALCULATOR, which you can use to calculate the approximate amount of tax you will pay.

Available on this website : [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

## WHEN?

In Australia, the fiscal year starts on 1st July and ends on 30th June the following year. When the tax year ends, it is mandatory to complete a form declaring your total revenue for the year: a TAX RETURN. You have from 1st July to 31st October at the latest to complete and send back your Tax Return.

If your visa comes to an end before the fiscal year-end, or if you plan to leave the country before the end of your visa, you can complete a Tax Return in advance:

Follow the steps explained on the ATO website: [ADVANCE DECLARATON.](#)

If you have already left Australia, you need

to order the current paper version of the tax declaration for the current year over the internet. (They will post a copy to you.) Complete it, and then cross out the year and write the next year instead. For example, cross out 2019 and replace it with 2018. Your request may take around 6 weeks.

## HOW?

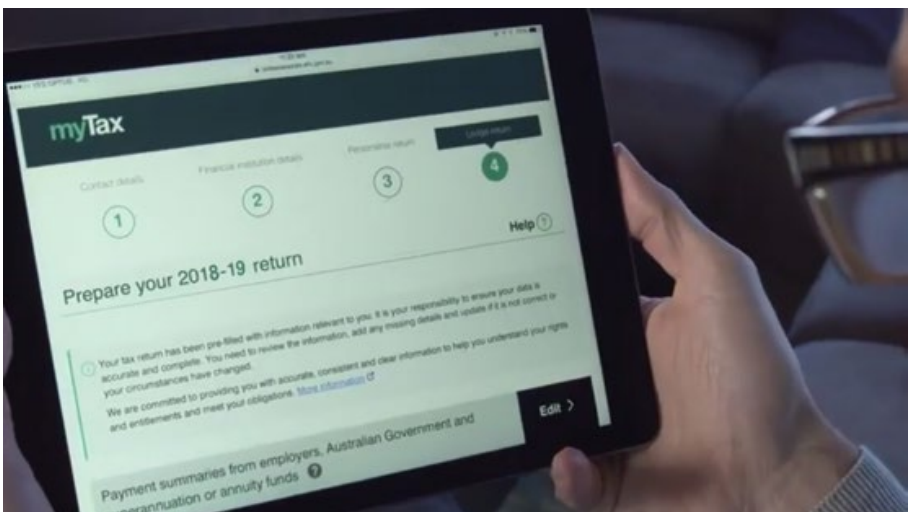
You have 2 options:

### COMPLETE YOUR TAX DECLARATION YOURSELF

- Complete online with E-Tax (software on the ATO website). You simply need to download E-Tax and install it on your computer. You can then complete your tax return and obtain an estimation of your taxes at the end of this process.
- Complete a paper version – pick up the tax return form and a document with explanatory notes in an ATO branch (Australian Taxation Office).
- If you have difficulty completing it, you can also go to an ATO office and ask the staff for assistance.

You need the following documents to complete your tax return:

- Your Tax File Number
- Your payment summaries (total salaries received, - these documents are





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- provided by your employers)
- ABN of your employer(s). (if you don't have it, you can find it here: [www.abnsearch.com.au/express/dnbexpress\\_abnsearch.asp](http://www.abnsearch.com.au/express/dnbexpress_abnsearch.asp))
- Your bank account name and number

If your employer(s) did not give you a payment summary, you can find the information you need on your last payslip.

**Useful tip:** In the « DEDUCTION » section, you can declare certain expenses, such as fuel purchased to travel to your workplace, or even equipment purchased (picking gloves for example) or the training you paid for (RSA, White Card). The ATO do not check up on this if the total amount is under \$300.

In the « MEDICARE » section, if you do not have access to Medicare national insurance services you do not have to pay for this.

### USE AN ORGANISATION

You can also pay commission and use a specialised organisation that will do your tax return for you.

## Superannuation

The superannuation is a contribution towards retirement. It is taken off your salary and sent by your employer to a retirement fund (your employer must provide you with details of this).

It is compulsory for your employer to pay the superannuation contribution to any employee over the age of 18 who is paid more than \$450 a month. Backpackers often miss out on superannuation because it is less well understood than tax back and requires additional paperwork.

The amount is fixed at 9.5% of your salary, which is still a significant amount in total at the end of your stay.

You can chose to open an account with a superfund directly or ask your employer to open one for you. Please note that most banks, such as Westpac, Commonwealth, offer the possibility to open a Super Account for you when you open you bank account.

You can get back the funds paid in at the end of your visa or when you finally leave the country.

*Please note that your superannuation will be taxed at 65% when you claim it back.*

## WHEN TO CLAIM YOUR SUPER

If you are a temporary resident working in Australia, your employer has to pay super guarantee contributions for you.

Usually people cannot have access to their super until retirement. However, as a temporary resident, you can claim your super when:

- You have left Australia AND
- Your visa has ceased to be in effect or has been cancelled.

The payment is called a departing Australia superannuation payment (DASP).

If you leave the country while your visa still active, you can either decide to wait until your visa expire or cancel your visa. Indeed you can request the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to cancel your visa so that you can claim a DASP.

Cancelling your visa is a free process. You will need to complete the Form 1194 and to lodge it directly with DIBP, either by mail to the address provided on the form, or by email to [super.hobart@border.gov.au](mailto:super.hobart@border.gov.au)

## GET YOUR MONEY BACK

To get your superannuation contributions back, you can complete an online request form on the ATO website in the « SUPER » section.

You need to complete the following form:

[Application for a departing Australia superannuation payment](#)

### Provide the following information:

- Your TFN
- Names, membership numbers and addresses of the fund(s) you have contributed to
- Information about your employers (names, addresses...)

Most of the time you will need to attach a certified copy of your visa, or any evidence showing that your visa has ceased to be in effect, together with a certified copy of your passport.

You can also choose how to receive payment of your super. It can be either by cheque or via an International money transfer to your financial institution overseas. Once completed just lodge the form online.

If you have several superannuation ‘accounts’ we advise you to group them together and request reimbursement of all of them in the same request. Often there are forms which enable you to merge your accounts on the websites of superannuation companies.

There are also some banks, such as Westpac that offer superannuation accounts (this makes it easier to manage your different accounts if they are all grouped with the same bank).

## WORK AS A FREELANCER

If you would like to work for yourself, you can work as a Freelancer, or as a “Sole Trader”. This means you can sell your products or services and declare your revenue at the end of each financial year. On the other hand, you cannot take on any employees (but you can outsource and commission suppliers).

## Conditions

First of all, be aware that you cannot use the freelance status to apply for a visa. You must already have a working visa, either WHV or Partner visa... etc

You must also obtain an ID number from the ATO (Australian Tax Office), which is known as an ABN (Australian Business Number).

## How to get an ABN?

You need an ABN (Australian Business Number) to be able to work for yourself. This 11 digit number will identify you to the Australian authorities. You already need to have your TFN (Tax File Number) to be able to apply for an ABN.

To check whether the type of work you are planning to do falls under the « freelance » category requiring an ABN, you can do an anonymous test on the ATO website.

To try the test: [CLICK HERE](#)

Getting an ABN is pretty easy. You will need to connect on the ATO website and complete a form online. [CLICK HERE](#)

When you have an ABN, your taxes will not be taken directly off your salary before you receive it. So you will need to put some money aside. Indeed, you will need to pay your taxes



## WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

at the end of the financial year. When you complete your Tax Return, you will need to include revenues received with your ABN (as a sole trader) and those received with your TFN (as an employee).

## EXTEND YOUR STAY

If you want to extend your stay in Australia, here are your options:

- Get a second working holiday visa
- Study in Australia
- Stay as a tourist
- Find a sponsorship (TSS)
- Apply for permanent residency
- Business Visa
- Set up a company

## Second WHV

This visa lets people 18 to 30 years old (inclusive) - except for Canadian and Irish citizens up to 35 (inclusive) - who currently hold, or who have held, a Working Holiday visa, have a second working holiday in Australia. This visa will give you the same rights as your first WHV and allows you to stay an additional year in Australia. (Second-year WHV are unavailable for Americans).

## COSTS

The second Working Holiday Visa costs \$450, the same as the first.

## CONDITIONS TO APPLY

To be eligible you must still meet the same conditions as for the original visa (age, valid passport, good health, no dependant children).

The additional condition is that you must have worked for at least 3 months (88 days in total) in regional Australia

The 3 months or 88 days include weekends if you are working full time. For the Australian government, fruit picking jobs are classed as full time positions (even if they are often

casual), and so the weekends are included in the count of 88 days.

You can either work in one block with the same employer or in separate blocks with one employer or a number of employers. Days of work may be in different kinds of specified work. For example, you can complete 60 days of harvest work, travel for a month and complete another month in a construction job to get your 88 days.

## ELIGIBLE TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT

Attention, not all types of employment enable you to renew your WHV.

Here is a list of the types of employment that are accepted:

- Agricultural work such as picking, pruning, harvesting, looking after animals....etc.
- Working in the mines (any kind)
- Working in the fishing industry
- Working in the construction industry

*Note: Volunteer work no longer allow you to extend your visa for a second year.*

For more information, you can consult our article [ELIGIBLE JOBS FOR A SECOND YEAR VISA](#)

You are eligible if you work in these types of employment as an employee or self-employed.

## ELIGIBLE REGIONS

In addition you need to have worked in an eligible rural area of Australia. Usually, regions around large towns are excluded (except the regions surrounding Perth and Adelaide).

For a list of all the eligible regions for WHV renewal, see [ANNEX 5](#)

You can also read our article : [ELIGIBLE POSTCODES FOR A SECOND YEAR VISA.](#)

## APPLY FOR YOUR 2ND WHV

You can make the request online whether you are abroad or inside Australia.

## IF YOU APPLY FROM INSIDE AUSTRALIA

The request must be made before your first visa expires. Your second visa will automatically start at the end of the first.

This allows you to stay 2 consecutive years in Australia with the same rights.

If your visa ends during the renewal procedure, you will receive a temporary visa (Bridging Visa A), until your request has been fully processed.

Connect to the immigration website and complete a form to request your second WHV:

[www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/417](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/417)

Go to the “Start an application” application in « IN Australia ». Here you will be able to access the form (approx. 20mins to complete).

## IF YOU APPLY FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

You complete the same form but in the « OUTSIDE Australia » section of the website.

Your second WHV works the same as the first. You have 1 year to return to Australia and your visa will be activated as soon as you arrive in the country. You have the right to stay for 1 year.

*Good to know: If you apply from Australia, you must be in Australia when the visa is granted. If applying from outside Australia, you must be outside Australia when the visa is granted.*

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

When you apply you will be asked for documents proving the work you have done.

It is important to keep evidence of your specified work, such as:

- Copies of your pay slips;
- Form 1263 « Working Holiday Visa : Employment Verification » completed by your employer(s) (available at: [www.border.gov.au/Forms/Documents/1263](http://www.border.gov.au/Forms/Documents/1263))
- Your bank statement covering the period of declared specified work;
- Payment summaries (PAYG) which is a summary of your payslips during the financial year.
- Other evidence may include tax returns, employer references or group certificates.

We also advise you to keep other records such as photographs, bus tickets or any

evidence showing your presence in the area while working.

**Processing time** can vary from an application to another. Some applications are granted within a few hours others are investigated and can take up to 2 months.

When lodging your application for a second year visa, you should upload all your supporting evidence at the same time to avoid delay in processing your application.

## Studying in Australia

If you want to study in Australia, it is important to thoroughly research the visa and curriculum that will best meet your needs.

Studying in Australia is a great way to open doors to the local market, or simply stay longer in the country.

In addition, a work visa is included that allows 40 hours every 2 weeks during term time – you can spread these hours as you like – and no limit during school holidays.

Since 1st July 2016, the student visa process has been simplified as only one type of subclass exist for all courses, **Student Visa - Subclass 500**. A few other visas are applicable to specific situations.

## HOW DOES IT WORK ?

Before you apply for this visa, you must have:

- been accepted to study full-time at an educational institution in Australia. As an international student on a student visa, you must be enrolled in a course of study that is registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and courses for Overseas for Overseas Students (CRICOS)

- organised appropriate welfare arrangements for the duration of your stay in Australia. The average cost of OSHC is \$500 for 12 months.

**Step 1** - you will need therefore to choose a course and an institution and apply for it. Once your application has been approved, you will receive an ‘Overseas Student Confirmation-of-Enrolment (CoE)’. The number in this letter is necessary to apply for your student visa.

# WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

**Step 2** - Visa Application must be done on the government immigration website : <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud>.  
Go on Student Visa - Subclass 500 and fill in the form.

Once completed you will receive a Transaction Reference Number that will allow you to track and manage your application.

Most applications will take about four weeks to process but time may vary depending on your situation.

Once your visa has been approved, you will receive a Notification of Grant Letter via email. This is actually your visa.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The student visa costs \$575 including a work permit. This visa allows you to stay in Australia for the duration of your course and up to 2 months after it. You are free to enter and exit the territory as much as you want during your visa.

## USEFUL TIP

If you have a partner and can prove that you have been living together for at least 1 year, he or she can also request to be covered by your student visa and with the right to work part time with no obligation to study. With a university visa (Master or PhD course only), your partner can work full time.

## Tourist Visas

A tourist visa in Australia allows you to:

- Visit and stay in the country during your visa;
- Study for 3 months maximum;
- Work as a volunteer (Wwoofing/HelpX) – you can not do any paid work.

There are three visas that you can apply for online to visit Australia for tourism or business visitor activities:

## EVISITOR VISA (subclass 651)

This visa allows you to stay for a maximum of 3 months in Australia for holidays, recreation, visit family or friends or a business visit.





Note here that this visa allows you to enter Australia for up to three months during each visit during the 12 months from the date the eVisitor is granted.

To apply for an eVisitor, you must be outside Australia and be a passport holder of a certain country (UK, Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands etc.)

This is a **free visa**. You must apply online on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection website.

Processing time for an eVisitor is usually quick. You should receive a response within 24 hours of lodging your application. Once your eVisitor is approved you will receive a notification of grant by email.

*For more information: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651)*

### **ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORITY (subclass 601)**

This visa allows you to visit Australia as many times as you want, for up to a year and stay up to three months for each visit.

To apply for an Electronic Travel Authority, you must be outside Australia and be a passport holder of a certain country (UK, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, The Netherlands etc.).

You can apply for an ETA online at Electronic Travel Authority if you hold a passport from: Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, United States.

If your country of origin is not eligible for an application online, you can apply with a travel agent, airline or specialist service provider.

You will need to pay a **service fee of \$20** for an ETA.

Average processing time is less than one day.

*For more information: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601-)*

### **VISITOR VISA (subclass 600)**

For those who wish to stay longer than 3 months, the Visitor visa allows you to stay in Australia for up to three, six or 12 months. You can apply online from in or outside

Australia.

For those in Australia who want to apply online, you will need to hold a current visa and not have a 'No further stay' condition imposed on your current visa.

If you are outside Australia only passport holder of certain countries can apply online (United Kingdom, Finland, Ireland, France, Germany etc). See the full list here.

If you cannot apply online, you can always lodge a paper application.

The price will vary depending on where you apply. From **AUD355** if you apply in Australia and **AUD140** from outside Australia.

If you apply in Australia, you must be in Australia when a decision is made on your application.

It is important to note that if you are applying for a Subclass 600 after a Working Holiday Visa, the application charge will be higher. Indeed, a 'Subsequent Temporary Application Charge' of \$700 will be applied (if application submitted in Australia).

Processing time for the Visitor visa can vary depending on your situation. It can take a few days up to a month.

*For more information: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-)*

*Remember Tourist Visas do NOT allow you to work legally in Australia.*

## **Sponsorship - Visa TSS**

If you would like to work in Australia without applying to immigrate permanently, sponsoring is a good option. You need to find a company who will employ you and agree to sponsor you. You will receive a "long stay temporary business visa" allowing you to live and work in Australia for 2 to 4 years.

### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

This depends on your profession and your qualifications. However, it is mainly large companies or multinationals that are most likely to take this kind of step. Sponsoring costs money, but more importantly, it is quite

# WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

a complex administrative procedure which can discourage small and medium-sized companies.

The company who would like to sponsor a candidate must prove that the candidate's skills are rare on the Australian market.

## DO I NEED SPECIALISED SKILLS ?

Yes, because the employer must prove that you are offering skills that he cannot find in the current Australian job market.

Employer-sponsors come from all different sectors: sales, IT, finances, law, business marketing.... The cases are evaluated one by one and depend on the state of the employment market in their sector and the professional skills required.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find opportunities because Australia is more and more independent. Nevertheless, there are always some offers in many areas.

There are also some companies that offer administrative support to employers who would like to sponsor a candidate.

### Freespirit

[www.freespirit.com.au](http://www.freespirit.com.au)

Other companies can even offer you a sponsorship, as long as you have a permanent job offer with a high annual salary, and you meet certain conditions. Of course their services are not free of charge – they generally take a commission on your salary of about 10%.

## VISA FEES

### FOR THE APPLICANT

- 2 YEARS VISA : \$1175\$
- 4 YEARS VISA : \$2455

### FOR THE EMPLOYER

If the employer already has sponsor status, he simply needs to request a nomination for your job. If he or she has never sponsored employees before, the employer will need to request the right to sponsor individuals.

- 1st request : \$420
- Nomination : \$330

Good to know: this visa is linked to your employment. If you lose your job you will have 60 days (*Reform of November 2016*) to find a new employer to sponsor you. In the meantime, your 457 would still be valid.

## Set up your own company

Visas are available for entrepreneurs wanting to set up a company in Australia, however, the entry conditions are very tough for young people (and this is why we recommend the “freelance” status as more realistic for backpackers to start out, even though this status does not get you a visa).

## CONDITIONS

You usually need to show successful experience of directing a company with over 1 million Australian dollars of annual turnover.

## VISAS

Business Skills (provisional) visas (subclasses 160-165).

For more information on these visas go to: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>

## Apply for permanent residency

There are several routes to obtaining permanent residency in Australia.

## VISA OPTIONS

### OPTION 1

You have sponsorship and would like to apply for residency via your employer.

Visa: Employer Nomination Scheme (Subclass 186) - Temporary Residence Transition stream

Conditions: to have been sponsored for at least 2 years in a full time job

### OPTION 1b

You have sponsorship and would like to apply for residency without involving your employer.

Visa: Employer Nomination Scheme (Subclass 186) - Direct Entry Stream

More information under “Employer Nomination Scheme”:

[www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/186](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/186)

## **OPTION 2**

*Apply for residency sponsored by an Australian state.*

Visa: Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (Subclass 187)

More information under “Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa”: [www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/187.aspx](http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/187.aspx)

## **OPTION 3**

*Apply for residency based on your professional skillset.*

Visa: Skilled Independent Visa (Subclass 189)  
Conditions: this visa is based on a points system. Points are attributed based on your age, qualifications, and work experience. Your profession must be on the SOL list (Skilled Occupation List). You need a minimum of 60 points to be eligible.

More info at: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/189](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/189)

## **OPTION 4**

*You would like to set up a business in Australia.*

Visa: Business Talent (Permanent) visa (subclass 132)

Conditions: sponsorship from an Australian state or territory, proof of a successful experience in running a company (company worth of at least 400,000 AUD for candidate and partner combined), with annual turnover of at least 3 million AUD in the last 2 to 4 years of business, with at least 1.5 million AUD in assets.

More information under “Business Talent visa”: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/132](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/132)

## **OPTION 5**

*You live as a couple with an Australian resident or citizen.*

Visa: Partner visa (subclasses 820 and 801)  
Conditions: you must be able to prove that you have lived with the person for over a year, or that you have married the person to apply for this visa.

## **OPTION 6**

*Apply based on artistic, sporting, professional or research talent.*

Visa: Distinguished Talent visa (subclass 124)  
Conditions: you must be able to prove that you have exceptional talent in an area which will benefit Australia’s economy or reputation, and you must meet certain health criteria.

More information under “Distinguished Talent visa”: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/124](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/124)

## **Check the Skilled Occupation List (SOL)**

[www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills)

*Conditions to obtain permanent residency are complex and are often changing due to new legislation.*

*We recommend you contact a professional, for example an immigration agency, who will be able to advise you according to your situation.*







# PICKING SEASONS

« *State by State...* »



Demand for workers : Low



Demand for workers : Average



Demand for workers : High



# NEW SOUTH WALES - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Batlow</b>												
Cherries												
Stone fruits												
Apples												
Pruning												

<b>Forbes</b>												
Cherries												
Stone fruits												
Apples												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												
Tomatoes												

<b>Griffith</b>												
Lemons												
Stone fruits												
Plums												
Onions												
Grapes												
Tomatoes												

<b>Leeton</b>												
Lemons												
Stone fruits												
Vegetables												
Grapes												

# NEW SOUTH WALES - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Moree</b>												
Cotton			■	■	■							
Nuts				■	■	■	■	■				
Olives				■	■	■	■	■				

<b>Narrabri</b>												
Cotton				■	■							

<b>Narromine</b>												
Lemons	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cotton				■	■							

<b>Orange</b>												
Cherries	■										■	■
Apples		■	■	■	■	■						
Grapes		■	■	■		■	■	■				■

<b>Tumut</b>												
Stone fruits	■	■	■							■	■	■
Apples		■	■	■	■							

<b>Young</b>												
Berries		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Cherries											■	■
Stone fruits		■	■	■	■					■	■	■
Grapes		■	■	■		■	■	■	■			

# VICTORIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Cobram</b>												
Cherries												
Stone fruits												
Pears/Apples												

<b>Echuca</b>												
Stone fruits												
Pears/Apples												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												
Tomatoes												

<b>Kyabram</b>												
Peaches												
Pears/Apples												
Tomatoes												

<b>Mildura</b>												
Lemons												
Vegetables												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												

<b>Robinvale</b>												
Vegetables												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												

# VICTORIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Shepparton</b>												
Cherries												
Stone fruits												
Pears/Apples												
Tomatoes												

<b>Swan Hill</b>												
Lemons												
Stone fruits												
Vegetables												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												

<b>Tatura</b>												
Cherries												
Vegetables												
Peaches												
Pears												
Apples												
Plums												

<b>Yarra Valley</b>												
Berries												
Cherries												
Strawberries												
Apples												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												

# TASMANIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Gunns Plains (Burnie/Deloraine/Devonport/Ulverston)</b>												
Berries												
Cherries												
Vegetables												
Apples												

<b>Huon Valley / Huonville</b>												
Cherries												
Strawberries												
Apples												

<b>Tamar Valley (Launceston/Scottsdale)</b>												
Vegetables												
Apples												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												



# NORTHERN TERRITORY - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Darwin</b>												
Bananas												
Mangos												

<b>Katherine</b>												
Mangos												
Melons												

<b>Ti Tree</b>												
Vines												

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Adelaide Hills</b>												
Cherries	■										■	■
Pears/Apples		■	■	■	■	■						
Grapes - picking		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Grapes - pruning						■	■	■	■	■	■	■

<b>Berri</b>												
Lemons	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Stone fruits	■	■	■							■	■	■
Oranges					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pears/Apples	■	■	■	■								
Grapes - picking		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Grapes - pruning					■	■	■	■	■			

<b>Clare</b>												
Grapes - picking	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Grapes - pruning						■	■	■	■			

<b>Loxton</b>												
Lemons	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Stone fruits	■	■	■							■	■	■
Apples	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Grapes - picking		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Grapes - pruning					■	■	■	■	■			

<b>Mac Laren Vale</b>												
Grapes - picking		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Grapes - pruning					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Penola</b>												
Cherries												
Vegetables												
Apples												
Grapes												

<b>Renmark</b>												
Lemons												
Stone fruits												
Pears/Apples												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												

<b>Waikerie</b>												
Lemons												
Stone fruits												
Grapes - picking												
Grapes - pruning												

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Albany</b>												
Strawberries												
Vines												

<b>Carnarvon</b>												
Bananas												
Vegetables												
Mangos												
Melons												
Tomatoes												
Vines												

<b>Donnybrook</b>												
Pears/Apples												
Stone fruits												
Tomatoes												
Vines												

<b>Gingin</b>												
Lemons												
Vegetables												
Mandarin Oranges												
Oranges												
Vines												

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Kununura</b>												
Lemons		Light Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey								
Vegetables					Dark Grey				Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Light Grey	
Mangos										Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Light Grey
Melons					Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey	

<b>Manjimup</b>												
Pears/Apples		Light Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey							
Vines		Light Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey								

<b>Margaret River</b>												
Vines	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey	Dark Grey		Light Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey				



# QUEENSLAND - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Atherton</b>												
Avocados		■	■	■	■	■	■					
Apples		■	■	■	■	■	■					
Vegetables									■	■	■	■

<b>Ayr</b>												
Vegetables					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Mangos											■	■
Melons					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Cane sugar					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

<b>Bowen</b>												
Vegetables					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Mangos	■	■										■
Melons									■	■	■	
Tomatoes					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	

<b>Bundaberg</b>												
Vegetables				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mangos	■	■										■
Melons										■	■	■
Tomatoes				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

<b>Childers</b>												
Avocados	■	■	■	■				■	■	■	■	■
Vegetables	■									■	■	■
Mangos	■		■									
Tomatoes				■	■	■	■	■	■			

# QUEENSLAND - Harvest Calendar

Harvests	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Emerald</b>												
Lemons			■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Cotton			■	■	■							
Melons				■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■
Vines										■	■	■

<b>Gatton</b>												
Vegetables	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Tomatoes	■	■	■	■	■						■	■

<b>Gin Gin</b>												
Lemons	■	■	■	■	■							■
Vegetables			■	■						■	■	■

<b>Giru</b>												
Mangos											■	■
Cane sugar						■	■	■	■	■	■	■

<b>Nambour</b>												
Strawberries								■	■	■	■	

<b>Stanthorpe</b>												
Pears/Apples	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Stone fruits	■	■								■	■	■
Vegetables	■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■	■
Tomatoes	■	■	■	■	■							
Vines	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				

# CONTACTS

*«Got a job  
for me?»*

*Please note that these numbers could change, so if you notice a wrong number you can notify us by sending us an email : [australia.backpackersguide@gmail.com](mailto:australia.backpackersguide@gmail.com)*

# NEW SOUTH WALES

## Sydney's region

### Tumbarumba Blueberries

02 6649 2784 / employment.blueberry@costaexchange.com.au

**Tyrrell's Vineyards** (Pokolbin)  
0249 937 000

**First Creek Wine Centre**  
02 4998 7293

McDonalds Road Pokolbin NSW 2320  
dstevens@firstcreekwines.com.au  
[www.firstcreekwines.com.au](http://www.firstcreekwines.com.au)

**Batinich Barisha & Kathy**  
0263 843 221

Rhodes NSW 2138 (lemons)

**Goddard K Stunt Farm**  
0245 791 299

Mitchell Rd, Sackville North 2756 (lemons)

**Bentivoglio Olives**  
0263 791 610

Tarmons Lue Rd, Rylstone NSW 2849 (Olives)

## Cowra

**Armstrong R J**  
0263 653 104

**Carthew B**  
02 6365 3138

**Cunial G & T**  
02 6365 3187

**Darley P & D**  
0263 653 278

**Kirkwood J**  
0263 629 960

## Young

### Cherry Haven Orchards

0408 805 359 (cherries / mi-nov till christmas)

**Fairview Orchard**  
0263 821 686 (cherries nov to christmas)

**Anes Cherrygrove Orchard**  
0402 077 891

Wombat Rd, Wombat NSW 2587 (cherries)

**Valley Fresh Cherries & Stone Fruits**  
02 6384 3221

**Hilltop Fruit Barn** (Boowora st)  
0263 824 131

**Gravina Farms P/L**  
[gravinafarm@bigpond.com](mailto:gravinafarm@bigpond.com)

**Robert Fitzpatrick**  
02 6384 4256

**Peter Mullany**  
0263 823 696

**Big Cherry From Young**  
0404 536 542 - 02 6382 1278

45 Richens La, Young NSW 2594

**Hallmark Orchard**  
Online application : [www.hallmarkorchards.com/](http://www.hallmarkorchards.com/)

**Central West Employment Agency**  
0263829250  
50-66 Boorowa Street Berthong NSW 2594

## Ballina

**Verto Agency**  
02 6686 5366  
[www.verto.org.au](http://www.verto.org.au)

**Australian Fruit Producer**  
Rishworth La, Brooklet NSW 2479

**Blueberry Fields**  
02 6687 8114 - Phone ONLY 11am - 12 noon  
Tuesdays

769 Fernleigh Rd, Brooklet NSW 2479

**Gala Avocados** (Alstonville)  
0266 281 152

**Gianatti**  
0266 871 351  
Lot 3 Pacific Hwy, Newrybar NSW 2479

**Gough J D** (McLeans Ridges)  
0266 281 355

## Byron Bay

**Blueberry Fields**  
0266 878 114  
769 Fernleigh Rd, Brooklet 2479 (apples)

**Aussie Orchards Growers & Packers**  
02 6677 1556

206 Warwick Pard Rd, Mooball NSW

**Darling River Cotton**  
0268 708 521 - 02 6870 8500  
Gorrell Ave, Bourke NSW 2840 (Cotton)

**Central West Employment Agency**  
0263829250  
50-66 Boorowa Street Berthong NSW 2594

# FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

## Coffs Harbour

### **Moey Backpacker Hostel**

0266 523 833

[www.hoeymoey.com.au](http://www.hoeymoey.com.au)

### **Rai J S** (Nana Glen)

0266 537 284

Lot 45a Old Bucca Rd, Nana Glen NSW 2450

### **Green shed corindi** (COSTA)

Range Road Corindi NSW 2456

02 6649 2784

[employment.blueberry@costagroup.com.au](mailto:employment.blueberry@costagroup.com.au)

[Berry.AdminSupport@costagroup.com.au](mailto:Berry.AdminSupport@costagroup.com.au)

## Tumut & Batlow

### **Caravan park Batlow**

0269 491 444

picking from nov to may

### **Power Asparagus**

0269 454 239

Aspergus / mid-sept to mid-nov.

## Forbes

### **Girof** (apples)

0268 522 250 ou 0458 287 628

Fairhaven, Forbes NSW 2871

### **Betland B A & M T**

0268 532 240

Dilga, Bundaburrah NSW 2871 (apples)

### **Hilltop Fruit Barn**

0263 824 131

305 Boorowa St, Young NSW 2594 (tomatoes)

### **Ellison R**

0268 521 704

South Lead Rd, Forbes NSW 2871 (apples)

### **MarkWort F**

0268 521 952

South Condobolin Rd, Forbes (apples)

### **Backpacker Hostel YHA**

0268820922

2830, Brisbane Street Dubbo

## Griffith & Leeton

### **FARMS**

**Miglmark Orchards** (oranges & lemons)

0269 630 034

**Catania Farm**

0269 630 219

### **Cherry King**

0269 630 724 / [office@cherryking.com.au](mailto:office@cherryking.com.au)

### **Fruit Shack**

0429 866 965 / 0269 532 451

### **Rennie Produce**

0269 674 152 (A Hillston, 110km Griffith)

### **Aussie Gold Citrus**

02 6963 6229

230 Slopes Rd, Tharbogang NSW 2680

## VINEYARDS

### **De Bortoli Wines**

02 6963 5448 - 02 6966 0100

### **Warburn Estate**

02 6963 8300

### **MIA Vine Improvement Society**

0269 681 202

## CONTRACTORS

### **Kata Labour Hire**

02 6964 1284

0467 210 181

## Moree

### **Cotton T P**

0263 645 025

Moolahway, Manildra NSW 2865 (Cotton)

### **Milo Cotton Co**

0267 542 147

Milo, Moree NSW 2400 (Cotton)

### **Thornelands Olive Grove**

0746 222 331

9 Dargall Rd, Roma QLD 4455 (Olives)

### **Bentivoglio Olives**

0263 791 610

Tarmons Lue Rd, Rylstone NSW 2849 (Olives)

### **Burnett Valley Olive Growers Association**

0741 625 856

PO Box 382, Kingaroy QLD 4610 (Olives)

## Orange

### **Orange Employment Service**

0263 628 169

### **Verto Agency**

02 6361 5300

[www.verto.org.au](http://www.verto.org.au)

### **Apple Factory**

0263 614 431

### **Darley P & J**

0263 653 278

**Day Dawn** (contact Peter)



0418 668 691  
**Gartrell D & C**

0263 653 233  
**Kirkwood JW**

0263 629 960  
Stoneleigh Orchard, Orange 2800 (apples)

**New Apple Company**  
0263 619 211

**Pearce** (Mirrabooka)  
0263 658 216 (apples)

**Laspina** (Pinnacle Rd)  
0407 637 011

**Why Worry Cherry Farm** (Nashdale)  
0418 650 235

**Rossi Orchards** (Mt Pleasant cherries & apples)  
0263 653 106

**Huntley Berry Farm** (Huntley Rd)  
0263 655 282

## Bourke

**Darling River Cotton Pty**  
0268 708 521  
Gorrell Ave, Bourke NSW 2840 (Cotton)

## Albury

**Summerfruit Australia Ltd**  
(03) 9329 2100

# VICTORIA

## Melbourne

**Vizzari** (Koo Wee Rup / vegetables)  
0359 426 217

**Lamattina** (Clyde / vegetables)  
03 5998 5545

**Len Mollica Market Gardens** (Cardinia)  
0359 988 332

## Bairnsdale

**Bairnsdale Fruit Supply**  
0351 527 043

19 Bailey st (Tomatoes)  
**Bonaccord Ingram** (vegetables)  
0351 571 332

**Bush Organics** (Hillside / vegetables)  
0351 571 944

**Cox Farm** (165 Settlement Rd / vegetables) :  
03 5157 1497 - 03 5157 6348

**Vegco**  
0351 501 778 (tomatoes)

**Whitbourne** (Lindenow)  
0351 571 255 / 0351 571 500

**Cambrai Maffra Backpackers Hostels**  
0351471600

117 Johnson Street Maffra VIC 3860

## Beechworth

**Christesen** (Buckland rd)  
0357 281 748

**Collins** (Stanley)  
03 5728 6663

**Hilton** (Stanley)  
0357 286 584

**High Grove** (Stanley)  
0357 286 526

**Primerano** (Whorouly)  
0357 271 213

**Select Berries** (Oxley)  
0357 273 462

**The Cherry Branch** (Wandin)  
0359 643 437

**Bright Berry Farms** (Eurobin)  
0357 562 523

## Echuca

**Australian Grape Harvesters**  
0418 629 332

POBox 1228, Echuca VIC 3564  
**Murrigum Pickers**

Sam Dobbin  
murrigumpickers@gmail.com  
*murrigumpickers.weebly.com*

**Echuca Backpackers**  
0354807866  
410 High Street Echuca VIC 3564

## Yarra Valley

**Blue Hills Berries & Cherries**  
0397 379 400

**Burgi B&E**  
0359 644 304

**Chapman**  
0397 379 534

21 - 23 Parker Rd, Silvan VIC 3795  
**Cherryhill Orchard**  
0359 644 235

## FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

474 Queens Rd, Wandin VIC 3139 (apples)

**Phil Chapman**

0359 644 303

**Seville Hill Orchard**

0359 643 284

8 Paynes Rd, Seville VIC 3139

**Ben Schmolling** (contact via SMS) :

0438 621 270

**Rieschieck Orchards**

0359 649 570

13 Medhurst Rd, Gruyere VIC 3770 (apples)

**Maroondah Orchards**

0397 391 041

715 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream 3770

**Berry Plant Suppliers**

25 Phillips Rd, Toolangi VIC 3777 (apples)

**Finger G A**

0359 649 278

20 Darling Rd, Gruyere VIC 3770 (apples)

**D K Sibley**

Monbulk Seville Rd VIC 3139

0407 556 907

**Jay Berries**

0359 644 451

140 Wandin Creek Rd, Wandin East VIC 3139  
(Baies)

**Big Berry**

0359 674 413

925 Gembrook Rd, Hoddles Creek VIC 3139

**Johns Orchards**

Cambus Rd, Yering VIC 3770 (berries)

**Strawberries Australia**

0359 642 287

10 Clegg Rd, Wandin North 3139 (strawber-  
ries)

**Perry Certified Strawberry Runner**

**Growers**

0359 629 429

PMB 4 1826 Main Rd, Toolangi VIC 3777

0358 312 044

Grahamvale Rd, Shepparton 3630 (apples)

**Erihaven Orchard**

03 5826 9466

**Fruitworks**

0358 215 688 / Cnr Corio & Stewart Sts,

Shepparton VIC 3630 (Tomatoes)

**H.V.McNab and Son**

0358 290 016 (apples, pears, jann to april)

**Plunkett Orchards**

0358290015

255 Macisaac Road Ardmoma VIC 3629

[www.plunkettorchards.com.au/work.htm](http://www.plunkettorchards.com.au/work.htm)

**J-j Pottenger** (central av)

0358 292 371 (Pommes & poires)

**Poulos Orchards**

0358 313 089

Doyles Rd, Shepparton VIC 3630 (apples)

**Parris G & M & Sons**

03 5821 2185

New Dookie Rd, Shepparton 3630 (apples)

**OzPac Australia Pty Ltd**

03 5820 7699

Cnr Turnbull & Lenne Rds, Ardmoma VIC 3629

**Kutrolli Z & J**

0358 212 351

Mc Phee Rd, Shepparton VIC 3630 (apples)

**Seeka**

(03)58269468

Osbornes Road, Mundonna, VIC 3635

**Madec** (agence)

Kristen Elliott - 03 5829 3600 - kelliott@

madec.edu.au

## Wangaratta

**Lizio's Prickly Pear and Cherry Orchard's**

0402 284 961

86 Glenrowan-Moyhu Rd, Glenrowan

## Mildura Région

### AGENCIES

**Madec Jobs Australia**

0350 221 797

### WORKING BACKPACKERS

**Mildura City Backpackers**

0350 227 922

[www.milduracitybackpackers.com.au](http://www.milduracitybackpackers.com.au)

**Victoria's Border Line Backpackers**

03 5023 0671 / 0350230671

## Shepparton

**Sali**

0417506200

Verney Rd, Shepparton VIC 3630 (apples)

**Bunbartha Fruit Packers**

0358 269 468

5160 Barmah Rd, Bunbartha VIC 3634

**Boris Fruit Shed**

0358 292 488

Benalla Rd, Shepparton East 3631 (Toma-  
toes)

**Grahamvale Coolstores**

78-80 Seventh Street, Mildura VIC 3500

**Mildura Oasis Backpackers**

03 5022 8255

230 Deakin Avenue, Mildura VIC 3500

**Riverboat Bungalow**

0350215315

27 Chaffey Avenue, Mildura VIC 3500

**Red Cliffs Backpackers**

03 5024 2905 / 0350242905

63 Indi Avenue, Red Cliffs VIC 3496

**FARMS**

**Maiorana Lawrence**

03 5024 8482 - 0408 278 091

1 Gol Gol North Rd, Gol Gol NSW 2738

**Morello R**

0350 222 147

**And Services**

0350 215 655

**Villiva M**

0350 232 581

Banksia Crt, Mildura VIC 3500 (vegetables)

**VINEYARDS**

**Trentham Estate**

0350 248 888

Sturt Hwy, Trentham Cliffs VIC 2738

**Tall Poppy Wines**

0350 274 000 - 03 5023 5218

**Frecks Vine Nursery**

0412 947 426

171 Dumosa St, Red Cliffs VIC 3496

## Robinvale

**VINEYARDS**

**Manna V & J**

0350 263 986

**Robinvale Organic Wines**

0350 260 250

**FARMS**

**Bogicevic Michael**

0350 260 228

Murray Valley Hwy, Wemen 3549 (vegetables)

**Olivegrove Trading Company**

0350 263 814

Tol Tol Rd, Robinvale VIC 3549 (vegetables)

## Cobram

**Boosey Fruit**

0358 735 390

Chapel Rd, Cobram VIC 3644 (apples)

**Cherryhill**

0358 735 398

**Scenic Drive Strawberries**

0358 711 263

**KNM Strawberries**

0358 711 992

**Gattuso**

0358 721 170

Cobram VIC 3644 (apples)

**Jaketega Farms**

0407 859 716 (nov. to april)

**RJ Cornish & Col**

0358 722 055 (Cobram / jan to mid-april)

[www.rjcornish.com/contact.htm](http://www.rjcornish.com/contact.htm)

**Nicosia**

0358 721 825 (Gatona Crs, Cobram, apples)

**Hillview Citrus**

0269 556 205

Robinson Rd, Corbie Hill NSW 2705 (lemons)

**Stones W S F**

0260 329 680

Riverlea, Rutherglen VIC 3685 (Stonefruit)

**Sirtin Pty**

0358 721 113

Off Torrganah Rd, Cobram 3644 (vegetables)

# TASMANIA

## North

**FARMS**

**Avienmore farm**

0363 944 631

**Ayers (Spreyton)**

0364 273 022

**Broun (Spreyton)**

0364 272 265

**Montague Fresh Legana**

0363 301 115

[www.montaguefresh.com.au/montague-orchards/our-orchards/](http://www.montaguefresh.com.au/montague-orchards/our-orchards/)

**Top Qual**

0363 947 273

**Top Crop (Quoiba)**

0364272 238

**GC Miller & son**

0363 948 181

**Windara orchard**

0363 947 790

15 Spring Hill Rd, Sidmouth

[michaeljlees@bigpond.com](mailto:michaeljlees@bigpond.com)

# FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

## **Spreyton fresh**

0364 272 125

## **Sassafras**

0364 267 373

## **Windarra Raspberry Farm**

0407 877 486

## **Youngs Vegie** (Camdale)

0364 316 087

## **Viney** (Spreyton)

0364 272 016

310 Main Rd, Spreyton TAS 7310

## **Christmas hill raspberry farm**

9 christmas Hills Rd, Elizabeth Town

0408 347 740 - 03 6362 2186

## **VIGNOBLES**

### **Joseph Chromy Wines**

0363 358 700

370 Relbia Rd, Relbia TAS 7258

### **Providence Vineyards**

03 6395 1290

### **Leaning Church Vineyard**

0363 954 447

### **Brook Eden Vineyard**

0363 956 244

Adams Rd, Lebrina TAS 7254

### **Pipers Brook Vineyard**

0363 827 527

1216 Pipers Brook Rd, Pipers Brook TAS

### **Dalrymple**

0363 827 229

1337 Pipers Brook Rd, Pipers Brook TAS

### **Joseph Chromy Wines**

03 6335 8701

370 Relbia Rd Relbia TAS 7258

### **Delamere Vineyard**

0363 827 190

Bridport Rd, Pipers Brook TAS 7254

### **Tamar Ridge Wines**

03 6257 8881 - 0363 941 114

[www.brownbrothers.com.au](http://www.brownbrothers.com.au)

### **Ghost Rock Vineyard**

0364 284 005

1055 Port Sorell Rd, Northdown TAS 7307

### **Lake Barrington Vineyard**

0364 911 249

1136 West Kentish Rd West Kentish TAS

[www.lbv.com.au/contact-us](http://www.lbv.com.au/contact-us)

### **Milton Vineyard**

0362 578 298

14635 Tasman Hwy, Swansea TAS 7190

### **Spring Vale Vineyards**

0362 578 208

Tasman Hwy, Cranbrook TAS 7190

# South

## **FARMS**

### **Lucaston Park**

0429 664 489 - 03 6266 4412

33 Lucaston Rd, Lucaston TAS 7109

### **Cane D T & D**

0362 663 170

3238 Huon Hwy, Franklin TAS 7113

### **Calvet Bros** (Ranelagh)

0362 642 267 - 03 6297 6264

### **Scott brothers**

0362 971 230

322 Scotts Rd Cairns Bay Geeveston

### **A.A Stevenson**

0362 664 228

### **Glenburn Orchards**

03 6295 0435

7254 Channel Hwy, Cygnet TAS 7112

### **Tru blu berries**

0362 950 082

### **BW Griggs & Sons**

0362 641 474

2873 Huon Hwy, Huonville TAS 7109

### **Eden orchard**

0362 950 716

22 Supplice Rd, Cygnet TAS 7112

[www.edenfarmstay.com](http://www.edenfarmstay.com)

### **Stonehouse Gardens** (Grove)

0362 664 587

54 Lucaston Rd, Grove TAS 7109

### **Oaksun Cherries**

41Narrows Rd Strathblane TAS

### **The Ragged Tier Cherry Garden**

0362 535 114

166 Woolleys Rd, Kellevie TAS 7176

### **Hansen**

0362 640 200

«Aplgrove» 64 Basin Rd, Grove TAS 7109

### **Wolfe Bros. Smallfruits**

0362 396 310

98 Wolfes Rd, Neika TAS 7054

### **3rd Rock Agriculture**

799 North Huon Rd, Judbury TAS 7109

### **D'encastreux cherries**

3644 Channel Highway, Birchs Bay

0427082044

[skile@bigpond.com](mailto:skile@bigpond.com)

### **Nierinna Blueberries**

0362 672 581

371 Nierinna Rd, Margate TAS 7054

### **Woodstock orchards**

0408 951 773

8624 Channel Hwy Woodstock TAS 7109

### **Orchard Place**

0362 613 706

2261 Lyell Hwy Hayes TAS 7140

### **Tas Valley Orchards**

0362 951 922

7891 Channel Hwy 7112 Cygnet Tasmania

### **Westerway Raspberry Farm**

1488 Gordon River Road, Westerway, TAS

westerwayraspeberrymfarm@hotmail.com

## **VINEYARDS**

**Cape Bernier Vineyard** (Bream Creek)

0362 535 443

230 Bream Creek Rd, Bream Creek TAS 7175

### **Frogmore Creek Wines**

0362 485 844

699 Richmond Rd, Cambridge TAS 7170

### **Meadowbank Estate**

0362 484 484 - 0409 583 661

### **Craigow Vineyard**

0362 484 210

528 Richmond Rd, Cambridge TAS 7170

### **Pooley Wines**

0362 602 895

1431 Richmond Rd, Richmond TAS 7025

### **Derwent Estate**

0362 635 802

329 Lyell Hwy, Granton TAS 7030

### **Home Hill Winery**

0362 641 200

8 Nairn Street Ranelagh Tasmania 7109

### **Hartzview Vineyard**

03 6295 1946 - 0362 951 623

70 Dillons Road Gardners Bay, TASMANIA

### **Stefano Lubiana Wines**

0362 637 457

60 Rowbottoms Rd, Granton TAS 7030

### **Smith Gully Orchard**

0883 902 265

49 Smiths Gully Rd, Montacute SA 5134

### **Bower Berries**

0883 898 193

Lot 9 Edward Hill Rd, Lenswood SA 5240

### **Kenton Valley Cherries**

0883 891 881

info@kentonvalleycherries.com.au

### **Willow Glen**

0883 901 657

### **BP Cherry**

0883 898 222

18 Mawson Rd, Lenswood SA 5240

### **Sundrop**

2 Ebenezer Place, Level 1, Adelaide

08 8100 5200

australia@sundropfarms.com

### **Mitolo Group**

Angle Vale Rd, Virginia SA 5120

08 8282 9000

## **VINEYARDS**

### **Chain of Pounds Wines**

0883 891 415

198C Torrens Valley Rd, Gumeracha SA

## **Barossa Valley**

## **VINEYARDS**

### **Whistler Wines**

0885 624 942

Seppeltsfield Rd, Nuriootpa SA 5355

### **Eddy** (contractor)

0427 341 696

### **Barossa Backpackers** (Tanunda)

0885 630 198

info@barossabackpackers.com.au

## **WORKING BACKPACKERS**

Barossa Backpackers

08 8563 0198 / 0885630198

9 Basedow Rd, Tanunda SA 5352

## **Penola**

## **CONTRACTORS**

**Scott** : 0413 458 740

## **FARMS**

**Penola Strawberry Farm**

0887 372 966

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### **Adelaide Hills**

## **FARMS**

**Kersbrook cherry**

0883 892 231

Kersbrook Rd, Kersbrook SA 5231

### **Torrens Valley Orchards**

0883 891 405

### **Montacute Valley Orchard**

0883 902 213

Institute Rd, Montacute SA 5134



## FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

Church St, Penola SA 5277

### **Joyson Orchards**

0887 393 215

426 Millicent Rd, Kalangadoo 5278 (apples)

### **Tucker G D**

0438 393 027

Coorara Estate Millicent Rd, Kalangadoo SA

### **St Mary's Wines**

08 8736 6137V & A La, Penola SA 5277

## Renmark - Berri - Loxton

### **FARMS**

#### **Swan Citrus**

0885 702 024

Swan Reach SA 5354

#### **Murray Valley Citrus**

0885 354 153

Balanada Drv, Mypolonga SA 5254

#### **Brand**

0885 822 943

#### **Koutouzis**

0885 821 610

Chilton Rd Berri SA 5343

#### **Babniotis**

0885 866 849

Twenty-Fourth St, Renmark SA 5341

#### **Solora**

0885 841 322

#### **Jaeschke**

0885 821 129

#### **Swanbury**

0885 844 769

#### **Karagiannis**

0885 847 753

Paruna Rd, Loxton SA 5333

#### **Bottrill T & J**

0885 835 354

Berri SA 5343 (apples)

#### **Lawrie R & M**

0885 821 469

Sturt Hwy, Berri SA 5343

#### **Recchia L**

0885 838 216

Gallery Tce, Lyrup SA 5343

#### **Schober I & J**

0885 837 315

Winkie SA 5343

#### **Sukalic I & M**

0885 837 241

Winkie SA 5343

#### **Tschirpig N & M**

0885 838 288

### **Watts R**

0885 838 242

Lyrup SA 5343

### **Western & Son**

0885 821 522 (Pommes)

37 Schwarz Rd Bookpurnong, Berri SA 5343

### **Fresh Citrus Direct**

0885 849 174

2743 Kingston Rd, Loxton SA 5333 (lemons)

### **Pontt B J & J M**

0885 847 653

Partridge Rd, Loxton SA 5333 (apples)

### **Lehmann R D**

0885 951 380

Arumpo St, Renmark SA 5341 (apples)

### **Bosnjakovic B & J**

0885 951 463

Twentyseventh St, Renmark 5341(apples)

### **Giannakeas C**

0885 866 224

Twentyfifth St, Renmark SA 5341 (apples)

### **Millewa Citrus**

0885 958 053

Murtho SA 5341(lemons)

### **Rengrove Citrus**

0885 957 243

Cooltong Ave, Cooltong SA 5341 (lemons)

### **Linspan Citrus**

0885 847 243

201 Mills Rd, Loxton SA 5333 (lemons)

### **Amaroo Orchards** (oranges)

772 Murtho Road, Paringa

0423 648 901 (Sam)

## WORKING BACKPACKERS

### **Barmera Backpackers**

08 8588 3007 / 0885883007

6 Bice Street, Barmera SA 5345

### **Berri Backpackers Hostel**

0885823144

Sturt Hwy 5343 Berri

[www.berribackpackers.com.au](http://www.berribackpackers.com.au)

### **Nomads On Murray**

1800 665 166 / 0885 830 211

Sturt Hwy, Kingston on Murray SA 5331

### **Harvest Trail Lodge**

0885845646

1 Kokoda Terrace, Loxton SA 5333

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Albany

### FARMS

#### Handasyde Strawberry Farm

0898 443 419

Lot2 Greatrex St, Lower King WA 6330

#### Willow Creek Strawberries

0898 464 300

Dempster Rd, Kalgan WA 6330

#### Genovese Olive Co

0418 932 824

Chesterpass Rd, Albany WA 6330

### VINEYARDS

#### Wignall's Wines

0898 412 848

448 Chester Pass Rd, Albany WA 6330

#### Bacchus Contracting

0897 531 338

#### Bunn Vineyard & Winery

08 9842 6266

#### Montgomery's Hill Wines

08 9844 3715

Hassell Hwy, Kalgan WA 6330

### AGENCES

#### The Job Shop

[www.thejobshop.com.au](http://www.thejobshop.com.au)

08 9228 1457

#### Skill Hire

08 98927444 / 291 York Street

## Broome

### PEARL FARMS

#### Paspaley

(08) 9192 2203

[www.paspaley.com](http://www.paspaley.com)

#### Cygnnet Bay Pearls

[www.cygnnetbaypearls.com.au](http://www.cygnnetbaypearls.com.au)

#### Willie Creek Pearls

(08) 9192 0033

[www.williecreekpearls.com.au](http://www.williecreekpearls.com.au)

## Gingin

#### Peter & Beverley Ansell

0883 892 231

#### Regional Labour Hire

0407 713 332

## Carnarvon

#### Sweeter Banana

0899419100

1945 Northwest Coastal Highway Carnarvon

#### DF & S Wiggins

0899 418 495

#### Gascoyne Gold

08 9941 9991

North West Coastal Hwy, Carnarvon North

#### Bumbak & Son

0899 418 006

## Donnybrook

#### Fruit Barn

0897 311 198 (Tomatoes)

7 South Western Hwy, Donnybrook WA 6239

#### Swanto Orchard

0897 311 021

297 South Western Hwy, Donnybrook 6239

#### Perivale Orchards Pty Ltd

(08) 9731 6321

The Upper Capel Rd, Donnybrook WA 6239

#### Glendalough Orchards

0897 311 273

38 Irishtown Rd, Donnybrook 6239 (apples)

#### Delfino G

0897 311 169

RMB 624 Boyupbrook Rd, Donnybrook 6239

## Kununurra

#### Bardena Farms

0409 691 505

384 Packsaddle Rd KUNUNURRA WA 6743

#### Barradale Farm

0891 691 386 / barradale@wn.com.au

#### Bluey's Outback Farm

0891 682 177 / blueysoutbackfarm@bigpond.com

[www.blueysoutbackfarm.com.au](http://www.blueysoutbackfarm.com.au)

#### Cummings Brothers

0891 681 400

Research Station Rd, Kununurra WA 6743

#### Ceres Farm

0891 681 613 / 0429 168 161

Lot 3, Packsaddle Rd, Kununurra WA 6743

#### Oasis Farm

0891 691 282

241 Stock Route Rd, Kununurra WA 6743

#### Parker Poynt Plantation (packing mangoe)

0891 691 388

## FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

### **Lincfel Trading** (nursery)

0891 691 595

### **RO Smith & Sons** (pumpkins)

0891 681 774 / 0417 956 906 / rosmith@bigpond.com

568 Ivanhoe Rd PO Box 264 Kununurra WA

### **Tropical Forestry** (nursery)

0891 682 225

### **Ord River Melon Growers** (melons)

kane\_marie@bigpond.com

### **Ord River Banana Co**

0891 681 481

212 Riverfarm Rd, Kununurra WA 6743

### **Rocky Lerch Holdings** (pumpkins)

0891 681 216 / 0408 877 080

### **Olive Tech International**

0417 984 470

PO Box 3098, Broadway WA 6009 (Olives)

### **Stoneville Blueberry Farm**

0892 950 767

240 Blue Wren Pl, Stoneville 6081 (Stonefruit)

## Monkey Mia

### **Blue Lagoon pearl farm**

08 9948 1325 - [www.bluelagoon.com.au](http://www.bluelagoon.com.au)

## Margaret River

### **VINEYARDS**

#### **Redgate Wines**

0897 576 488

659 Boodjidup Rd, Margaret River WA 6285

#### **Voyager Estate Vineyard**

08 9757 6354 - 0897 576 449

Stevens Rd, Margaret River WA 6285

#### **Xanadu Wines**

08 9758 9500 - 0897 572 581

316 Boodjidup Rd, Margaret River WA 6285

### **AGENCIES**

#### **Bacchus Contracting**

Busselton, Edwards Road, Ambergate, WA,  
0490 247 587

#### **Vine Power** (Fearn Avenue)

0897 572 547

#### **Labour Solutions** (24 Fearn Avenue)

0897 588 136 / 0897 579 623

## Perth

#### **The Job Shop**

08 9228 1457

[www.thejobshop.com.au](http://www.thejobshop.com.au)

#### **Aussi Jobs**

08 9325 2352

<http://www.aussijobs.com.au/>

## Swan Valley

#### **Grape Growers Association Of W.A.**

0892 964 993

PO Box 179, Herne Hill WA 6056 (Raisin)

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Darwin

#### **Paspaley Pearls**

08 8982 5515

19 The Mall, Darwin NT 0800, Australia

## Alice Springs

#### **Rocky Hill Table Grapes**

Undoolya Station, Alice Springs NT

08 8956 9828 - 0439 488 855

## Katherine

### **AGENCES**

#### **Jobfind Centres Australia**

(08) 8972 9200

42 Katherine Tce, Katherine NT 0850

### **FERMES**

#### **Roper River Agriculture**

0427 75 4232 (melons & pastèques)

0488 54 4693

6266 Roper Hwy Mataranka, NT 0852

kane\_marie@bigpond.com

#### **Manbulloo Mangoes**

0889 722 590

Victoria Hwy, Katherine NT 0850

# QUEENSLAND

## Ayr

### Penruth Produce

123 Queen St, Ayr QLD 4807 (vegetables)

### A & J O Felesina

0747 826 869

Leibrecht Rd, Airville QLD 4807

### Paradise Estate Produce

0747 834 585

27 Lisa Drv , 4807

### Butlers Bananas

0747 833 337

### Bugeja Cane Farm

0747 831 984

Old Clare Rd, Ayr QLD 4807

### Davco Farming

0747 827 676

484 Pelican Rd, Ayr QLD 4807

## Atherton

### Custard Apples

0740 954 582

535 Beantree Rd, Tolga QLD 4882

### Rigato Farms

0740 933 555 - 07 4066 7816

Kennedy Hwy, Mareeba 4880 (Bananas)

### Hampson Bros

07 4065 3382

565 Mount Utchee Creek Rd, Utchee Creek QLD 4871

### Rigoni Bros

0740 645 181

Gattera Rd Nerada QLD 4860 (Bananas)

### Westfresh

Cooroolands Rd, Upper Dara

## Bundaberg

### FARMS

#### Basacar Produce

Shd 1/ 4551 Good-wood Rd, Bundaberg 4670

#### Aydin Contracting

0438 174 402

U3/ 5 Curtis St, Bundaberg South QLD 4670

#### Bundy Fresh Food Market

0741 541 911

21 Maryborough St, Bundaberg Central QLD

### Farm and Sun

0754 812 055

Shp 306/ 1 Woolgar Rd, Southside QLD 4570

### Schmidt R&B

0741 551 792

### Moorland Produce

0741 561 518

MS 299 Quinns Rd, Bundaberg QLD 4670

### Tully Banana

0741 514 232

17 Maryborough St, Bundaberg QLD 4670

### Read N

0741 599 365

### Golden Mile

0741 654 555

### Simpson Farms

0741 268 200

Goodwood Plantation Goodwood Rd, Childers QLD 4660

### Wodonga Park Fruit & Nuts

0741 630 166

45 Mt Binga Rd, Mt Binga QLD 4306

### Hidden Valley Dragon Fruit

524 Turtle Creek Rd Harlin, QLD

### Wally's Produce

0749 728 222

Lot 401, Gibson St (cnr Beckinsale St)

Gladstone QLD 4680

### Bundaberg Fruit & Veg

0741 533 007

Unit 13 2 Tantitha St, Bundaberg QLD 4670

### Avocado Acres

0741 261 700

Noakes St, Childers QLD 4660

## WORKING BACKPACKERS

### City Centre Backpackers

0741 513 501

216 Bourbong St, Bundaberg Central QLD

### Bundy Work & Dive Hostel

0741 516 097

64 Barolin Street QLD 4670

### Dingo Blue Backpackers

(07) 4152 0100 / 0741 510 200

11 Burrum Street, Bundaberg QLD 4670

### Federal Backpackers

0741 533 711

221 Bourbong St, Bundaberg QLD 4670

### Grand Hotel

07 4151 2441

89 Bourbong St, Bundaberg QLD 4670

### Sun Ray Backpackers

0741 524 573

12 Queen St, Bundaberg QLD 4670

## FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

### CellBlock Backpackers

07 4154 3210  
48 Quay St, Bundaberg QLD 4670

## AGENCIES & CONTRACTORS

### Aydin Contracting

0438 174 402

### Lyne Harvesting

0741 551 253

## Boonah

### Kalfresh Pty Ltd

0754 637 290  
6202 Cunningham Highway Kalbar  
**Qld Citrus** (Mangoes)  
Southgate Commercial Cntr/ 250 Sherwood  
Rd, Rocklea QLD 4106

### Table Grape

 (Mangoes)

9 Stockwell Pl, Archerfield QLD 4108

### Boonah Markets

0754 634 502 (Tomatoes)

## Bowen

## WORKING BACKPACKERS

### Aussie Nomads Backpacker

07 4786 5185  
110 Vulture St, West End QLD 4101  
[www.aussienomads.com.au](http://www.aussienomads.com.au)

## FARMS

### R&M Packing

07 47707430  
nqpine@bigpond.net.au  
15 Hencamp Creek Rd. Rollingstone

### Battiston F & Co

0747 848 161

### Elphinston & Kiriby

0747 852 244  
«Leslie», Mt Dangar QLD 4805

## Childers

## WORKING BACKPACKERS

### Sugarbowl Caravan Park

0741 261 521  
28965 Bruce Hwy Childers QLD  
**Childers Tourist Park**  
0741 261 371  
111 Stockyard Rd North Isis, QLD, 4660

### Childers Backpackers Motel

0741 262 663  
2 Churchill St, Childers QLD 4660

## FARMS

### Avocado Acres

0741 261 700  
Noakes St, Childers QLD 4660

## AGENCIES

### Sarina Russo Job Access

13 15 59  
[www.sarinarusso.com.au](http://www.sarinarusso.com.au)

## Wallaville - Gin Gin

**Mc Lennans Orchard** : 0741 576 245

**Abbottsleigh Orchard** : 0741 576 980

**Gin Gin C/P** : 0741 572 192

### Monduran Citrus

3245 Monduran Rd, Gin Gin QLD 4671

**McMahon Citrus** : 0741 576 170

Abbottsleigh, Wal-laville QLD 4671 (lemons)

**Auburnvale Citrus** (Derri Derra)

0741 656165

Hawkwood Rd, Derri Derra 4626 (lemons)

## Caboolture

**Coco Strawberries** (Elimbah)

0419 303 907

### Schiffke

0754 958 274

210 Stern Rd, Bellmere QLD 4510

### Sunray Strawberries

0754 967 364

347 King St, Wamuran QLD 4512

**Hermes Strawberries** (Wamuran)

0754 298 555

**Berry Patch** (Wamuran)

0754 966 880

### Strawberry Fields

0754 945 146

133 Laxton Rd, Palmview QLD 4553

### Piñata Farms

07 5497 4295

382 Scurr Rd, Wamuran QLD 4512

## Gatton

### Caravan Park

291 Eastern Drive, Gatton QLD 4343



**Bauer's Organic Farm**

0754626124 (potatoes, oct to dec)

[www.bauersorganicfarm.com.au](http://www.bauersorganicfarm.com.au)

**Blackboy Ridge** : 0754625202

**Hood Farming** : 0754 625 518

**Rugby Farm**

07 5466 3200

22 Hoods Road, Gatton QLD 4343

[www.rugbyfarm.com.au](http://www.rugbyfarm.com.au)

**Qualipac**

07 5466 5441

5209 Warrego Highway, College View QLD

<http://qualipac.com.au>

**Windolf Farm**

07 5462 6121

671 Mount Sylvia Road, Upper Tenthill QLD

<http://windolffarms.com.au>

**Gatton Fruit Bowl**

Spencer St, Gatton QLD 4343 (Tomatoes)

**Tourist Information** : 0754623430

**Gayndah**

**Packing Farm**

07 4161 2712

**Two Pine Orchard**

07 4161 2285

Bonaccord Rd, Gayndah QLD 4625

**Golden mille Orchard**

0741 654 555

1130 Coonambulla Rd Mundubbera Gayndah

**Quebec Orchard**

0741 656 139

Mundubbera QLD 4626

**Benham M J & A A**

07 4161 6177

Gayndah QLD 4625

**Glen Grove Orchard**

07 4161 1196

Boomerang Rd, Gayndah QLD 4625

**Glenelle**

07 4161 1955

Humphrey Binjour Rd, Gayndah QLD 4625

**Toowoomba**

**Kalfresh**

0754637290 (vegetables / June to dec.)

6206 Cunningham Hwy, Kalbar QLD 4309

[kalfresh@hypermax.net.au](mailto:kalfresh@hypermax.net.au)

<http://kalfresh.com.au/main/>

**Stanthorpe**

**Caravan Park Topax Blue**

0746 835 279

26806 New England Hwy, Severnlea QLD

**Agence Ready Workforce**

07 4681 6200

Corner Rogers & Railway Streets, Stanthorpe

**Sweets Strawberry Runners**

07 4683 6209

846 Nundubbermere Rd, Stanthorpe QLD

**Brisotto I & R**

07 4683 2293

Ann St, Applethorpe QLD 4378

**Sunshine Coast**

**Koogie Downs Strawberries** (may to nov)

0754459100

Address Lot 2 58 Rainforest road chevallum

[www.koogiedowns.com](http://www.koogiedowns.com)

**Twist Brothers**

0754 459 251

0407459419

447 Chevallum Rd, Palmwoods QLD 4555

**Strawberry Fields**

0754 945 146

133 Laxton Rd, Palmview QLD 4553

**Townsville**

**Oleria Tropical Orchards**

0747708182

Ponderosa Rd, Rollingstone QLD 4816

**NAP Townsville**

0747829498

Cnr Trembath Rd & Bruce Hwy, Horseshoe

Lagoon QLD 4809

**Elphinstone & Kirby**

0747852244

«Leslie», Mt Dangar QLD 4805

**Tully**

**WORKING BACKPACKER**

**Banana Barracks**

07 4068 0455

50 Butler St Tully QLD 4854

[info@bananabarracks.com](mailto:info@bananabarracks.com)

**Kookaburra Holiday Park**

## FRUIT PICKING CONTACTS

0740 668 648  
175 Bruce Hwy, Cardwell QLD 4849

### **FARMS**

#### **AG White**

0740682883  
Tea Plantation Rd, Tully QLD 4854

#### **Chiquita North Queensland**

0740667764  
Syndicate Rd, Tully QLD

#### **Collins L**

0740681268  
8 Bamber St, Tully QLD 4854

#### **GJ Flegler Pty Ltd**

07 4066 7577  
South Davidson Rd, Tully QLD 4854

#### **Lissio M A**

Mullins Rd, Tully QLD 4854  
07 4066 7980

#### **Dores Bananas**

Dores Rd Murray Upper, QLD 4854

#### **Dundee Creek Banana**

0740682770  
Bruce Hwy, Tully QLD 4854

#### **Gilbert P&Sons**

0740667720  
761 Syndicate Rd, Tully QLD 4854

#### **C.N.C. Banana Co**

0740 667 810  
Davidson Rd, Euramo QLD 4854

#### **NQ Banana Growers**

07 4068 3300  
Tips Bldg Bruce Hwy, Tully QLD 4854

## Innisfail

#### **Robson K G**

0740 614 632  
Flying Fish Point Rd, Innisfail QLD 4860

#### **Alcock Bananas**

07 4061 2971  
645 Palmerston Hwy, Innisfail, QLD

#### **Australian Banana Company**

07 4063 3911  
101-103 Upper Daradgee Rd, QLD

#### **Nana Man**

07 4061 6655  
120 Mourilyan Rd, East Innisfail QDL

#### **Brighton Banana Farm**

07 4068 2215  
787 East Feluga Rd, East Feluga QLD

#### **Tropicana Banana**

07 4063 3971  
445 Upper Daradgee Rd, Upper Daradgee

QLD 4860

#### **Gonzos Bananas**

Bruce Hwy, Mourilyan QLD 4858  
**Chiquita North Queensland**

Jubilee Rd, Innisfail QLD 4860

#### **Pacific Coast Produce**

0740 642 452  
228 Boogan Rd, Innisfail QLD 4860

#### **Dotti Farming Company**

0427 633 826  
240 Upper Daradgee Rd, Innisfail QLD 4860

#### **Bush Farm**

07 4066 0014  
512 Kennedy Creek Rd, Kennedy

#### **Fresh Yellow**

07 4064 3000  
South Johnstone Rd, Boogan, QLD 4871  
hello@freshyellow.com.au

## WORKING BACKPACKER

#### **Backpackers Shack**

07 4061 7760 - 0499 042 446  
admin@backpackersshack.com

#### **Codge Lodge Backpackers**

07 4061 8055  
63 Rankin St, Innisfail QLD 4860

## Mareeba

#### **Bellview Orchards**

0408 231 363  
155 Rains Road, Mareeba

#### **Rigato Farms**

0740 933 555  
Kennedy Hwy, Mareeba QLD 4880

## Mackay

#### **Wadda Plantation**

0740 645 233  
Pullom Rd, Nerada QLD 4860

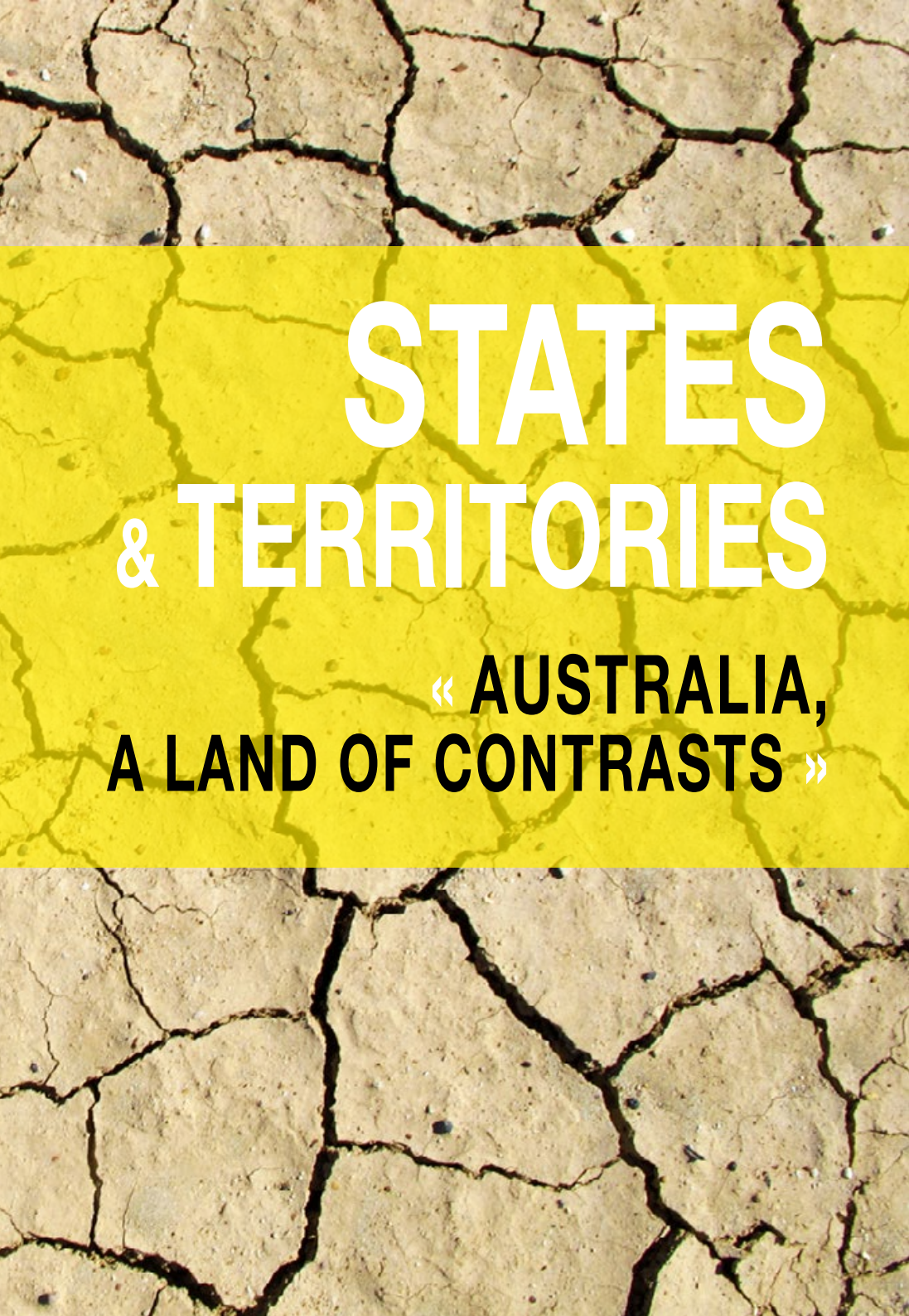
#### **Rigoni Bros**

0740 645 181  
Gattera Rd, Nerada QLD 4860







The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of parched, cracked earth. The cracks are dark and irregular, forming a network of polygonal shapes across the light brown, dusty soil. A solid yellow horizontal band is superimposed over the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text.

# STATES & TERRITORIES

« AUSTRALIA,  
A LAND OF CONTRASTS »







Sydney Cove, NSW







Blue Mountains, NSW







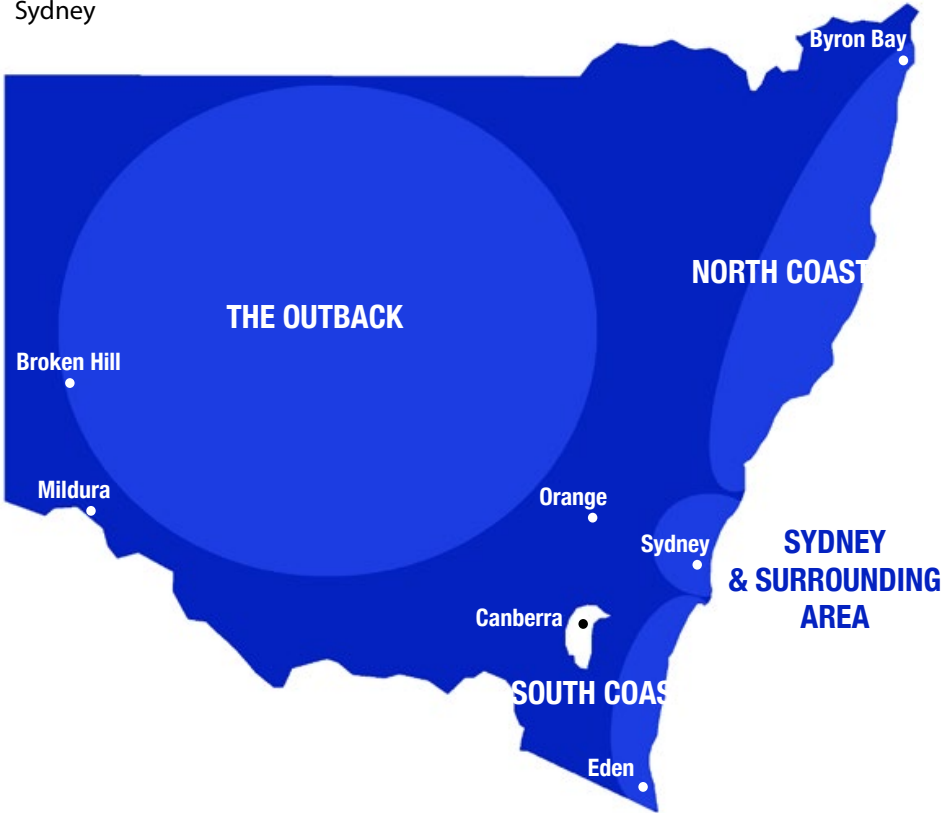
Ben Boyd National Park, NSW



## DISTANCES BETWEEN TOWNS :

*Distances in km using main roads*

1150	903	298	1236	1034	1530	Broken Hill
772	927	1650	1403	1141		Byron Bay
287	291	800	265			Canberra ACT
480	730	988	Eden			
1006	804	Mildura				
250	Orange					
Sydney						



## AVERAGE TEMPERATURES (C°) :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Broken Hill	33	31	28	23	18	16	15	17	21	24	28	31
Canberra	29	28	25	20	16	12	11	13	16	19	23	26
Dubbo	33	32	29	25	20	16	15	17	21	25	29	32
Grafton	31	30	29	27	24	21	21	22	25	27	29	30
Mildura	32	31	28	23	19	16	15	17	20	24	27	30
Sydney	26	26	24	22	19	17	16	18	20	22	23	25

# NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales is the richest state with the largest population (7,6 million) and home to Sydney, the biggest city in the country.

Stretched over 801.600 km<sup>2</sup>, NSW offers the greatest diversity of landscapes, with long white beaches (more than 1900km), tropical forests, and big touristy cities.

South of Sydney, there are deserted beaches with crystal clear water.

North of the capital is the “surf and party” coast of Australia.

Inland, ghost towns remain from the gold rush, and endless pastures of livestock stretch across the state. There are deserts and interesting towns like Broken Hill. Further south, are the Mountains that get snow in the winter and is home to the most ski resorts in the country.

The state has more than 800 national parks, including the famous Ben Boyd, Blue Mountains and Kosciuszko National Parks.

The coastal areas enjoy a temperate, moist climate. The dry plains, reaching past the Great Dividing Range (2/3 of the state), are hot (daytime temperatures up to 40° in summer) with cool nights.

NSW is rich in history as the birthplace of the nation. This history starts in 1770, when Captain James Cook and his team dropped anchor in Botany Bay. Eight years later a fleet loaded with convicts disembarked in the same place to launch the first colony in the country. After a difficult start (famine, conflicts with the aborigines...) the colony developed to later spread over the Blue Mountains and inland.

NSW's economy expanded rapidly, and the country began to attract free citizens, who came to start a new life in this far off land.

In the meantime, the other colonies gradually grew. In 1901 they joined to become the Australian Commonwealth.

## DON'T MISS

- **Sydney**, “The Big City” !
- The **Blue Mountains**
- Sand dunes in **Port Stephens**
- **Dolphins in Jervis Bay**
- The **Outback** with **Broken Hill**, city of artists
- **Byron Bay** one of the most famous surf spots in Australia.



*Dolphins  
in Jervis Bay*



*Koalas  
in Port  
Macquarie,  
Port  
Stephens,  
Lismore  
& Gunnedah*

## NATIONAL PARKS

Only 46 of the 877 national parks in NSW charge entry fees (usually \$8). If you want to visit several parks, there is an annual Pass (usually \$45).

Infos : [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

## INTERNET ACCESS

Sign up for free in state libraries. You receive a card with password. Visit McDonalds and Starbucks.

## WILDLIFE

### Where to see koalas?

Port Macquarie (town hospital)  
Port Stephens (natural habitat)  
Lismore (natural habitat and Care Centre)  
Gunnedah (natural habitat)

### Where to see whales?

All along the East Coast (Sept & Nov)

### Where to swim with dolphins?

Forster  
Port Stephens

# SYDNEY & SURROUNDING AREAS

## Sydney, Capital of New South Wales

Sydney, situated in Port Jackson Bay, is the oldest and most modern city in Australia.

Its history began in 1788 when the first fleet packed with convicts arrived in the bay from England. The country's first penitential colony was born, and it was later called Sydney in honour of the British home secretary of the time. The settlers then started building a town which was eventually becmæe the Sydney we know today.

*Sydney Opera House*

With over 4.6 million inhabitants, Sydney is a cosmopolitan city, with monuments famous across the world such as the Opera House or Harbour Bridge. Built around one of the most beautiful natural harbours in the world, the town offers an exceptional quality of life with superb beaches only a few minutes from the town centre.

### SYDNEY BY DISTRICT

If you would like to visit several attractions, buy a pass. Iventure Card offers several options with good reductions. *Example: Sydney Flexi attractions pass \$109 with 3 attractions of your choice, or Sydney 5 with 5 attractions for \$159.*

### CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

The CBD zone is around George Street, stretching from Circular quay to Central station.



To discover Sydney for free with a guide, join a **FREE TOUR** (every day from 10.30am to 2.30pm, departing from the Town Hall, close to the anchor sculpture).

Local guides in green T-shirts lead you around town telling you history and anecdotes about the sites you can visit. (Harbour Bridge, The Rocks, Hyde Park, etc...)

There are also Hop On Hop Off buses, offering 2 tours for \$35 with 35 stops. You can choose between the Sydney and the Bondi Tour or do both with the same ticket. You will see the city from double-decker buses and stop wherever you want (leaves from Circular Quay).

From May to November take a cruise out to watch whales migrating (from \$75 per person for a 1/2 day).

**Sydney Tower** right in the CBD offers a 360° view of the city and surrounding areas. Amazing in clear weather as you can even see as far as the Blue Mountains! (\$19)

**Circular Quay**, is gateway to the city, departure point for ferries with wonderful views of the Opera House, taking you to destinations around the bay like Taronga Zoo, Manly, other nearby bays, Luna Park...

Useful tip: take the ferry to Manly or Bondi and come back at night... the view of Sydney is exceptional !

**Luna Park**: this retro-style amusement park is north of Sydney, on the other side of Harbour Bridge (accessible by ferry or on foot). At night, superb views of the city!

**Sydney Opera House**, UNESCO world heritage since 2007, and certainly the most iconic monument in Sydney.

The project to build the Opera House started in the 1940s when the director of the music Conservatorium asked for a building to perform large-scale theatre and musical productions.

An architecture competition was launched in 1955 and Danish architect, Jorn Utzon's entry won.

Construction began on the Opera building in 1959 and ended in 1973. There were many disagreements, budget increases and even the architect himself resigned in 1966. In 1973 it was inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth II. Since then many changes have been made costing over 100 million dollars.

You can visit the Opera for a 1 hour tour (\$40) or splash out and attend a performance.

The prices vary depending on the type of performance and the seat, but budget at least \$100 per person.

**Sydney Harbour Bridge** took 9 years to build and opened in 1932.

This 530 metre arch links the CBD with North Sydney. The Bridge Climb is an unforgettable experience

*Sydney Tower*



which takes you to the very top of the bridge (134m) with a completely unobstructed view over the city and the port (Day climb from \$258).

If you don't want to "climb", the view just from crossing Harbour Bridge is beautiful. You can also pay \$13 to access a Pylon lookout on the bridge's south pylon.

### MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

**Macquarie Street** has the biggest and most impressive buildings in the city. **The Mint, Government House, Hyde Park Barracks, Museum of Sydney, Conservatorium of Music,** and also the **State Library of NSW...**

Hyde Park prisons (in the park), host some great art exhibitions nowadays!

**NSW Parliament House** Free tours at 1pm and 2pm every first Thursday of the month.

**Australian Museum** (6 College st - \$15 - open daily from 9.30am to 5pm) The oldest museum in Australia (1827), it has exhibits on the coun-

try's wildlife, aboriginal culture and geological history.

**Australian National Maritime Museum** (Darling Harbour - \$32 - open daily from 9.30am to 5pm) was built by an Australian architect and retraces the history of European explorations and the development of the Australian fleet. There is also an aboriginal art gallery.

**Art Gallery of NSW** (Art Gallery Rd - free - open daily from 10am til 5pm)

The gallery has the most important collection of Australian art and a sizeable collection of European paintings. You can discover Aboriginal art, paintings from the colonial period and many other works.

### SHOPPING

**Westfield Sydney** (Pitt Street Mall) is the largest commercial complex in the town centre. With more than 250 shops, cafés and restaurants, it is the place to find all the big chain stores! From level 4 there are food courts

Darling Harbour





with every type of cuisine (noodles, cakes, hot dogs, hamburgers...)

**Harbourside Shopping Centre** close to the port has fashion boutiques, cafés and restaurants.

**Queen Victoria Building** (455 George St) is a superb historical building in the heart of the CBD. This beautiful shopping centre has 4 floors of every kind of shop (jewellery, clothing...) in a chic environment.

**The Galleries** (500 George St.) right in the centre of George St, this is a busy shopping centre, with fashion boutiques, cafés and restaurants.

**World Square** (George St.) further south, this building has a few fashion boutiques and a Coles supermarket.

In **Chinatown** (Haymarket), you can also visit Paddy's Market, a huge covered market, open from Wednesday to Sunday.

You can find everything here: souvenirs, fake goods, clothes, and a very attractive fresh food section. There are 2 floors of clothing with an outlet for some brands.

Last but not least Birkenhead Point Shopping Centre, (Roseby street) has over 100 outlet stores with prices discounted up to 70%! You can get here by bus or car (free parking).

### **DARLING HARBOUR AREA**

Described as one of the most beautiful ports in the world by Arthur Phillip in 1788, Darling Harbour has managed to maintain its beauty.

**SEALIFE Sydney Aquarium** (Online price: \$36,80/pers., \$46 on the door – open from 9am to 8pm) With more than 12,000 marine animals (650 different species!) and a reproduction of the Great Barrier Reef.... It is one of the most spectacular aquariums in the world, and is not to be missed!

**IMAX** has the biggest cinema screen in the world and shows a wide variety of 3D shows (open from 10 to 11pm)

The IMAX will be closed until 2020 for renovations.

### **Chinese Garden of Friendship**

(\$6 - open every day) is an authentic Asian garden, calm and relaxing, with innovative architecture. You can also try a refreshing cup of tea in the teahouse (open from 9.30am to 5pm). A little further on you can discover Sydney's Fish Market, (open every day from 7am to 4pm) which is ideal for very fresh produce and for the unique atmosphere.

### **PARKS**

**Hyde Park**, considered to be the Lungs of Sydney, is a big park in the heart of the CBD. An ideal place to relax or spend your lunch break, this park is highly appreciated by locals. At night time you can often see possums wandering around and climbing trees. In the park there is also the Archibald Fountain, a statue of Captain Cook, and a memorial dedicated to the ANZACs.

Royal Botanic Garden



**Royal Botanic Garden** (*Macquarie Rd - free*) has 30 hectares of themed gardens. From here you can view buildings of architectural interest, including the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Right next to the park, Andrew Charlton Pool is an attractive public swimming pool with a cafe (\$6/pers).

### THE ROCKS

The Rocks is the oldest area in Sydney, with the oldest buildings built in 1788. Originally it was the hangout of sailors and port dockers, and of criminal gangs at the end of the 1800s. Several renovation projects were launched but were unfortunately interrupted by two world wars. When finally restored, the neighbourhood became an area for tourists, well-known for its market, traditional pubs and souvenir shops.

Museum of Contemporary Art is a great place to visit (140 George Street - free - 9am to 5pm), and

Taronga Zoo



don't miss the The Rocks Markets (George Street), every Saturday and Sunday (10am-5pm), with more than 200 stalls, clothes, jewellery, accessories from young designers, and a great atmosphere to kick-start your weekend.

### GLEBE & ULTIMO

Ultimo and Glebe are areas with a lot of young people next to the UTS (one of Sydney's universities), where it is easy to find reasonably-priced house-shares still close to the city centre. Glebe is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the town, and has become a trendy area with organic stores, little cafés and spa/relaxation centres.

### NEWTOWN

A bohemian artistic area, Newtown is worth visiting. During the day, discover vintage shops and attractive cafés. In the evening, attend one of the many artistic performances (concert, theatre, street art...).

For a decent brunch, we recommend Citrus Café (227 King St).

### SURRY HILLS

This is the area for design, and is full of furniture shops, architects offices, and cafés, mainly around Crown Street.

### PADDINGTON

Previously considered as THE trendiest area, Paddington is still holding its own in fashion and design.

Oxford Street, (the main street) is packed with designer boutiques, cafés, restaurants and night clubs. Don't miss Paddington Markets, every Saturday, with local craft and textile products and a warm atmosphere.

### DARLINGHURST

Situated between the CBD and Paddington, Darlinghurst is considered to be Sydney's Gay district. The bars, pubs and clubs start at the top of Oxford Street and all offer different styles. You can find cheap restaurants, superb vintage shops, thrift shops, and great fashion

boutiques. For a good burger we recommend stopping by at Grill'D (Oxford and Crown St. junction).

### **KINGS CROSS & POTTS POINT**

Kings Cross is the area for bars and clubs (and the red light area!) similar to Pigalle in Paris. When night falls Kings Cross wakes up, collecting all kinds of people with one thing in common: they are ready to party! Harry's Cafe de Wheels, famous for meat pies as a good place to eat without going bankrupt. Further into the area Potts Point is Sydney's little New York. There are good small restaurants (more upmarket).

### **ANIMAL PARKS**

**Taronga Zoo** (\$47 including the ferry crossing from circular quay - from 9am to 5pm) situated north of the port, is world famous for its conservation programme, with more than 2,500 animals from 5 continents in a beautiful location.

**Featherdale Wildlife Park** (\$32/pers - from 9am to 5pm) in Doonside, close to Blacktown, 45 minutes from the town centre, is a charming wildlife park where you can feed kangaroos and cuddle koalas (for free).

## **WHERE TO SLEEP?**

### **NEAREST CARAVAN PARK**

**Lane Cove River Tourist Park**, North Ryde, 14km north of the city. Train into the town centre every 15min. Unpowered site for \$39 a night.

### **NEAREST FREE CAMPSPOT**

There aren't any free camping spots close to the city, but we've heard that free camping was tolerated in **Coogee/Rose Bay**.

### **BACKPACKER HOSTELS**

To compare hostels and reserve your bed, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Xbase**, classic hostel (477 Kent st.)  
**Central YHA** (11 Rawson Pl in Ultimo)

**Bondi Backpackers** (110 Campbell Parade - Bondi Beach opposite the beach)

Be warned that hostels are very expensive in Sydney. If you are planning to stay several weeks, you would do better opting for a house or flat share. They are easy to find and there are ads everywhere (gumtree, lamp posts, internet forums...)

## **WHERE TO GO OUT?**

Going out in Sydney? Easy! There are bars, pubs, restaurants and night-clubs all over the place. Close to the centre go to Circular Quay or George Street. Otherwise, head for Kings Cross, Darlinghurst or Newtown.

### **BARS**

**3 Wise Monkeys**, typical lively pub (555 Georges St)

**The Establishment**, trendy bar (252 George st.)

**Cargo Bar**, fun and fashionable (King Street Wharf)

*Elizabeth Bay*



**Scary Canary** 469 Kent St

#### NIGHTCLUBS

**IVY**, trendy club (330 George St)

**The Argyle**, sophisticated (12-18 Argyle St at The Rocks)

## GETTING AROUND

Sydney is one of the easiest cities to get around using its network of buses, trains, ferries and trams, but public transport is very expensive and it is easy to walk around the town centre. It is difficult to avoid public transport, however, if you want to access the outskirts of Sydney or the beaches.

In the CBD, bus 555 is free and takes you to places of interest to tourists between Circular Quay and Central Station.

To use public transports to visit the city, get an Opal Card (free). You just add money onto your account depending on your needs. Trips will cost you less using this card.

**Single Bus ticket** cost 2,80\$ in zones 1-2 (centre).

Single train tickets cost around \$4 depending on the zones.

Ferries from Circular Quay take you to Sydney's beaches, and you get a great view of the bay and the famous Opera House on the way.

## EVENTS

Sydney hosts events and festivals throughout the year – the short list:

Jan.: **Sydney Festival**

Feb.: **Chinese New Year**

March: **Gay and Lesbian Festival**

**French Film Festival**

April: **Royal Easter Show** (Olympic Park)

May: **Fashion Week**, **Sydney**

**Comedy Festival** (international comedy festival)

June: **VIVID Festival**

Aug: **Fashion Festival**

Sept.: **Italian Film Festival**

Dec.: **New Year's Eve Fireworks**

## SYDNEY: PRACTICAL TIPS

### WHERE TO PARK?

In areas close to the centre, (Glebe, Ultimo, Double Bay), or even in the suburbs (Bondi or Manly). Then travel into town using public transport (less expensive than paying for parking in the heart of the city).

### FREE GUIDED TOURS

Every day at 10.30am and 2.30pm, starting from the Town Hall (close to the anchor sculpture), local guides will take you around the city and tell you the history, and plenty of anecdotes about the places you visit.

### STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

Macquarie street (*open 9am to 8pm Monday to Thursday and til 5pm at the weekend*).

### GPO

Martin Place (*open 8.30am to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday and on Saturday til 2pm*).

### VISITOR CENTRE

The Rocks (*Argyle and Playfair St. junction*) Darling Harbour (*Palm Road*)

# TWO days in Sydney

## DAY ONE

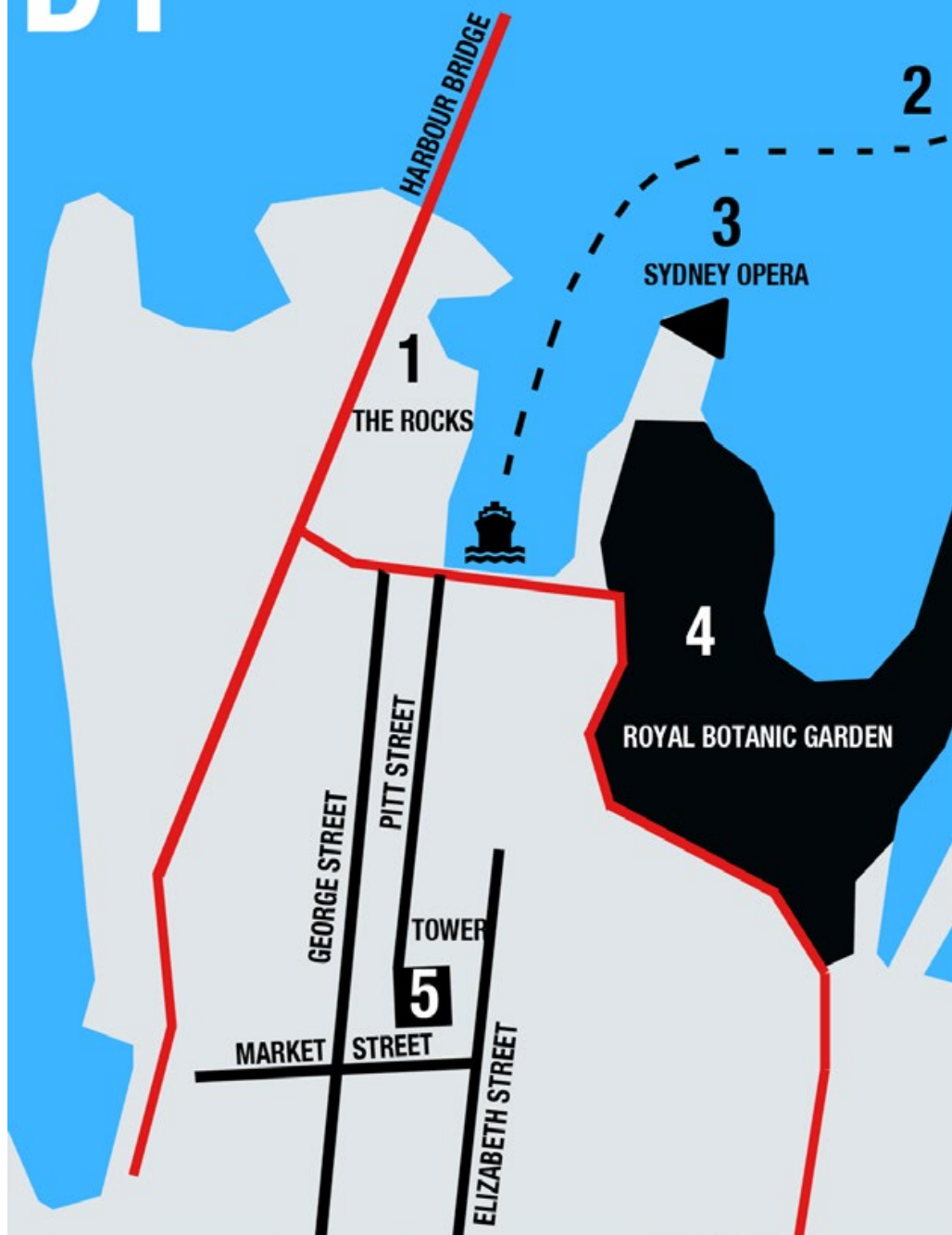
1. Cross the CBD and look round **The Rocks**, then take a stroll over **Harbour Bridge**
2. Take the ferry to **Watsons Bay** and savour some tasty fish and chips
3. Be a tourist in front of the **Sydney Opera House** at Circular Quay
4. Wander around the **Royal Botanic Garden**
5. Admire the sunset from **Sydney Tower**

## DAY TWO

1. Discover the **Fish Market**
2. Then have a walk around **Darling Harbour**
3. Take the bus to **Bondi Beach**
4. Do the Coastal Walk to **Coogee Beach**
5. Finish your day in the lively bars at **Kings Cross**



# D1





## Around Sydney

### BEACHES

#### BONDI BEACH

Bondi is the most famous beach in Sydney and a must-see! Situated in Waverley, a few kilometres east of the town centre, this mythical beach is the meeting place for youth, to nurture their bodies, their image and their surf skills!

In Bondi, you can sunbathe on the beach or have a go at surfing thanks to the numerous surf schools offering good rates (\$80 on average for a 2 hour lesson).

**Bondi Pavilion** is the beach's central point, with a theatre, exhibitions, yoga and dance lessons. There are lockers available to securely store your stuff.

If you want to enjoy a good burger, go to Moo Gourmet Burgers (70a

Campbell Parade) offering over 20 different delicious versions.

Close by, shopping centres like Charing Cross and Bondi Junction have fashion boutiques, cafés and restaurants. In the evening it becomes a party place for young people.

If you want to get to know the area better, try one of the scenic walks: the **Coastal Walk** links Bondi with Coogee (6km of beautiful coastal views), passing Tamarama and Bronte Beach, less crowded, with more locals. The **Cliff Walk** starts north of Bondi and leads to Watsons Bay, and **Greenliks Walk** goes from Bondi Junction to the beach.

Further south, **Coogee Beach**, one of the smallest, cosiest beaches of Sydney, has just been renovated and is now as popular as Bondi. More attractive to families it can get packed out in summer! Accessible by bus from CBD and the surrounding areas

*Bondi Beach*



## LEARN TO SURF

Australian Surf Tours is a well known surf school located only 1 hour from Sydney. Different packages are available (lessons, trips etc). You can enjoy 5% off on all packages. To get 5%off just enter the code **GUIDEBACKPACK5%** when making your booking.



## MANLY

North of the city, and accessible by ferry from Circular Quay, (a 30 minutes crossing) Manly has a superb beach, not as busy as Bondi, and a range of fashion shops (mainly street and surf wear), and good restaurants, for example «Jellyfish» offering a wonderful view over the ocean accompanied by reasonably-priced dishes.

The Arts and Crafts Market in Manly is very popular and takes place every weekend. There is a wide variety of handcrafted objects available.

To discover the surrounding area you can choose from one of the many sign-posted walking tracks. **Fairfax Loop Walk** (15 minutes) takes you to a lookout with spectacular views.

You can also walk to Shelly Beach with breathtaking views out over the ocean.

There are many other walks in the area. For more information :

[CLICK HERE](#)

In addition to all of this, all along the coast are pretty, quiet beaches such as Curl Curl Beach, Collaroy Beach, or Palm Beach where you can climb Barrenjoey Lighthouse for great views over Pittwater.

## THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Considered for many years to be impassable, the Blue Mountains were finally crossed in 1813 by 3 explorers.

Currently classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, they are more of a large plateau than actual mountains. The term « blue » comes from the blue haze that floats above the forests, created by the oil secreted by the abundant eucalyptus trees.

2 hours' drive from Sydney, The Blue Mountain National Park covers 240,000 hectares, with forests, rivers, plateaus, waterfalls, gorges... and the main attraction, the Three Sisters in Katoomba.

The Blue Mountains offer superb landscapes with luscious green forest, sandstone plateaus, waterfalls, little villages with antique shops and aboriginal art...

*Manly*



There are also many sporting activities to do (hiking, climbing, kayak, caving, mountain-biking, horse riding...)

From the moment you arrive, make a beeline for the Visitor Centre at Echo Point for in-depth information on almost 300 short and long walks throughout this National Park. (The brochures cost around \$3)

### **DON'T MISS**

Conservation Hut at Wentworth Falls, Sublime Point and Gordon Falls in Leura, the Three Sisters in Katoomba, Govetts Leap and Evans Lookout in Blackheath.

### **VISIT THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**

There are several ways to explore the region.

#### **Trains from Sydney**

Leaving hourly from Central Station to Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Blackheath and Mt Victoria. The ticket will cost you around \$10 for a

return to Katoomba (\$5 on sundays). You will then need to walk or catch a bus (N°686 included in the train ticket price) to reach the national park. The **ExplorerLink** ticket (\$49 day return) enables you to use the «Hop-on-hop-off explorer bus» connecting 30 attractions around the Blue Mountains.

#### **Tours from Sydney**

OZ Trails : \$79/person for the day (lunch not included), with return by ferry on the Parramatta river to Circular Quay.

#### **Hop on hop off buses**

Link Trolley Tours : 29 stops around Katoomba and Leura. A day pass (\$25) allows you to get on and off when you like.

Blue Mountain Explorer Bus: leaves every 30mins from Katoomba, 29 stops (\$40 with a guide). Again you can hop on and off.

#### **FROM PENRITH TO KATOOMBA**

On the road to Katoomba, Marge and Elizabeth Lookouts near Glenbrook have beautiful views towards Sydney.

**Red Hands Cave Walk** is an 8km trek starting from Glenbrook, which crosses the forest to arrive at an aboriginal rock art site.

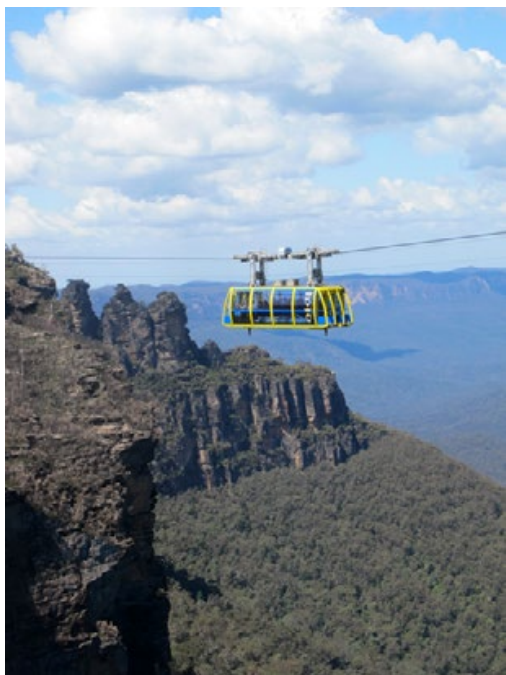
Equally good on a nice day is Jellybean Pool (2km return) leading to a water hole where you can picnic and swim...

**Wentworth Falls**, just before Leura, are immense waterfalls 300m high.

From there you can also start several walks, for example, Undercliff Walk with superb views of the falls (2km), or the Valley of the Waters Nature Track (4km) to observe the fauna and flora.

**Leura**, a charming Blue Mountains village, is 2km from Katoomba. South of the town, **Sublime Point** offers a plunging view over the Three Sisters. Several walks start at the town, for example, the trek to **Gordon Falls**

*The Three Sisters*





**Reserve** (4km return), also a good spot for a picnic.

**Katoomba** is the main town in the region, with beautiful views over the valley.

Echo Point is the best place to admire the Three Sisters (illuminated at night).

**ABORIGINAL LEGEND OF THE THREE SISTERS**

*3 sisters of the Katoomba tribe were taken away by 3 infatuated brothers from the enemy tribe of Nepean. War broke out between these 2 peoples, and the sorcerer changed the 3 sisters into stone to protect them.*

*Unfortunately, he died before he could give them back their human forms so since then the 3 sisters turned to stone remind future generations of this past conflict*

From Katoomba, you can take the popular **Scenic Railway**, one of the steepest in the world (52°). This railway line was built in the 19th century to transport miners to the coal mine. (in the same place) is a more comfortable cable car, and a good way to get back to Echo Point, especially at sunset.

You can do a variety of walks from Katoomba: Round Walk (1km), Cahills lookout (500m) or the longer but superb Golden Stairs (14km return) and Ruined Castle (12km return).

**FROM BLACKHEATH TO LITGOW**

This region, further to the west of Sydney is less often visited by tourists but offers equally superb sites, lookouts, waterfalls...etc

East of **Blackheath, Govetts Leap, Bridal Veil and Evans**

**lookouts** are just as remarkable as the **Three Sisters**.

**Evans lookouts** has incredible views over the valley and several walks to Neates Glen, Grand Canyon and Beauchamp Falls.

Walls Cave Road will lead you to Walls Cave, occupied by the first Australians 12 000 years ago.

There are still more places of interest to discover along the road up to **Jenolan Caves**. These limestone caves, 181km from Sydney in Hampton, are the most famous in Australia, formed nearly 450 million years ago!

Finally, when you continue on towards Lithgow, you come across the curious **Zig Zag Railway**. Built in 1869, this train winds along impressive escarpments with a precipice at your feet (\$19.50/pers one way). *The Zig Zag train will reopen end 2019.*

*Blue Mountains National Park*





*DOLPHINS  
in Jervis Bay*



*Yalwal  
Campground  
24km west of  
Nowra*

*Jervis Bay*

## THE SOUTH COAST

On the way out of Sydney, the Princess Highway follows the coast to Victoria. On this portion of the road, around 400km, there is an unending stream of coastal parks, beautiful quiet beaches, and picturesque coastal towns. This part of the coast is lovely and much less touristy than the northern coast of NSW.

### Wollongong

Before arriving in Wollongong, you can cross the **Royal National Park** (*Day Pass \$11*) where there are many walks to do in the forest. In Otford (in the south of the Park), the Lookout has a superb view over the ocean and surrounding areas. You can then continue following the ocean along **Grand Pacific Drive** to Wollongong. An industrial city only 80km south of Sydney, this is the 3rd largest town

in NSW. Famous for its huge steel factory, the town also has 17 beautiful beaches (mainly for surfing). Starting from the centre of Wollongong, **North Beach** and **Wollongong City beach** are the main, most accessible beaches, easily reached on foot from the town centre.

In town, you can visit the places of worship for different religions. There are two cathedrals, and the famous Buddhist temple **Nan Tien** (the biggest in the southern hemisphere).

### Jervis Bay

Before arriving in Jervis Bay, you will cross pretty little villages like Kiama with its Blowhole (worth seeing) or Gerrigong which has a salt water pool in the rocks.

Then, when you arrive at **Jervis Bay**, you realise that paradise on earth is not just a fantasy!

The jewel of NSW, this region has



landscapes of exceptional beauty, and is known for having the most beautiful beaches in the world with transparent water and white sand!

Jervis Bay is also famous for the dolphins that live in the bay. From June to November, Jervis Bay is an excellent place to watch whales migrating. Day-cruises start at reasonable prices (*from \$80*).

Jervis Bay National Park (in the north) is free and gives you access to the lighthouse in the bay. Hurkisson is the place for shops in the area, including a very good fish and chip shop in the main street, and some caravan parks with great views (\$40 for a powered site). Further south **Hyams Beach** is not to be missed!!!

**Booderee National Park** (*\$13 for 2 days*) is the ideal place to explore the surrounding area thanks to hiking trails, superb beaches (surf on cave beach), and several (basic) campsites.

Around Jervis Bay, **Morton National Park** (west) offers a wide choice of hikes with waterfalls to explore. The free camping spot at Yalwal is a good place to stay to explore the park.

## Batemans Bay

A holiday spot appreciated by locals, this town has plenty of beaches both for swimming and surfing. **Corrigans Beach** is closest to the town centre. Continuing south, there are more little beaches with good places to surf. North of town, in **Birdland Animal Park** you can hold wombats, cuddle koalas, and touch snakes (*\$26- open daily from 9.30am*). Not far from there (12km south), the small town of **Mogo** has craft shops and a famous Zoo. You will find a huge range of animals from white lions to lemurs (*\$31 - open from 9am to 5pm*).

## From Bateman's Bay to Victoria

### NAROOMA

In this small touristy seaside city, the fish-filled waters attract crowds of recreational fishing fans. The beaches and the deep blue lake are the main attractions.

**Eurobodalla National Park** occupies the whole coast as far as Moruya. You can trek along the beach and view superb rock formations such as **Bingie Bingie Point** south of Moruya.

### BEGA

With a population of 6000, **Bega** has little of interest to tourists, except for its cheese factory. Bega cheeses, created in the 19th century, are now famous worldwide and provide the

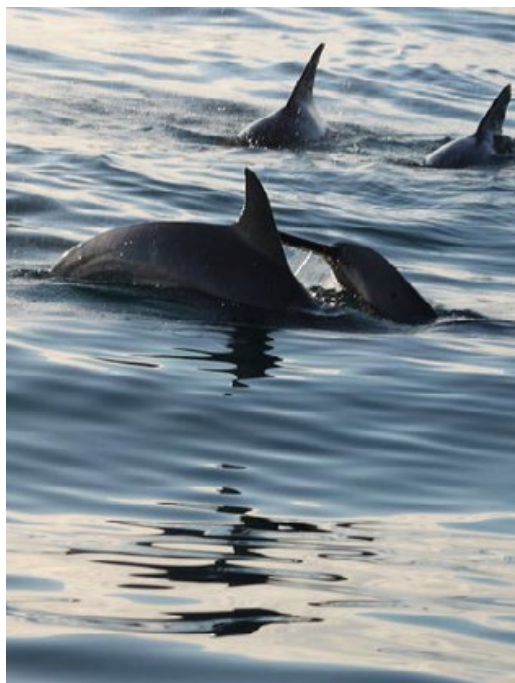


*Campsites in Murrumbidgee National Park 15km north of Batemans Bay*



*Bodalla Park Forest Rest Area 9km north of Narooma*

*Dolphins in Jervis Bay*





*Scrubby  
Creek Forest  
Picnic Area  
20km au sud  
d'Eden*

*Ben Boyd  
National Park*



town's main source of revenue.

At the **Heritage Centre**, an exhibition introduces the brand's history and offers cheese-tastings.

From Bega, you can travel further inland to Kosciuszko National Park, the biggest national park in NSW, covering 690 000 hectares.

This park is home to the highest mountain in the country, **Mount Kosciusko** (2228m). There are long treks through alpine landscapes, limestone caves and gorges. The park is divided into 3 main areas:

The northern part is famous for vast treeless plains and historical cabins.

The central section is the alpine region: here you will find the park's ski stations (Perisher Blue, Thredbo, Charlotte Pass)...

The southern section has dry zones along the Snowy River.

The park entrance fee is \$27/ vehicle in high season and \$16 the rest of the year.

## MERIBULA

Merimbula means "2 lakes" in the local aboriginal language, and is a seaside town offering a wide range of nautical activities. You can take a cruise to spot dolphins (2 hours for \$40) or whales in springtime (from \$50).

The town also has some great diving spots to explore wrecks and underwater caves.

## EDEN

A little town on the Sapphire Coast, Eden (population: 3600) is the last (or 1st) place you come across in the state of NSW.

Previously a major seaside port, you can visit the **Eden Killer Whale Museum** (\$9) telling the story of whale hunting. A lookout at the end of Imlay Street has superb views over Twofold Bay.

But Eden is most famous for watching whales (from September to November) as they migrate to Antarctica. You can take cruises to admire these impressive mammals (*from \$40/pers*).

Not far from the town, the **Ben Boyd National Park** (free access to northern part) has some nice walks, and the **Pinnacles** has strange rock formations in ochre and orange colours.

In the southern part, **Boyd's Tower** was built by the rich entrepreneur, Benjamin Boyd in 1847. It has never been used as a lighthouse but is a great place to observe whales.



# INLAND

## South of Sydney

### GRIFFITH

Famous for wine and fine-dining, Griffith also has many agricultural farms attracting fruit-pickers to the region each year.

Only 27km from the town, **Cocoparra National Park** offers forest treks to discover waterfalls, coves, views from the hills and lots of wildlife.

In the park, **Hermit's Caves** is a network of caves below the panoramic vista of Sir Dudley de Chair and it was previously the home of Valerio Riccett, a miner from Broken Hill. After his wife left him, he went away from the mines and lived as a hermit in this cave.

During the Second World War, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese. As soon as he was released he went back to live in his cave.

Then he fell ill, and thanks to money donated by all the townspeople he was able to return to Italy where he died 3 months later. You can visit the network of caves for free and imagine what it would be like to live as a hermit underground!



*Darbys Falls  
River Reserve  
26km SE de  
Cowra*



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Griffith  
Young  
Cowra*

### YOUNG

Filled with cherry and plum plantations, **Young** is sometimes considered as the Australian cherry capital.

Nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, the fertile soil supports extensive farming and is the ideal place to find a fruit-picking job.

*Parc around  
Griffith*







FRUIT  
PICKING  
Orange  
region



Terramungamine Reserve  
10km north of  
Dubbo

Most harvests start in December and the Cherry festival (1st weekend of December) is a good opportunity to meet people.

## COWRA

This little town with a population of 10,000 has a very unusual history.

In 1944, Japanese prisoners imprisoned here managed to escape, and 231 of them died. The town then decided to strive for peace.

Now you can visit the **Japanese Garden** and the cultural centre with an exhibition of Japanese paintings (\$15 - open from 8.30am to 5pm).

Not far from town, you can also visit the cemetery which has Australian and Japanese war graves and a memorial.

Garage on  
theGreat Inland  
Way

## Great Inland Way Sydney >>> QLD

### BATHURST

Founded in 1815, Bathurst is the oldest inland town in the whole of Australia. It is well-established with a population of over 33,000, attracting workers and tourists all year round.

In October, the population increases considerably during the **Bathurst Touring Car Race**.

If you are looking for a picking job in the region, there are apples and stone fruits. Harvest starts in January and runs until March.

North of the town, you can visit **Hill End**, an abandoned mining town where you can still find (apparently?!) gold dust....





*Thackaringa  
Rest Area  
36 km O de  
Broken Hill*

## ORANGE

Located 257km west of Sydney, Orange has a population of 40,000 and is built on the sides of an extinct volcano. It's a growing town, surrounded by fertile land ideal for farming. Apples, oranges and cherries are grown here, and in the harvest season the town's population doubles with the arrival of backpackers (December to April). Over the last few years the town has also started to develop vineyards, with work available from February to April.

## DUBBO

Last town before the Outback, Dubbo is one of the most important in West NSW. The **Dubbo Heritage Tour** retraces the steps of pioneers when they created the village in 1849. You can see the historical buildings in the town like St Brigids Catholic Church, The Court House, or the Colonial Mutual Building, the highest building in the town when it was built.

**Western Plains Cultural Centre** (*free*) is Dubbo's regional museum and has an art gallery.

**Western Plains Zoo** a few minutes from town, is a large animal park with more than 1500 species from 5 continents. (\$47 - 43,2\$ *online from 9am to 5pm*)

## LIGHTNING RIDGE

Right next to the border with Queensland, Lightning Ridge is a mining city in the middle of nowhere. Even so, the town attracts many tourists thanks to its opal mines, which have **black opal** (the rarest in the world). In several underground mines galleries provide an opportunity to discover this superb mineral. Around the town, 4 trails indicated by colourful car doors take you to places of interest.

Don't miss the town's **Artesian Baths** on Pandora Street. These free baths are outdoor and perfect for taking a break and relaxing !

## Deep in the Outback

Once past Dubbo, heading towards the heart of the continent, you enter the NSW Outback. These sparsely populated lands are a world apart, a place of calm where time seems to have stopped, giving way to nature and endless landscapes. Far from everywhere you will find small towns where locals extend a warm welcome, and Broken Hill, an old mining town now flourishing as a new artistic centre.

## BROKEN HILL

Known as "Silver City", Broken Hill has the reputation of being one of the few accessible towns in the outback. The town began when silver was discovered in 1883. Population quickly reached 20,000, mainly miners. By the 21st century mining activity had practically stopped so the town took a completely different turn towards art.

The light in the outback, the infinite landscapes and the abandoned mining equipment inspired many artists. For art-lovers, **Living Desert** (9km north of the town) is unmissable! **Sculpture Symposium** is an impressive collection of 12 sandstone sculptures created by a group of international artists which is especially magical at sunset.

In town, you can also visit the interesting Mining & Minerals Museum, telling the region's story and showing examples of minerals mined in the area.

You can also see a selection of historical buildings mixing a variety of cultures, including an Afghan mosque, one of the first mosques in Australia.



*Ourimbah  
Rest Area,  
intersection  
Pacific Hwy  
& Ourimbah  
Rd. 10 km S  
of Wyong*

## NATIONAL PARKS

A few hundred kilometres from Broken Hill, several national parks are waiting to be discovered.

**Kincheega National Park** (1 hour from Broken Hill), the nation's first national park in 1967, showcases the pastoral heritage of the region. You can visit several archaeological sites demonstrating the wealth of aboriginal culture in the area. Darling River is also an important haven for birds, goannas, and multi-coloured parrots.

**Mungo National Park** (further south) has lunar landscapes and sand dunes – an unforgettable experience. The region's lakes dried up around 18,000 years ago leaving astonishing dunes in strange formations.... Known as the Walls of China, the dunes follow the edges of the ancient lake for more than 30km.

*Hunter Valley*



**Mutawintji National Park** (130km north west of Broken Hill) offers superb landscapes, in particular Byngnamo Range in the centre of the park. It is also a sacred site where aboriginals hold ceremonies, and there are rock art sites in the surrounding area.

**Sturt National Park**, in the north west of the state, extends over a very impressive red desert plain, where eagles fill the skies.

## THE NORTH COAST

Travelling north from Sydney, the Pacific Highway follows the coast up to Queensland, 1,000km further north. The beautiful beaches and adventures start after Newcastle, where you will quickly discover the incredible beauty of the east coast.

## From Sydney to Coffs Harbour

### HUNTER VALLEY

North of Sydney, **Hunter Valley** is a major producer of local wines. Thanks to a microclimate, Hunter Valley produces great wines, mainly Chardonnay and Shiraz. Only 2 hours from Sydney, this area also makes quality food items such as olives, jams, organic products ... and is a place to stop off for backpackers looking for work during the harvests (February to April).

Located at the mouth of Hunter River, **Newcastle** is an important industrial town. With a population of 450 000, this city of steel has several museums/galleries and other tourist attractions.

For example, you can climb the 180 steps of **Queens Wharf Tower** (*free*) for a beautiful view of the town.

South of the town, **King Edward Park** has some pretty gardens and a panoramic view over the cliffs.

**Bogey Hole**, just next door, is a good place to swim.

**Fort Scratchley**, was built in 1882 at the mouth of the Hunter River to defend against a potential attack by the Russians. It was completely renovated in 2008 and you can now visit for free or have a guided tour (\$12,50) to discover the underground tunnels.

## PORT STEPHENS

Port Stephens is a region rather than a town, and stretches over 1000 km<sup>2</sup>, nicknamed "Blue Water Paradise".

Great Lakes Marine Park runs from Stockton Beach (with sand dunes where you can try sand boarding) to Cape Hawke with abundant marine wildlife.

This part of the coast boasts some good diving sites, particularly in **Port Stephens**, offshore from Nelson Bay. Fly Point-Halifax Point Aquatic Reserve is one of the best sites, with a sponge garden and considerable marine life.

Port Stephens is also famous for dolphins, with 150 resident dolphins which you can see from the beach or on an organized tour.

Every morning, around 30 dolphins swim around **Yaccaba Head** or **Bennetts Beach**.

Close by, Anna Bay has an immense beach with sand dunes as far as you can see! A "must see" if you are in the area.

The coastal village of Hawks Nest hosts a significant colony of koalas.

**Myall Lakes National Park**, slightly to the north, has pleasant camping spots, and you can walk, cycle, canoe, or visit the biggest tree in NSW, which is 400 years old (on



*Cooperbrook Forest Park - 20km north of Taree*



*Macquarie Woods Camp Area - 26km south of Orange*

*Port Stephens*







**KOALA**  
hospital at Port  
Macquarie

Lakes Way). Further north, Seal Rocks is one of the most beautiful beaches in the park. You can walk up to the lighthouse to admire the view (parking \$7/vehicle).

**Foster** and **Tuncurry** are twinned towns on the edge of Lake Wallis, a coastal lake 25km long and 9km wide, ideal for fishing and to observe the pelicans at Cape Hawke Harbour.



**Bloodwood**  
Rest Area,  
6 km S of  
Kempsey.

## PORT MACQUARIE

A favourite destination for Australians going on long weekends, this town of 40,000 people offers pretty beaches, historical sites, several museums and other activities. You can visit the **Church of Thomas the Apostle** built by convicts in 1821 and recognized as one of the oldest Anglican churches in the state.

**The Glasshouse** is the centre for arts, conferences and entertainment in the town.

*Koala Hospital  
Port Macquarie*

You can also visit a **koala hospital** where they take care of adorable wounded or orphaned koala bears. (*Lord Street – free entry but donation welcome*).

A few minutes from the town centre, **Sea Acres Rainforest Centre** has a 1.3km trail with views of the coast.

## NAMBUCCA VALLEY

Further north, you will find Nambucca Valley, with historical towns, coastlines, national parks and fabulous landscapes.

In **Yarraibabini National Park**, there are several treks, and a superb view to admire from Yarrapinni Mountain lookout.

Next there is **Nambucca Heads**, a charming little village where it is bizarrely easy to get lost! For safe swimming there are some beautiful beaches patrolled by lifeguards in summer, in particular Scotts, Main and Valla Beaches.





From a number of lookouts you can see the golf course on a nearby island connected to the continent (the only one in Australia).

**Rotary Lookout** has scenic views of the surrounding areas, and is an ideal spot to watch whales and dolphins.

**V-Wall**, at the mouth of the Nambucca River is an open air “gallery”. The rocks are covered with graffiti and messages, and travellers leave a record of their presence or other decorations (access from Wellington Drive).

## From Coffs Harbour to Queensland

### COFFS HARBOUR & COFFS COAST

Coffs Harbour (population 70,000) is a banana plantation region. As you arrive in town, the banana trees flourish along the roadsides until you reach the famous Big Banana, a giant banana, symbol of Coffs.

You can visit several museums and try out the attractive restaurants and cafes on the main street.

The **Marina**, a few minutes from the town centre via Harbour Drive, is a sunny meeting place where the locals dive in from the jetty to cool off.

Every Sunday morning a local market is held in the shade of the large trees, a good way to discover local products.

From the port you can also visit **Solitary Islands Marine Park**, which protects a wide variety of aquatic plants and animals and stretches over almost 75km.

**Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve** east of the Marina welcomes migrating muttonbirds each year. You can admire the view and spot

whales (June to November) from the observation platform at the end of a walk.

There are also a number of national parks to visit around the town. If you have time, Bindarri, or Dorrigo offer luxuriously verdant walks in the middle of the forest, waterfalls, lookouts...

Travelling north, you cross little coastal villages like **Korora**, **Moonee Beach** and **Emerald Beach** and you can stop off to swim at these beautiful spots.

24km north of Coffs Harbour, **Woolgoolga** is a peaceful coastal town which was the destination for a wave of Indian immigration in the 1940s, coming to work in the banana plantations.

Today the town has become a cultural centre for Sikhs, with several temples providing evidence for the important Hindu heritage in the region. A



*Half Way Creek - 27km south of Grafton*



*WHALES from June to November*

*Woolgoolga Lookout*





*New Italy  
Rest Area  
20km south  
of Evans  
Head*

lookout in the centre of town has a breathtaking view over **Coffs Coast Regional Park** and **Solitary Islands National Park**. You can also watch dolphins and whales as they migrate past.

Even further north, **Yuraygir National Park** (\$8/vehicle) has several campspots on the edge of the ocean. They cost around \$10 a night but are worth it!

## CLARENCE VALLEY



*Half Way  
Creek  
27km SE  
from Grafton  
(showers)*

From Maclean, north of Grafton, Clarence Valley stretches along 80km of coastline. Renowned for fishing spots, marine activities and beautiful beaches, the valley is filled with charming coastal towns.

**Yamba** and **Iluka** either side of the mouth of Clarence River, are surrounded by dream beaches and national parks. From Iluka, you can easily access **Iluka Nature Reserve**, classed as UNESCO world heritage. West of Iluka Bay, Bluff and Back Beaches offer safe swimming. A ferry links the two towns and every Sunday there are free jazz concerts on the boat!

A few kilometres south of Yamba, **Angourie** has one of the most famous surf spots in Australia, and was the first surf reserve in the country. You can enjoy **Blue Pool**, a deep basin in the rock close to the ocean.

**Yuraygir National Park**, accessible from Angourie offers spectacular walks all along the coast.

15km inland from Yamba, **Maclean** is "The Scottish Town in Australia". The streets are lined with historical buildings and their names are even translated into Gaelic! At the end of the main street, hundreds of pillars painted in the colours of the Scottish clans reach up to the sky and are definitely worth photographing!

## BALLINA & AROUND

Ballina is located on Richmond River, has a population of 37,000 and is the commercial centre of the region. The town has old buildings, trendy cafés and traditional country pubs. Just outside the centre you can see **Big Prawn**, a giant prawn erected on the roof of the Transit centre.

From Ballina, travelling inland, you reach **Richmond Valley**, and in particular **Lismore**, a commercial town in the region where you can visit the Koala Care and Research Centre (\$5 donation – open from 10am to 2pm).

From there, go to **Nimbin** to see the first hippy colony in NSW dating back to the 1960s. Only 70km from Byron Bay the town seems to be asleep, soothed by the hashish fumes. Cannabis grows peacefully in the shelter of the lush forests and then finds its way to the main street. Every year in May, Nimbin organizes "Mardi Grass", a festival celebrating local weed!



Back on the coast, if you continue up to the north, a scenic drive will take you to **Lennox Head**, via superb surf beaches. **Port Morton Lookout** offers breathtaking views.

## BYRON BAY & BRUNSWICK HEADS

From Ballina to the north, the surf beaches continue until Byron Bay. Byron Bay was a big hippy community in the 70s. Now it is a hip and trendy place valued by both Australians and tourists who come to seek out the vibe!

Known for its cool atmosphere, relaxation centres, its lighthouse and beautiful beaches, **Byron Bay** is a small coastal city where you can have a taste of the good life. Its main beach, which is simply fabulous, has lifeguards in summer and is ideal for swimming or sunbathing. For surf lovers, the beaches of Wategos and Little Wategos will be just what you are looking for.

The town centre has little cafés, restaurants, and streetwear shops without any tall buildings.

**Cape Byron**, a few minutes from

the town centre, has sumptuous views of the coast, and you can visit the lighthouse on top of the hill (parking \$7). On the road, don't miss **Captain Cook Lookout**, an observation platform located on a rock in the middle of the sea!

20km north of Byron, Brunswick Heads is also a destination for tourists. The main beach stretches over several kilometres and from the jetty you can appreciate the beauty of the surroundings, and why not do some fishing!

## TWEED HEADS

Highrise apartments signal your arrival on the Gold Coast. Tweed Heads is the last town before Queensland, has superb beaches and is fringed by **Mt Warning**, the last trace of the biggest extinct volcano in the southern hemisphere. You can trek to the summit (4.4km and impressive views on arrival!!!)



*Stotts  
Island Nature  
Reserve  
18km S of  
Tweed Heads*



*Tyagarah  
Rest Area,  
8 km S of  
Brunswick  
Heads*

*Byron Bay  
Beach*







Canberra, ACT



# CANBERRA

## Federal Capital of Australia

With a population of 410,000 the brand new capital of Canberra emerged from an old rivalry. When the previously independent Australian states became a federation in 1901, Sydney and Melbourne were competing to become the federal capital of the country.

A compromise was reached to end the conflict. A piece of land in NSW was chosen, an equal distance between Sydney and Melbourne to build a new capital. In 1927 Canberra was inaugurated and Parliament could finally move in.

A new town designed by architect Walter Buley Griffin, Canberra is built around an artificial lake. The

*Parliament House*

town centre is north of the lake and has offices, shops, cafés and restaurants. The official buildings are in the south, around the New Parliament. The city assembles much of the national wealth of the country and is an important cultural centre.

However, Canberra is often neglected by backpackers because visiting requires a significant detour from the coast (285km). It is not a pedestrian town and has wide multi-lane roads and scattered monuments.

### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

There is a huge range of quality museums and exhibitions to choose from, and most are free. For example:

#### **Australian War Memorial**

*(open 10am to 5pm)* Bears witness to the commitment and sacrifices of Australia in world conflicts. All



along Anzac Parade leading to the museum dome, monuments commemorate battles where Australian soldiers fell.

**Captain Cook Memorial Water Jet**  
An enormous jet of 140m in height on the north bank or the lake.

**National Archives of Australia**  
Photo exhibitions and a gallery of historical objects. For the most enthusiastic, you can access documents recording the creation of the country, for free (*open 9am-5pm*).

**National Film and Sound Archive**  
(*open daily from 9am to 5pm*), 2 galleries and a very pleasant café and terrasse. In a modern environment you can see mini projections covering many aspects of Australian society.

**National Gallery of Australia**  
(*open daily from 10am to 5pm*) Presents a significant collection of Australian art, in particular aboriginal works.

**National Museum of Australia**  
(*open daily from 9am-5pm*) Interactive exhibits tell Australia's story in a modern building. You can see an excellent short film summarizing Australia's development in the rotating theatre « Circa ». Or you can make yourself comfortable in the museum's mini cinema !

**Parliament House**  
(*every day from 9am to 5pm*) Emblem of the city, and you can visit every nook and cranny! The roof offers a great view over the town. There are free 45min tours.

**Royal Australian Mint**  
(*every day from 9am to 4pm*) Reveals the secret of how to make Australian money.

**Old Bus Depot Markets**  
(*every Sunday from 10am to 4pm*) The main local market famous for

international products, especially ice cream !

**Australian National Botanic Garden**

(*open daily 8.30am to 5pm*) Showcasing over 6,000 species of Australian plants.

Free guided tours from 11am-2pm.

Other attractions requiring you to purchase a ticket are also well worth a visit: the **Zoo** (\$47/pers.), The **Australian Institute of Sport** (\$20/pers), the **Reptile Centre** (\$16/pers.) etc.

**SHOPPING**

Canberra Centre (*on Bunda St. at City Hill*) is the main shopping centre in the capital, with over 350 shops. There is fashion, home furnishings, sports shops...

On Canberra Avenue (*south of the city*), DFO is an enormous shop selling outlet products. Over 100 major brands are reduced by up to 70%!

*One of the halls in Parliament*



**VIEWS**

**Government House Lookout** on Lady Denmam drive

**Mount Ainslie Lookout** on Ainslie Drive north of the city

**Mount Pleasant Lookout** on Moreshead Dr.

**Red Hill Lookout**, south of the city

**WHERE TO SLEEP?****NEAREST CARAVAN PARK**

**Alivio Tourist Park**, north of the city on Kunzea St. (*\$40 powered site*).

Bus n° 3, 6, 8 every 30min for the town centre.

**NEAREST FREE CAMPSPOT**

**ACT Border Rest Area**, 15km north of Canberra.

**BACKPACKERS HOSTELS**

Compare and reserve your bed, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Canberra YHA Hostel** (7 Akuna St)  
*From \$31 per night.*

**Dickson Backpackers** (14 Wolley st.) *from \$28 per night.*

**WHERE TO GO OUT?**

Most bars and restaurants are concentrated in the town centre (north of the lake).

**O' Malley's Irish Pub** (131 City Walk) has live concerts every night.

**Parlour Wine Bar** (16 Kendal Lane) a modern bar with views over the lake, international wines and delicious cocktails!

**GETTING AROUND**

The public transport network in Canberra is Action Bus. Several buses service the town and suburbs.

You can buy tickets directly from the driver or in news agencies.

Bus ticket: \$5 per journey.

Day pass with unlimited journeys also available for \$9.

You can also visit the city with the Explorer Bus (*\$30/pers.*) This bus leaves from the Visitor Centre or the town centre, and links the 15 main attractions in the city. You can hop on and off or stay in the bus for a 1 hour tour of Canberra.

**EVENTS**

**January:** Australia Day live (free live concert live on 25th January)

**April:** National Folk Festival, biggest folk festival in the country

**July:** Vivid National Photography Festival (exhibition, conferences...)

**October / November:** Canberra International Film Festival

**CANBERRA: PRACTICAL TIPS****WHERE TO PARK?**

In the town centre: it is easy to park in one of several public car parks (\$1.50/hour, \$9 for 4hours)

South of the centre: free unlimited parking at the Parliament and the National Library.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**

Parkes Place, Parkes, free wifi (open daily from 9am)

**MAIN POST OFFICE**

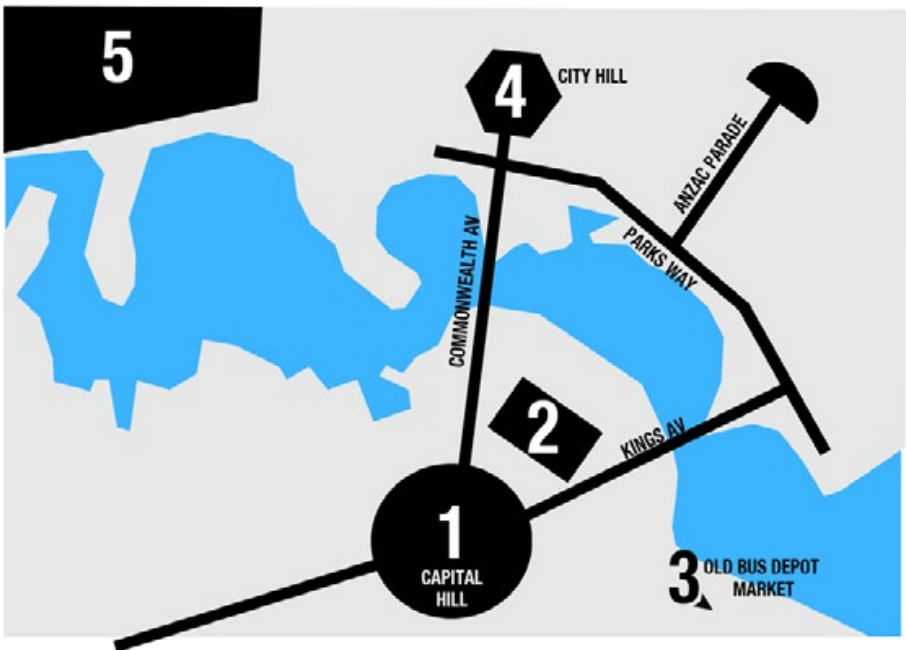
Aligan Street (open daily)

**VISITOR CENTRE**

Located at 330 Northbourne Avenue, 2km north of the town centre (open daily from 9am)

# One day in **Canberra**

1. Discover the city's emblem: Parliament
2. Visit the free museums around it
3. Visit the city's shopping centre: City Hill
5. Relax in the calm atmosphere of the Botanic Garden









Melbourne, VIC





*The Great Ocean Road, VIC*







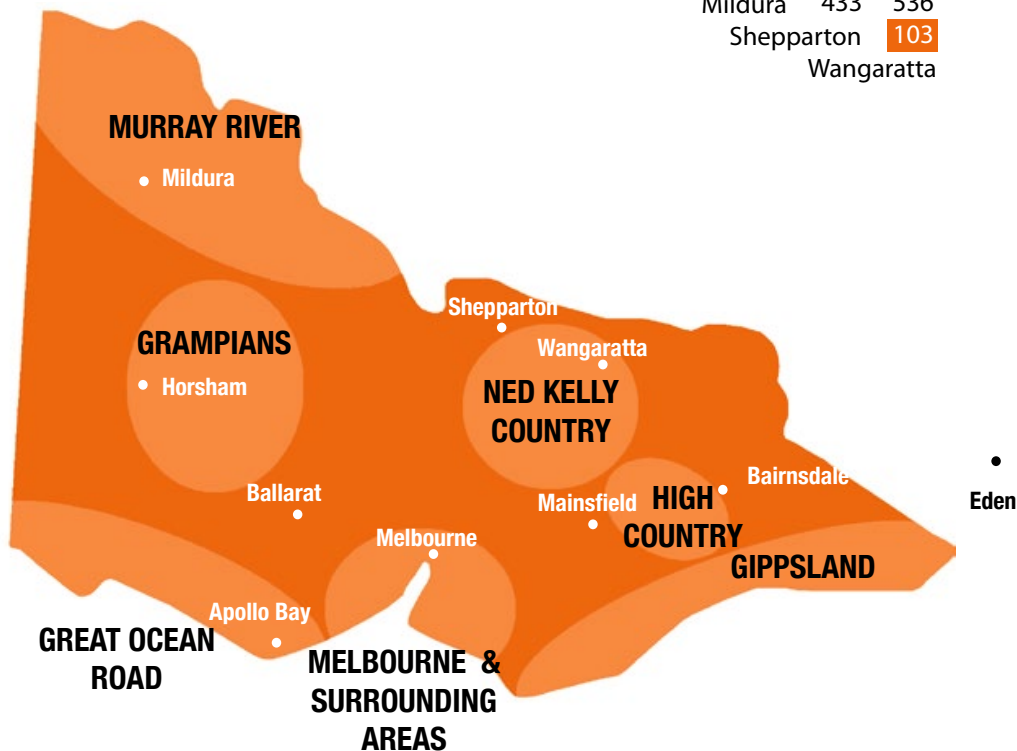
*Somewhere around Wangaratta, VIC*



## DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN :

*Distances in km using main roads*

Apollo Bay	199	467	754	185	691	421	382
Ballarat	394	681	112	486	243	346	
Bairnsdale	287	282	840	694	304		
Eden (NSW)	569	1127	694	591			
Melbourne	558	184	242				
Mildura	433	536					
Shepparton	103						
Wangaratta							



## AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES (C°) :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Apollo Bay	22	22	20	18	15	13	13	14	16	17	19	20
Bairnsdale	26	25	24	20	17	15	14	15	17	19	21	23
Melbourne	26	26	24	20	16	14	13	15	17	19	22	24
Mildura	32	32	28	23	19	16	15	17	20	24	27	30
Shepparton	32	31	27	22	17	14	13	15	18	21	26	28
Wangaratta	32	31	27	23	17	14	13	14	17	21	25	29

# V I C T O R I A

The smallest state in Australia after Tasmania, has a population of 6,3 million and the highest population density.

Melbourne, Sydney's great rival, is the state's capital and the business and artistic centre of Australia.

Thanks to varied landscapes and 39 national parks, the state is rich in natural beauty, and you can drive the Great Ocean Road, one of the most beautiful routes in the world!

Famous for its vineyards, Victoria produces internationally renowned wines and it is frequent for backpackers to stop there for a few weeks during the harvests.

The climate in Victoria has 4 seasons, like in Europe. Three large climactic regions can be identified in this state, separated by the Great Dividing Range.

On the coasts it is cooler and more humid with temperatures of about 25°C in summer and 14°C in winter.

Inland (north west of the state) it can be very hot and dry, 35°C in summer and only 17°C in winter.

The Australian Alps stretch over the eastern part of the state with a more severe climate of 20°C on average in summer and 10°C in winter. This is where the Australians come to ski in the winter months.

The 1st permanent settlement by colonizers was in Portland in 1834. A year later, Melbourne was founded. In 1851, gold was discovered in the region of Ballarat and brought immigrants from all over the world.

Victoria is also the state where the famous Australian bandit was born:

Ned Kelly. A famous bushranger, Ned was born in 1854. For several years, this horse rustler and his gang outsmarted policemen, until their tragic end in 1880 in Glenrowan...

## DON'T MISS !

The winding streets of **Melbourne**  
**Great Ocean Road**

The beaches of **Torquay**  
Penguins on **Phillip Island**  
Ski stations in the **Australian Alps**  
**Cape Conran Coastal Park**  
**Wilson's Promontory**



**PENGUINS**  
at Phillip  
Island



**KOALAS**  
at Phillip  
Island, French  
Island and  
Kennet River

## NATIONAL PARKS

Since 2010 all National Parks in Victoria are free!

## INTERNET

Free wifi access at Victoria National Library, and in St Kilda library.

Federation Square and just recently at Flinders station.

You can also connect at McDonalds or Hungry Jacks, Starbucks.

## WILDLIFE

### Where to see koalas ?

Phillip Island

French Island (natural habitat)

Kennet River (natural habitat)

### Where to see penguins?

Phillip Island

### Where to see whales ?

Warrnambool (June to September)

### Where to see a platypus?

Great Otway National Park



# MELBOURNE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

## Melbourne, Capital of Victoria

Founded in 1835 by two Tasmanian settlers (John Batman and John Fawkner), Melbourne was never a penitential colony.

The first camp was set up in the bay of Port Phillip and baptised Melbourne in honour of the British Prime Minister of the time.

By “buying” 240,000 hectares from their aboriginal owners (Kulin Nation) in exchange for flour, tools and clothes, the settlers resold the land as parcels, thereby creating a place of commerce, exchange and farming.

In 1851, the discovery of gold in Ballarat brought gold diggers from the entire world. This gold rush made a lot of people rich, and strongly contributed to the development of the new colony of Victoria.

Previously considered austere, Melbourne has now become a sophisticated, artistic and cosmopolitan city, ever evolving.

Despite a population over 4 million, the city has managed to balance Victorian architecture and historic charm with unprecedented modernism.

Melbourne has numerous museums, sporting events, festivals, as well as the most important fashion scene in the country.

Irrigated by the Yarra River, a multitude of gardens and cultural establishments line the streets leading up to Phillip Bay port.

Federation Square, next to Yarra

*Australian Open*



River, is one of the flagship venues in the city, hosting frequent cultural events.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

2 buildings exhibiting an international collection on St Kilda Road (*free – open from 10am to 5pm – closed on Tuesdays*) and the Australian collection at the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square (*free – open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm*).

NGV International, the oldest public art gallery in Australia, has an impressive collection. From ancient Egyptian jewels to modern art with a detour around Asia, there's something for everyone!

### OLD MELBOURNE GOAL

This penal museum evokes what life in prison would have been like in those days with dismal cells. Ned Kelly was hung here in 1880 (*\$28/person – open from 9.30am to 5pm on Russel St.*)

### AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR MOVING IMAGE

Dedicated to film culture, television, animation, you can also play video games here.... (*Main exhibition free – open every day from 10am to 6pm*)

### DOCKLANDS

Despite the innovative architectural environment and its unique urban style, the Docklands is still a very new area only frequented by local business people.

### QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET

One of the biggest open air markets in the southern hemisphere. You can find everything here: food, clothes... (*open daily – 513 Elisabeth St.*)

### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

(South Yarra) Ideal for a picnic in the shade surrounded by plants from Australia and the rest of the world.

In the evening, **Flicks under the stars** is an open air cinema in the park showing classics and new films (*\$20 – Tuesday to Sunday*)

### FEDERATION SQUARE

This immense public square is crammed with restaurants, bars and shops. You will also find the Australian Centre of Moving Image and the Ian Potter Centre here. Always buzzing, events are often held here.

### CROWN CASINO

This large complex has a Casino, a cinema and numerous shops (*Southbank*).

For an unbeatable view over the city and the surrounding areas, drop by the **Eureka Skydeck 88**, a glass cube on the 88th floor (*7 Riverside Quay, Southbank*), separated from the tower block by 3m, a 360° view of the city.

*Thrift shops on Brunswick St.*



## SHOPPING

If you want to renew your wardrobe or fill up your camper van with stuff, Melbourne is the place to go. Famous for shopping, there is no shortage of shops, arcades and shopping centres, and there is definitely something for everyone.

You can head for **Bourke St** for the big Australian chain shops, Lonsdale St for the **Melbourne Central Arcade**, and **Block Arcade** on Collins St. The Bohemian quarter of **Fitzroy** is the ideal place to bargain hunt.

On the main street of Brunswick St trendy shops, thrift shops, little cafés, bars and restaurants fight to attract your attention.

There is also a large shopping centre around 20km from Melbourne, **Chadstone** (more than 500 shops).

## ST KILDA

A few minutes from the town centre,

St Kilda is a fashionable place and the preferred destination for Melbourne locals who want to go to the beach. Its amusement park, **Luna Park**, is also well known among local youth. Admission is free however you have to pay for the rides (\$5 entry without ride, \$10.95 per ride or you can buy a pass for \$49.95 with unlimited rides).

Every Sunday from 10am to 5pm **Esplanade Market** is held with over 150 local producers showing their wares!

In a contemporary style, the Library offers free wifi access to visitors! Thanks to years of a very tolerant attitude to free camping, St Kilda has quickly become a backpacker base. But the town is trying to stop this, so watch out for fines!

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

There are more than 3,000 restaurants, cafés and bars representing the cuisine from over 75 countries,

*St Kilda Beach*





and wine lovers will also definitely find what they are looking for.

A few examples:

**Chi Lounge** (quiet)

195 Little Bourke St

**The Night Cat City** (groovy)

279 Flinders Ln

**O'Brien's Irish Pub** (pub)

12-16 Ground Level - Southgate

**European Bier Café** (pub)

120 Exhibition St.

**Transit Lounge** (outside with a view)

Top Level, Transport Hotel,

Federation Square, Flinders St.

**Naked for Satan** (rooftop bar)

285 Brunswick St, Fitzroy

## GETTING AROUND

A large network of public transport makes it easy to get around in and on the outskirts of Melbourne.

The iconic City Circle Tram provides a free tour of the CBD (*approx 30 min for one circuit – every day from 10am to 6pm*).

The Tourist shuttle (free buses) are also a great way to discover the entire city. A network of trains links the suburbs with the town centre, at Flinders Street Station.

The **Myki Card** is a card for traveling via bus, tram and train in Melbourne. You need to buy a card (\$6), register online and put some money on. Then tap on at train stations or on board trams. You can top up when your credit is low. For prices, [CLICK HERE](#).

With **Bike Share**, you can hire bicycles (like Boris bikes in London, or Vélib in Paris) at one of the 50 stations across the city. Budget around \$2.90 for the day or \$8 for a week.

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### NEAREST CARAVAN PARK

BIG 4 Ashley Garden 10km east of town (\$47 *powered site*).

### NEAREST FREE CAMPSPOT

St Kilda, free camping is common

but not authorized (frequent checks on the beach).

## BACKPACKER HOSTELS

Compare prices and reserve your bed, [CLICK HERE](#)

**Urban Central** 334 City Rd, Southbank (\$25 for a dormitory for 4)

**Greenhouse** 228 Flinders Lane (\$29)

**Flinders Station** 35 Elizabeth St (\$25)

**The Nunnery** 116 Nicholson St (\$32)

## EVENTS

**January:** Australian Open (tennis)

**February:** St Kilda Festival

**March:** Formula 1 ING Australian Grand Prix (Melbourne's Albert Park)

**April:** Rip Curl Pro, World Surf Championship at Bells Beach

**May :** St Kilda Film festival

**October:** Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix (Phillip Island circuit).

### WHERE TO PARK?

In the east: St Kilda Road (before NGV),

Unlimited parking, \$0.60/hour

In the south : Botanic Garden (Southbank).

In the west : Docklands - waterfront way &

Pearl River Car Park - 1st hour free

\$5 per day (covered car park)

### FREE GUIDED TOURS

Voluntary guides offer tours of the city. Book

on: [www.imfree.com.au/melbourne](http://www.imfree.com.au/melbourne)

### LOCKERS

Available at Southern Cross Station.

### STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

328 Swanston Street (open daily from 10am)

Ned Kelly's armour is on show.

### GPO

250 Elisabeth Street (open daily)

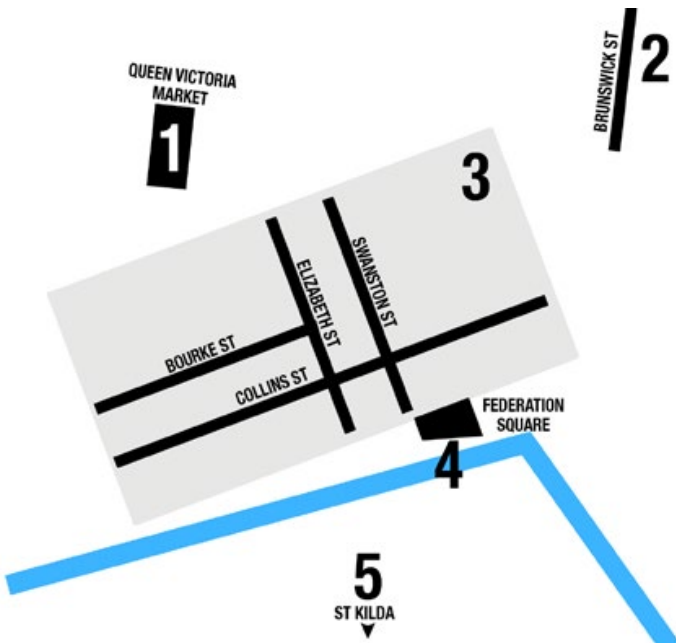
### VISITOR CENTRE

In Federation Square - open daily from 9am to 6pm



# One day in Melbourne

1. Wake up your senses in Queen Victoria Market
2. Bargain hunt in Fitzroy
3. Go for a ride around town on the City Circle Tram
4. Discover the Australian Centre for Moving Image in Federation Square
5. Finish your day with a dip and a cocktail at St Kilda



## Around Melbourne

### YARRA VALLEY

61km east of Melbourne, this valley is one of the main wine-producing regions in the state.

With over 40 wine cellars to visit and gourmet restaurants this area is highly appreciated by foodies.

In Healsville (the main town) there is a **Wildlife Sanctuary**, a zoological park famous worldwide for its role in protecting koalas (\$37/person).

If you are looking for a job, farms often employ backpackers for picking (November to April).

### PHILLIP ISLAND

A 2 hour drive from Melbourne, Phillip Island is one of the most beautiful parts of Victoria. Well-known for its **"Parade of Little Penguins"**, Formula 1 Grands Prix races and superb beaches, these 100km of coastline are definitely worth visiting.

The village of San Remo indicates the entrance to Phillip Island where you can watch the pelicans feeding every day at 12 midday.

The flagship attraction on the island is the nocturnal parade of cute little penguins (all year) **Summerland Beach** (\$26.20/person), but you can also visit the **Koala Conservation Centre** (\$13/person) and the **Nobbies Centre** to see otters.

If you think you will visit all of the main attractions, it would be worth purchasing the **Three Parks Pass** (Penguins Parade, Koala Conservation Centre, Churchill Island) (\$43), valid for 6 months.

There are no free camping spots on the island, but you can easily find caravan parks, (especially around Cowes) with sites from \$25 a night.

Many of the resorts and restaurants employ backpackers especially in high season (December to April) for housekeeping, serving meals...

### MORNINGTON PENINSULA

A popular vacation destination for Melbourne locals, Mornington Peninsula follows the Bay of Port Philip all the way to Portsea.

All along the Nepean Highway, there is a string of residential villas and busy beaches (warning: there is a charge for all beachside parking).

Sorrento and Portsea at the end of the peninsula are the most beautiful areas to explore.

Unfortunately, there are no free camping spots on the peninsula. The closest is at Koo-wee-Rup.



FRUIT PICKING  
Yarra Valley



PENGUINS  
on Phillip Island



KOALAS  
on Phillip Island

Sign on  
Phillip Island





# THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD



**KOALAS**  
at Kennet  
River - Lorne -

Considered to be one of the most beautiful drives in the world, the sinuous Great Ocean Road stretches from Torquay to Warrnambool, occupying the southwest area of the state.

During the 250km drive, you will discover charming little coastal towns, breathtaking rock formations, including the famous 12 Apostles, and superb beaches with turquoise water.

The jagged cliffs along the coast between Princetown and Port Fairy have been responsible for the end of many a ship, and they give this section of the road its nickname "Shipwreck coast".

This incredible drive deserves 2-3 days of your time.

*On the Great  
Ocean Road*

## From Torquay to Apollo Bay

### TORQUAY

Torquay is the town at the start of the Great Ocean Road, and is not to be missed for surf fans. The **Surfworld Australia Surfing Museum** in the town centre (\$12/person) is a must-see, just like the surrounding beaches, especially **Bells Beach** (where the movie Point Break takes place) a few kilometres from town.

### LORNE

Lorne is a small seaside town popular with surfers and long weekenders from Melbourne. **Lorne Forest Park** has some beautiful treks, crossing eucalyptus forests and clearings...

North of the town you can also admire **Erskine Falls**, accessible from the carpark.



Just nextdoor to the town, **Teddy's Lookout** offers a superb view over the bay.

Nearby **Kennet River** is the ideal place to watch koalas sleeping on the tall eucalyptus trees along Grey River Road.

## From Apollo Bay to Port Campbell

### APOLLO BAY

From Apollo Bay, the Great Ocean Road leaves the coast to wind its way through forest. Despite a massive volume of tourists during the holidays, Apollo Bay has managed to keep its charm and is filled with friendly cafés and restaurants.

Head to **Marriner's Lookout**, 1km out of town for a panoramic view.

### GREAT OTWAY NATIONAL PARK

**Johanna** is a tiny town but the beach really justifies the detour!

A little further on **Cape Otway National Park** has superb landscapes with treks through giant trees.

The **Otway Fly Tree Top Walk**, is 600m long and 25m high, crossing temperate forests. At the end of the course you emerge onto a lookout above the treetops, 45 metres above the ground.

For those in search of adrenalin, you can also slide down the **Fly Zip Line Tour** moving from tree to tree attached to a cable 30 metres above the ground. (*\$120/person – duration 3.5 hours – Tree Top Walk - \$25*).

A short detour (15km) from the Great Ocean Road will take you to **Cape Otway Lighthouse**, the oldest lighthouse in Victoria (*\$19.50/person*).

## PORT CAMPBELL NATIONAL PARK

The **12 Apostles** are the pillars of the Great Ocean Road in more ways than one, also securing Port Campbell's economy.

These limestone towers, some over 45m high, seem to watch over the coast, constantly changing under the breaking waves from the Antarctic.

They have been chiselled out over the centuries by the force of winds and tides, which have gradually eroded the smallest rock formations. You can admire them from one of the observation platforms or opt for a helicopter ride (*\$150/person for a 15min ride*).

East of the 12 Apostles, Wreck Beach is the beginning of a walk that takes you to see the anchors of 2 shipwrecks from the end of the 19th Century.



*Johanna Beach  
Campground  
38km west of  
Apollo Bay*

*View of  
Johanna's  
Beach  
Campground*





A little further on, Loch Ard Gorge is a place loaded with history. The boat of the same name left England in 1878 with 54 passengers. Three months later the ship sank, leaving only two 18 year-old survivors. The survivors were washed up on the beach now known as Loch Ard Gorge. You can take a walk and discover the survivors' story as well as the cemetery for the rest of the crew.

The **Bay of Martyrs**, a series of small islands separated from the shore by less than 100m, has another tragic story to tell. A long time ago farmers came to settle in this region, taking ancestral lands from their traditional owners.

No longer able to hunt on their lands, the aborigines began to kill animals belonging to the farmers. War broke out and tragically during the conflict the farmers captured the aboriginals and threw them over the cliffs.

*Loch Ard Gorge  
Beach*



## From Port Campbell to Warrnambool

### PORT CAMPBELL

The small town of Port Campbell (year round population: 400) is the perfect place to stop off and recharge your batteries. The **Discovery Walk** is an opportunity to appreciate the view over the bay from up high...

West of the town, the next stop is **London Bridge**.

In 1990 a rock that was previously attached to the continent fell down during a series of storms and formed a natural bridge. Amusing anecdote: a couple happened to be standing on top of the rock at the time and had to be rescued by helicopter.

The rescue was filmed and it turned out that the couple were not husband and wife but rather a married man who had taken his secretary away



Port Albert  
Parking Area  
in Port Albert

for the weekend. That day the media revealed the affair to the entire country!

Further west, after the small town of Peterborough, **Bay Of Islands Coastal Park** stretches for 33km with a series of spectacular viewpoints.

## WARRNAMBOLL

The biggest town on the Great Ocean Road, Warrnamboll has shopping centres, hotels and even a whale nursery!

The town's beach, **Logans Beach**, is the playground of the Southern Right Whales, who drop by every year between June and October.

## THE GREAT OCEAN WALK

This trek is an ideal way to be more than just a spectator, closer to nature, and to discover this amazing coastline differently.

The track stretches over 104km from Apollo Bay to the magnificent 12 Apostles. Crossing superb parks and deserted beaches, you can start and end the walk wherever you want.

For more information:

[www.greatoceanwalk.com.au](http://www.greatoceanwalk.com.au)

## GIPPSLAND

*Stretching from the east of Melbourne to the border with New South Wales, this region is crammed with national parks, desert coastline, wildlife and lakes.*

## Wilson's Promontory National Park

Covering more than 50,000 hectares, this is a favourite place for Victorians. "The Prom" offers a wide range of activities: trekking, snorkelling, observation of the abundant wildlife

(emu, kangaroo, wombat...)

From the park entrance, the single sealed road leads to **Tidal River** and the Visitor Centre.

There are long and short walks to do in the park, for example:

**Mt Oberon Summit Walk** (7km return), starting from the Telegraph Saddle carpark, offers a 360° panorama.

**Whisky Bay** (600m return) fantastic views at sunset.

**Squeaky Beach Track** (2.1 km), a popular walk with beautiful views of the coast leading to Squeaky Beach. There is also a selection of walks in the north of the park, less popular with tourists, such as **Vereker Outlook** (3km).

The national park has 484 camping spots, mostly situated between the river and the sea. Often overwhelmed by visitors in summer or on national holidays, we would advise you to reserve in advance on the internet.

[www.visitpromcountry.com.au](http://www.visitpromcountry.com.au)

The camping spots cost \$24 in high season, \$19 in low season. The price includes the park entry fee. If you stay only for the day entry to the park is free.

## The Lakes Coast

Heading back to NSW following the coastline, you come across a region of lakes. Gippsland's lakes are in fact lagoons, separated from the ocean by a long sandbank called Ninety Miles Beach.

Just before the town of Sale (population: 14,000), a road leads to **Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park** and **The Lakes National Park**. The latter is accessible via the small town of Loch Sport or by boat via Paynesville.

In **Paynesville**, a ferry (free for pedestrians) goes to **Raymond Island** where you can (definitely) see



Free camping spots between Seaspray and Paradise Beach



KOALAS at Raymond Island

Lake Entrance

koalas dozing in the trees. From Loch Sport, you can see kangaroos in the streets, and there are several walks to discover the park's 2400 hectares. You can camp at Emu Bight.

**Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park** is a narrow coastal reserve covering part of Ninety Miles Beach. Seaspray indicates the eastern entrance to the park. From there, peaceful beaches spread out on one side and Reeve lake on the other.

From **Seaspray to Paradise Beach**, you can get to know the park and the never ending Ninety Miles Beach thanks to a large number of free camping spots! You can fish, surf, but if you want to swim it is recommended you stay within the flags (due to dangerous currents). *Hot showers for \$2 at Golden Beach.*

**Bairnsdale**, 70km east, is the last big town before NSW, and indicates the end of the Great Alpine Road. Here you will find all the shops you need to

stock up. **Sainte-Marie Church** has some attractive frescoes.

35km from there, **Lakes Entrance** is a small coastal town which is pleasant but very touristy. Before you enter the town there is a lookout to see the view below. *Hot showers are available for \$1 at the Marina.*

If you want to see some beautiful caves for a change of atmosphere, why not visit **Buchan Caves** (60km north of Lakes Entrance - \$22,80/person).

The next town is **Orbost** (population: 2000) which marks the start of some very quiet (few tourists) and absolutely magnificent coastal landscapes such as **Cape Conran, Bemn River or Mallacoota!** From Orbost, you can also access the national parks of **Snowy River** (ideal for rafting on the Snowy River) and **Errinundra** (*accessible in 4 wheel drive only*).



## INLAND

### The High Country

Since the arrival of the first Europeans in the region, the town of Mansfield has been the heart of the High Country.

Close to Melbourne, this region has the Alpine National Park dissected by the Great Alpine road, which attracts a large number of tourists all year round. The **Great Alpine Road** links the Gippsland Lakes to the High Country, stretching from Bairnsdale along the coast to Wangaratta in the north of the state.

Across 308km, you will discover little mountain villages, vines and you can also access the ski stations which attract the crowds during winter (June to mid-September). The main destinations for avid skiers are **Mount Buller** (a skiable area of 300 hectares!) and **Mount Hotham** (600

hectares), which have a wide range of runs for all skill levels and you can hire equipment at at resort.

During the summer months the park offers a wide range of activities. You can do a number of treks, including the famous **Australian Alps Walking Track** (more than 600km!), horse riding, camping and you can visit over 60 historic huts. **Mount Buller** is a true paradise for mountain bike fans, with numerous tracks and impressive views.

There are also several lakes in the region (**Eildon, Nillahcootie...**) to do some fishing or some water sports.



*Sheepyard Flat 20km south of Merrijig*

### The Goldfields

This central region of Victoria came into being when gold was discovered in 1850. Most towns in the region are the result of the gold rush and still have traces of these events. In a few years the population tripled, but it did

*Sledging track in the Alps*







not last long: by the start of the 20th century the last mine had closed.

**Ballarat** (population: 104,355) is the biggest town in the region. In 1851, gold was discovered there, which resulted in a massive influx of prospectors looking for a better life. Now the town survives thanks to tourists visiting to admire the period buildings, (mainly on Lydiard St.) and to visit the **Sovereign Hill** outdoor museum, recreating the life of gold diggers (\$54/person).



*Slaty Creek  
Campground  
18km north of  
Ballarat*

Nearby you will see a sign indicating the site of the **Eureka Stockade**. In 1854, miners suffering from high taxes revolted against authority. Led by an Irishman, hundreds of miners joined to form a barricade – the Eureka Stockade. This short struggle was enough to gain the sympathy of the Australian public, and soon afterwards, the government did away with the taxes. This movement is the only revolutionary event in the entire history of Australia, and is considered

to be the birth of democracy in the country.

**Bendigo**, 50km north of Ballarat, had a large quartz deposit which attracted an influx of immigrants from Asia. The Chinese quarter is still very animated and every year an enormous dragon appears in the streets during the **Easter Festival**. You can also appreciate the architecture, especially the beautiful Shamrock Hotel.

## Ned Kelly Country

When gold was discovered in the north of Victoria in the 1850s, a new type of speculator appeared. **Bushrangers**, a kind of Australian Robin Hood, who stole from the rich to help the poor.

**Wangaratta**, now a modern town with a population of 17,000, is located in the heart of Ned Kelly Country. Ned Kelly was the most famous outlaw in the country! Born

*Statue of Ned  
Kelly at  
Glenrowan*





in the north of Victoria, this son of an Irishman and his gang fought against the oppression of the poor, adorned with metallic armour.

The small town of **Glenrowan** was to be the end of the Kelly gang. In 1880, he and his gang members were stopped there and were killed. Nowadays, a historic trail provides an opportunity to experience the last hours of the gang, up to the Last Stand where Ned was arrested.

## Grampians

If you've already seen the Great Ocean Road and still have some time left, turn inland to visit **Grampians National Park**.

The park has 168,000 hectares, and is highly appreciated for its treks, views, aboriginal rock paintings and abundant wildlife. In the centre of the park, the small town of Halls Gap (250km from Melbourne) is an ideal base to explore the region.

There is sealed road access to the park, leading to the main sites and trek departure points. There are also camping spots available for a fee in the park.

South of Halls Gap, a short walk (3.6km) takes you to Mount William, the summit of this mountain chain.

West of Halls Gap, **Wonderland Range** has spectacular sites like the Pinnacles Lookout (4 hour walk from the car park) or **Boroka Lookout**.

Further north, you can visit the famous **McKenzie Falls** which you can view from a lookout or reach by two trails starting from Zumstein.

If you want to see rock art, some of the best sites include **Gulgurn Manja** (in the north) and **Billimina** (in the west). Finally, in the extreme north of the park, **Hollow Mountain Track** (2.2km, approximately 2 hours) will take you to **Wudjub-guyan** Cave, overlooking the plains (start from Hollow Mountain car park).

## The Murray River

Located in the north of the state, 2,700km long Murray River indicates the border between NSW and Victoria. This is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country, with numerous orchards growing all different types of fruit thanks to irrigation from the Murray River. Plantations of lemons, oranges, vines... stretch over thousands of hectares.

**Mildura** developed in the 19th century, now has a population of 65,000, and is the main town in the region, attracting many backpackers looking for picking jobs all year round. If you want to job hunt here, remember to find out when the fruit picking season starts so you arrive at the right time. The seasons can change from one year to the next!

Further east, **Echuca** (population: 36,902), is also well-known to travellers looking for farmwork. You can explore the historic port along Murray Esplanade or buy a Pass (\$14/person) to visit the "**Old Port Area**".

70km inland, **Shepparton** (population: 66,000), is the centre of Goulburn Valley, and is also the heart of a rich region of fruit plantations, attracting backpackers for picking jobs (the peak season is January to May). You can also visit several museums dedicated to aboriginal art, motor vehicles etc.



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Murray region*



*Horsehoe  
Bend  
10km west of  
Mildura*







Nelson Falls, TAS







*Cradle Mountain, TAS*





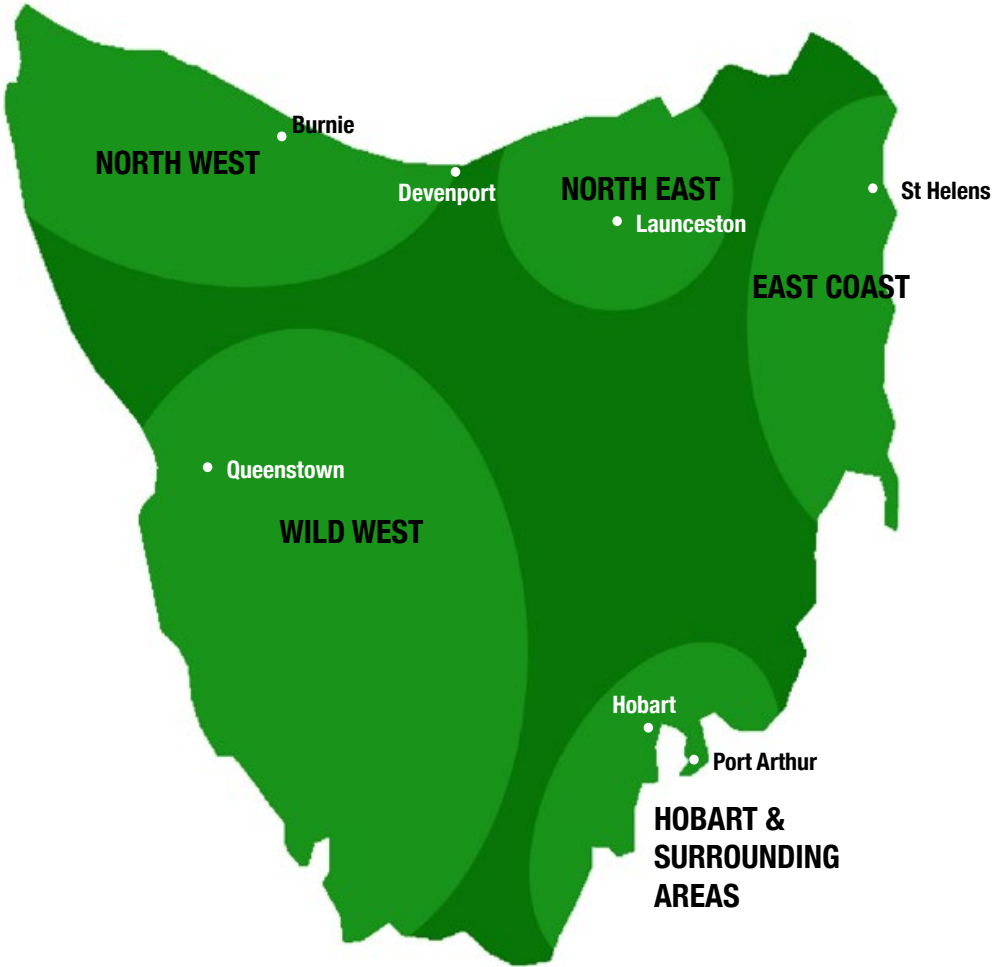


Wineglass Bay, TAS

## DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN :

*Distances in km using main roads*

Burnie	50	306	140	404	160	300
Devonport	250	90	350	200	250	
Hobart	200	99	260	250		
Launceston	273	260	170			
Port Arthur	365	300				
Queenstown		370				
St Helens						



# T A S M A N I A

Accessible only by ferry from Melbourne or flying, this does not reduce the attraction of the smallest state in Australia (68,300km<sup>2</sup>) which remains an essential destination.

21% of its territory is occupied by national parks, of which several are classed as UNESCO World Heritage.

The island was discovered in 1642 by Abel Tasman who baptised it Van Diemen Land. But colonization of the future Tasmania started much later in 1803. The first settlers arrived with convicts who were made to construct buildings and work in agriculture. The remoteness of the island made it an ideal penitential colony.

When the settlers arrived, they took the land, depriving the aborigines of their hunting grounds, so they then attacked the farmers' cattle, and the first conflicts between free settlers and aborigines began.

In 1828, Governor Arthur declared martial law, and the island's aborigines, those who did not die from European diseases, were murdered, or arrested.

The last survivors were sent to Flinders Island in 1829 to be Christianised and 'educated', later to be transferred to Oyster Cove. A new community of mixed-race aborigines was born, combining their ancestral heritage with a European lifestyle. The last individual of 100% Aboriginal blood died in 1876 in Hobart.

The island's landscapes are very different from the Australian outback, filled with hills, plains, impenetrable forests and lakes... Tasmania also has paradise beaches with white sand and crystal waters, especially on the east coast.

The island's population (total: 520,000) is mainly concentrated around Hobart, the capital, or in the regions of Launceston and Devonport. The south west is wild and untouched, mainly covered by forests.

Tasmania also has abundant wildlife, in particular the famous Tasmanian Devil, a small carnivorous marsupial, and the Tasmanian Tiger, sadly now extinct.

The island enjoys a temperate maritime climate with 4 seasons:



TASMANIAN  
DEVIL



TASMANIAN  
TIGER  
(*Extinct species*)

## AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES (°C) :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Burnie</b>	21	21	20	17	15	13	13	13	14	16	17	19
<b>Devonport</b>	21	21	20	17	15	13	12	13	14	16	17	19
<b>Hobart</b>	22	22	21	18	15	13	12	13	15	17	17	22
<b>Launceston</b>	24	24	22	19	16	13	12	14	15	18	20	22
<b>Port Arthur</b>	18	19	17	15	13	11	11	12	13	14	16	17

hot summers with cool nights, and cold, rainy winters with snow in some places.

Tasmania has more the 250 days of rain per year. The best time to visit is between January and March, during the warmest months.

fills with all kinds of stalls, and comic street artists.

The mossy forests of the **Wild West**.

## DON'T MISS

**Frecynet National Park** and Wineglass Bay on the East Coast of Tasmania.

Trekking at **Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park** (the weather can rapidly change so be sure to bring along warm clothes, just in case).

**Salamanca Market** in Hobart: every Saturday morning, Salamanca Place

# PRATICAL TIPS

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### FERRY

Remember to reserve your ferry as soon as possible ! Prices vary by season. All the tariffs and dates are available online: [www.spiritoftasmania.com.au](http://www.spiritoftasmania.com.au)

### NATIONAL PARKS

A **Pass** to access all the island's national parks is available and is also more economical.  
(\$60 for a vehicle, valid for 2 months).

### INTERNET ACCESS

Free internet connection at libraries, MacDonaldis restaurants, some coffee shops etc.

### WILDLIFE

#### Where to see the Tasmanian Devil ?

Tasmanian Devil Conservation Park (south)  
Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary (Cradle Mountain National Park)

#### Where to see Wombats ?

Cradle Mountain National Park  
Trowunna Wildlife Park

#### Where to see Echidnas ?

Cradle Mountain National Park

#### Where to see a Platypus ?

Lake St Clair National Park







# HOBART AND SURROUNDING AREAS

## Hobart, Capital of Tassie

Hobart is a small capital with a pleasant atmosphere and colonial charm. Established in 1804, Hobart is the second oldest town in Australia, but it is definitely the most picturesque. Previously known as Van Diemen's Land, the town came into being when 35 convicts and a dozen soldiers were sent there to found a penitential colony and to prevent the French from landing.

The colony quickly sank into chaos. Food was scarce to the point where Lieutenant Colonel Collins had to

release prisoners to hunt kangaroo! Other prisoners escaped and became bushrangers, regularly terrifying the little villages. Nevertheless the town eventually became prosperous in the 1830s when the whalers arrived.

Today Hobart has a population of 240,000 and offers visitors passing through an opportunity to travel back in time.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

### BATTERY POINT

Previously a village of sailors, this quarter is now the historic town centre. The colonial houses and little restaurants make this a popular area with tourists. Perched on a hill, Battery Point was also a strategic observation point in case of invasion. The canons and the promontory still bear witness to these past fears.

### SALAMANCA

The Salamanca quarter is located

*Hobart Port*





between the port and Battery Point. It is the heart of the town, and also its artistic centre. There are numerous galleries, pubs and restaurants in the square. Every Saturday morning the famous Salamanca Market is held. With over 250 stalls, you will find local produce, gastronomy and bargains for all budgets.



### TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

(40 Macquarie St - free – open from 10am to 5pm)

Exhibiting in one of the oldest buildings in town (1808), the displays recount the island's colonial past, aboriginal history and the story of the Tasmanian Tiger.

### BOTANICAL GARDEN

Located on Tasman Highway (2km from the town centre) this park has more than 6,000 different sorts of plants, a Japanese garden, and a sub-Antarctic garden reproducing the climate and vegetation of Macquarie Island (which can be found halfway between Tasmania and the Antarctic).

### CADBURY CHOCOLATE FACTORY

(100 Cadbury Rd, Claremont – \$4/ person – Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm).

Unfortunately visiting the factory is not permitted, but a Cadbury representative will talk you through the production process and you will leave with some free samples.

## GETTING AROUND

You can get around town using the bus network: **Metro Tasmania**.

Tickets and information are available in the central post office. Prices for one journey range from \$3.20 to \$6 depending on the zone. You can also get a GreenCard that you recharge when you need to.

**Art Bikes** : This likeable concept offers FREE daily bike hire from the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery. (You need to give them some personal information such as your bank card details and an identity photo as a guarantee).

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

For one-off events, consult the Friday newspaper, "The Mercury".

**Mobius** (7 Despard St)

On the seafront - Hip Hop, Drum & Bass

**Syrup** (39 Salamanca Place) - 2 floors, Techno & House

### WHERE TO PARK?

Wrest Point Hotel & Casino in Sandy Bay (free unlimited parking, with video surveillance)

### LOCKERS

A locker can be useful to travel light and avoid leaving valuable objects in your vehicle. They are freely available in the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery.

### STATE LIBRARY OF TASMANIA

91 Murray Street (open every day except Sunday)

### GPO

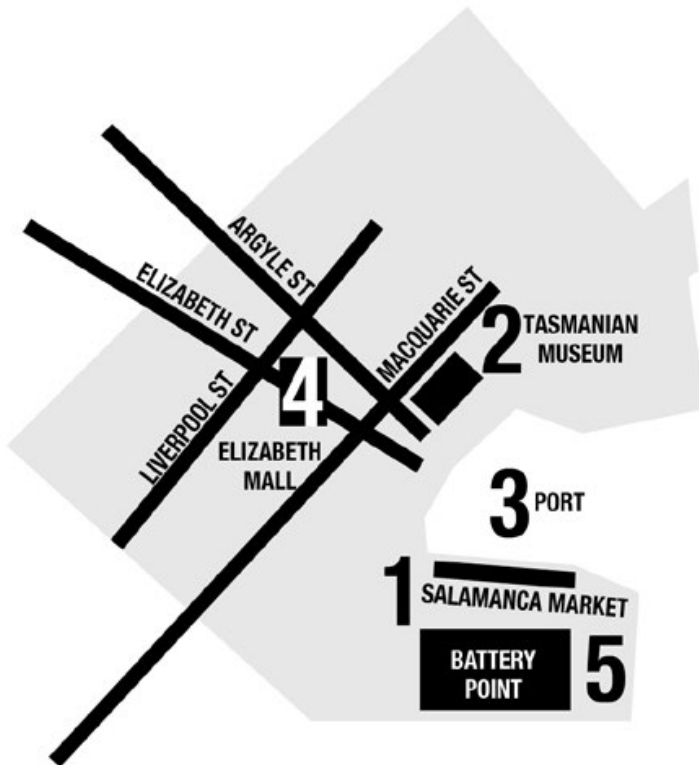
Junction of Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets  
- Open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.30pm

### VISITOR CENTRE

Junction of Davey and Elizabeth Street -  
Open daily from 8.30am to 5.30pm

# One day in **Hobart**

1. Wander around Salamanca Market on a Saturday morning
2. Visit the Tasmanian Museum
3. Take a walk around the port
4. Stroll around Elizabeth Mall
5. Go back in time at Battery Point



## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### NEAREST FREE CAMPING SPOT

**Cornelian Bay** (north of town), a big carpark with few people around, that can (unofficially) work as a free camping spot for the night.

### NEAREST CARAVAN PARK

**Elwick Cabin & Tourist Park** 8km north of the town centre \$35 powered site, \$20 unpowered site.

### BACKPACKER HOSTELS

Compare prices and reserve your bed, [CLICK HERE](#)

#### Central City Backpackers

(138 Collins Street) From \$25 per night.

#### The Picked Frog Backpacker

(281 Liverpool Street) From \$25.

**Montgomery's Private Hotel & YHA Backpackers** (9 Argyle Street) From \$27.

## EVENTS

The town has frequent festivals throughout the year.

### December/ January.

Falls Festival : Outdoor rock, local and international artists.

[www.fallsfestival.com](http://www.fallsfestival.com)

Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

End of December

Taste Festival : gastronomic festival, go around the stalls with your plastic wine glass !

[www.tastefestival.com.au](http://www.tastefestival.com.au)

### February

Wooden Boat Festival : every 2 years, (odd numbered years). Races and demonstrations of maritime heritage.

[www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au](http://www.australianwoodenboatfestival.com.au)

### March/April

Ten Days on the Island : cultural festival every 2 years (odd numbered years) with concerts, dance, workshops

[www.tendaysontheisland.com](http://www.tendaysontheisland.com)

## Hobart surrounding areas

### RICHMOND

20min from Hobart, the Georgian village of Richmond was once a strategic military post.

Older than the historic site of Port Arthur, you can see structures built by convicts, including the oldest catholic church in Australia. Also not to be missed is the oldest bridge in the country, straddling the Coal River. Built by convicts in 1823, it is said to still be haunted by Georges Grover, a prisoner who was made responsible for watching the other convicts and who enjoyed seeing them suffer. One morning he was assassinated during a dispute with another prisoner, and his corpse was thrown into the river from the bridge.



*Dunalley Hotel 73km north of Port Arthur*

### PORT ARTHUR & TASMAN PENINSULA

The **Convict Trail** east of Hobart will take you back in time, crossing historical towns, to finally arrive at Port Arthur in the southern part of the Tasman Peninsula.

The Tasman Peninsula is a rich region of Tasmania, home to the famous historical site of Port Arthur but also to some impressive rock formations.

Some of the rock formations on Port Arthur Road, (**Tessellated Pavement, Blowhole, Tasman Arch or Devil's Kitchen**), can be reached on foot (a short walk of around 10min) and there are beautiful views of the ocean.

On the way to Port Arthur, you can also visit the **Tasmanian Devil Conservation Park**, place of refuge for several Tasmanian Devils. You can watch feeding time for several types of animals including the Devils! (\$36/person – open daily)



*TASMANIAN DEVIL at the Tasmanian Devil Conservation Park*





You need to pay an entrance fee to access the historic site of Port Arthur, located at the end of the Tasman Peninsula. There you can see the ruins of the old penitential centre, where the most dangerous criminals of the colony were imprisoned.

From 1830, this site chosen for its isolation, held prisoners in extremely difficult conditions.

Linked to the rest of the island only by a small strip of land, **Eaglehawk Neck**, was an ideal environment to avoid prisoners escaping. It is said that one man even killed a kangaroo and wore its coat to try and fool the guards!

Now, you can visit the ruined buildings which enclosed the detention centre. The prison, a large building with beige walls, was previously a flour mill adapted for use as a prison. Next you come to the sinister ruins of a hospital, and then an asylum (now reimagined as a café).

A location weighed down with history, Port Arthur will reveal the difficult living conditions of the prisoners, bearing witness to the state of the penitentiary system at that time.

Purchase a ticket to enter the historic site (ticket valid for 2 consecutive days):

- **Basic Pass** \$40/person includes access to the site, a tour with commentary, and a boat ride to discover the port. You can add on extra activities like the Ghost Tour, Point Puer.

If you intend to spend some time on the site, we recommend you to go for a pass that includes the entry plus other activities such as the After Dark Pass for example.

You can find all the information regarding prices on Port Arthur website.

*Port Arthur  
historic site*



## THE PORT ARTHUR MASSACRE

*On 29 April 1996, Martin Bryant, a 29 year-old Australian, killed 35 people and injured 21 with a semi-automatic weapon at the historic site of Port Arthur. After taking hostages in a hostel, Bryant was arrested by the Special Forces. He is currently servicing a life prison centre in Hobart.*

*His crime is considered to be the worst massacre of the 20th century.*

## MT FIELD NATIONAL PARK

This national park is famous for superb mountains, rain forests, waterfalls and wildlife. Only 80km north of Hobart, it is a perfect destination for a few days in nature. The park's Visitor Centre will provide you with a brochure detailing the different walks available. A short trek (20min) will take you to **Russel Falls** (45m high) and starts at the Visitor centre.

## KINGSTON

12km south of the capital, Kingston is part of the expanding suburbs of Hobart. This coastal town has a shopping centre and a pleasant beach, **Kingston Beach**.

You can also visit the **Australian Antarctic Division**, which manages Australia's lands in the polar region. There is a gallery recounting the expeditions to the Antarctic, and explaining the wildlife there (*free – open Monday to Friday*).

## HUON VALLEY

Huon Valley, a region south of Hobart, is criss-crossed with rivers supporting both agricultural plantations and livestock. Huon River was first explored in 1773 by

Admiral Bruni d'Entrecasteaux and Captain Huon Kermandec who gave their names to many places in the region.

The main town of **Huonville** (population: 2,000) is the starting point to discover the region and for many backpackers is also a place to find work in picking. Traditionally an important town for apple-picking, the farmers in the region have now diversified and produce cherries, berries, peaches...

Further south, Geeveston, is the entry point for **Hartz Mountains National Park** which has 6 treks, and also the **Tahune Forest Reserve**. Here you can do the famous Tahune Forest AirWalk, with bridges suspended 20m from the ground (\$31/person).

20km south of Dover, **Hasting Caves and Thermal Springs** is a great place to visit some beautiful, cool caves, and then take a dip in the thermal pool at 28°C. (\$24/person for the caves and the pool).



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Huon Valley

Apple Orchard  
Huon Valley



# THE EAST COAST



*River & Rocks  
Campground  
10km north of  
Coles Bay*

*The most touristy part of the island, this coastline offers all the natural beauty Tasmania is known for, such as Frecynet National Park with Wineglass Bay (the most photographed view in Tasmania) and Bay of Fires, further north, with orange-coloured rocks and transparent water.*

## Frecynet National Park

Jewel of Tasmania, Frecynet National Park is a splendid site where the granite mountain chain, **The Hazards**, is encircled by turquoise-coloured bays and white sandy beaches.

**Coles Bay** Is the only town close to the Park which includes the Frecynet peninsula, Schouten Island and the superb Friendly Beaches.

*Wineglass Bay  
Beach*

Several walking tracks of different durations are on offer in the Park.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Wineglass Bay Lookout** (1 hour 30 mins): Climb up to a Lookout with the most famous views in Tasmania over Wineglass Bay.

**Wineglass Bay** (3 hours): After the Lookout, continue down to the beach in the bay. If you walk right to the end of the beach you will have a superb view over the bay and the surrounding mountains.

*Park entrance \$24/vehicule if you do not have the Pass. Free wifi in the Bay.*

## Bicheno

Coastal village with a population of 600, Bicheno has managed to maintain its simplicity and still makes a living from the fishing industry. You can do several walks from the shore to explore the area.



The **blowhole**, in the middle of the rocks, is an impressive natural geyser.

You can also walk to **Diamond Island** (at low tide) from **Red Bill beach**.

**Waub's Bay beach** is ideal for safe swimming and snorkelling.

## St Helens

A small village (population: 2,000) south of the Bay of fires, most of the people in St Helens are tourists who want to visit the superb beaches in the surrounding area.

There is a supermarket, some petrol stations, and the very useful Visitor Centre, where you can buy a map of the region with all the free camping spots.

On the Esplanade, you can have a hot shower in the public toilets (\$2).

## Bay of fires

Bay of Fires stretches along the north east coast of Tasmania, a succession of paradise beaches, wild creeks... and you can have this all to yourself!

Starting at **Binalong Bay** and extending to the north, there are swimming and snorkelling beaches all along the coast (for the bravest of us, because the water is often very cold!).

Many free camping spots are available but remember to bring your own drinking water.

A 4-day guided trek called the '**Bay of Fires Walk**' is world famous for the beauty of the landscapes and the lodges on offer. This walk follows the coast from the south to the heart of Mount William National Park, via Eddystone Point and a famous fishing spot, Ansons Bay.

# THE NORTH EAST

## Launceston

Founded in 1806, as a state military base, Launceston is now the biggest town in north east Tasmania. With a population of over 100,000, this town contrasts mixes marinas and modern restaurants with old architecture in Georgian or Victorian style.

The town centre is around Brisbane Street, and is easy to navigate on foot. Wander round a '**Heritage Walk**' to understand the history of the town and the region.

Launceston, sometimes known as the 'Garden City' has a variety of parks to visit, such as **Prince's Square** in the heart of town, **Kings Park** or **Royal Park**.

Not far from the centre, **Cataract Gorge Reserve** is a haven of peace



Swimcart  
Beach  
Campground  
13km north of  
St Helens



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Launceston  
region

Binalong Bay







Lilydale Falls  
2km north of  
Lilydale

where it is possible to trek or just enjoy the free public swimming pool at the park entrance. (*Free entrance – open from 9am til sunset.*)



## WHERE TO GO OUT

**Star Bar** (113 Charles Street)  
Centre of town, with terrace  
**Irish Murphy's** (221 Brisbane Street)  
Free live concerts every night

## WHERE TO SLEEP

**Launceston Backpackers** (Canning st)  
*From \$25 for a dormitory bed*  
**Backpackers Hub** (1 Tamar Street)  
*From \$26 per night*

## Tamar Valley

Famous for wine, especially the sparkling variety, this valley links the gates of Launceston to the north coast of the island. The Tamar River weaves its way down the middle of this fertile valley, filled with vines, fields, orchards, and superb forests.

Tamar Valley has been well-known for a long time for its apples, and employs each year a large volume of backpackers from February to May. However, the development of vineyards in the region can also offer some employment opportunities all year round. The Wine Route (follow the signs) takes you to the most distinctive places in the valley, and can be beautiful to explore in good weather.



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Tamar Valley

## THE NORTH WEST

Less touristy than the rest of the island, the north west never ceases to surprise you with the diversity of its landscapes. The Bass Highway, accompanied by undulating hills, reveals forests, white sandy beaches, and poppy fields

## The north coast

### FROM DEVONPORT TO BURNIE

The enormous Spirit of Tasmania ferries arrive into **Devonport** (population: 25,000), the 3rd largest town on the island. Located on the mouth of the Mersey River, the main traffic is tourists disembarking, and despite all their efforts, there is no particular reason to hang around.

A few kilometres to the west, **Ulverstone** is a town known for its varied antique shops, and it is also the jumping off point for **Leven Canyon Reserve** and **Gunns Plains**.

45 minutes from the town, Leven Canyon, hundreds of metres deep, offers beautiful walks and a superb Lookout “**Cruickshanks**”.

Gunns Plains’ 54 caves are a real limestone labyrinth, pierced with stalactites, stalacmites, and waterfalls... (several tours are available each day - \$17/person.)

Next stop is the tiny village of **Penguin** where penguins reign supreme (even if you cannot actually see them here). The whole village is created in the image of this small marine animal (rubbish bins, shop fronts)... A 3m high statue of a penguin decorates the town’s main square.

### FROM BURNIE TO STANLEY

Founded in 1827, **Burnie** was specialised in producing paper, and now has a population of 20,000. In the same building as the Visitor



Centre, you can see **Makers' Workshop** where local artists, jewellery-makers, sell their products, including clothes and musical instruments....Visitors can also take part in the Paper Making Tour (\$15/ person) and try their hand at making their own paper.

Just next door, the **Little Penguin Observation Centre** gives you the opportunity to watch a colony of penguins. Free tours are organized by volunteers every night at sunset during the summer months (September to March).

**Wynyard** is located further to the west. The main attraction of this town is **Table Cape**, a superb plateau 180 metres high, which is now home to a tulip farm, flowering between September and October, transforming the landscape into an immense patchwork of colour. The lookout offers a beautiful view over the bay, and from there you can visit the lighthouse (a short walk of around

30 minutes).

**Rocky Cape National Park** is the smallest park in Tasmania, but not the least - it is a beautiful getaway.

**Boat Harbour** is blessed with an unmissable white sand beach with turquoise water ! 8km further on, **Sisters Beach** is an ideal spot for a picnic and a swim.

Continuing west, you can turn off to see **Dip Falls and Big Tree**. In this reserve, in the middle of the forest, you can see a multi-level waterfall. 1km further on, you will see the Big Tree, a giant eucalyptus with a circumference of 12 metres!

The horizon is suddenly filled with a huge rocky platform ! This signals your arrival into **Stanley**. This little fishing town does not seem to have changed since the 19th century.

**The Circular Head**, nicknamed The Nut, is an ancient volcanic cone. From the summit, you can see for the surrounding area for miles: a feast for your eyes.



*Hellyer Gorge  
Rest Area  
45km south  
of Burnie*



*PENGUINS  
in Burnie*

*The Nut  
at Stanley*





*Underneath  
The Nut,  
Stanley Port*



*Ocean Beach  
Coastal  
Reserve  
7km west of  
Strahan*

*Wynyard  
Lighthouse*



## The West Coast, 'Edge of the World'

**Marawah**, with a population of 400, is a windy village on the edge of the ocean. Occasionally pieces of shipwrecked vessels are washed up by huge waves on the shores of the beach. These same waves bring surfers from around the world for the famous competition: West Coast Classic.

**Arthur River** further south is the 'edge of the world', because from here there is nothing else until you reach Latin America.

## WILD WEST

A distinctive region of Tasmania, waiting to be discovered are wild forests, alpine plateaus covered with flowers, and superb national parks classed as World Heritage by UNESCO since 1982.

## The coast

### ZEEHAN

A mining town, Zeehan's years of glory were back in 1882 when silver was discovered here. Linked to Strahan by rail, Zeehan was at the time the 3rd largest town in Tasmania. This is difficult to believe today when passing through this village of 700 people, where the main attraction is the **West Coast Pioneers Museum**. The museum has 14 galleries telling the story of the golden age of the west coast at the time of steam trains and ships.... (\$30/person).

Between Rosebery and Zeehan, Montezuma Falls Walk (3 hours) crosses forests that follow the length of an old tram line, arriving at **Montezuma Falls**, the highest waterfalls in Tasmania.

14km south, **Henty Dunes** is a series of giant dunes with a view over the ocean.... You can try out sandboarding here (equipment hire available at Strahan).

### STRAHAN

A small tourist town, Strahan is much appreciated by retirees for cruises on the **Gordon River** and for its sculptures in Huon pinewood.

6km from the town there is access to the **Ocean Beach Coastal Reserve**, where there is a long deserted beach with huge waves breaking onto it straight from the Antarctic, occasionally bringing a stranded whale with them.

### QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown is also a small mining village, and has nothing of particular interest for tourists. Even so, there is an attractive view from the Lookout. The landscape here resembles the moon tinted beige and ochre, from the mining activity and emissions.

A few kilometres from the town, a viewpoint overlooks the old abandoned mine of **Iron Blow**.

## Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park

Classed as world heritage by UNESCO, Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park is one of the wonders of Tasmania. Stretched over more than 160,000 hectares, in the land of 3,000 lakes, there are glaciers, rainforests, lakes, and abundant wildlife including the famous Tasmanian Devil.

### CRADLE VALLEY

Cradle Valley is in the northern part of the park, where you can also visit Dove Lake.

You need to park at the Visitor Centre

before the park entrance, because you cannot go in with your own vehicle.

At the Visitor Centre, you can buy a Day Pass (\$17/person), for those who do not have the vehicle Pass that is valid for 2 months. You can also obtain brochures explaining the walks. (*The brochure with the longer walks costs \$8*).

To enter the park, you must take the shuttles made available, which are free once you have purchased a Pass (request a bus ticket at reception). The shuttles run all day and leave you where you want to be until 8pm (every 10 minutes). There are 4 stops available in the park.

For certain walks it is essential to sign up in the books provided at each starting point in the park.

### 1/ RANGER STATION & INTERPRETATION CENTRE

This is the park entrance, and also the starting point for several walks



*Lake Rowallan  
Boat Ramp  
41km  
southwest of  
Mol Creek*

*Cradle  
Mountain*





*TASMANIAN  
DEVIL  
at the  
Tasmanian  
Devil  
Sanctuary*

*Cradle Valley  
Boardwalk*

## RECOMMENDED WALKS

**Enchanted Walk** (20min) through moss-covered rainforest, with wombats and many types of birds along the river....

**Pencil Pine Falls and Rainforest Walk** (20min), watch wallabies in the forest, and admire waterfalls at Pine Creek.

### 2/ SNAKE HILL.

From here, you can only go to the **Boardwalk**, a walk that links the park entrance with Ronny Creek (around 7km). It's a great way to cross the park through bush land, and observe the wildlife.

### 3/ RONNY CREEK - WALDHEIM

The **Waldheim and Weindorfers Forest Walk** (20min) leaves from the Waldheim historic chalet offering a glimpse of life in the mountains in the last century.

### 4/ DOVE LAKE

The best-loved place in the park, offering a view of Mont Cradle

overlooking the lake. There are short and longer walks starting from the lake.

## RECOMMENDED WALKS

**Dove Lake Circuit** (2 hours, 6km), This walk takes you around the lake with beautiful views over Cradle Mountain. One part of the walk has a relatively steep climb and the rest is easy.

**Marion's Lookout** (3 hours) explore Cradle Mountain, Dove Lake and the surrounding mountains on this well-maintained trail.

## FOR THE PROS

**The Overland Track** (70km) is the most famous trek in Tasmania and goes from the north of Cradle Mountain to St Clair Lake in the south of the park.

A reservation system has been implemented between 1st November and 30th April, so you need to sign up in advance and pay the entrance fees (\$180/person).





You will need around a week to do the entire trek. Throughout the route there are refuges for walkers (1 day's trek between each refuge). You can also join a tour for a guided trek. More information available at the park Visitor Centre.

500 m from the park entrance, you can also visit the **Tasmanian Devil Sanctuary**. The guided tours provide a lot of interesting information on the devils and their habits. You can watch these greedy little creatures feeding on the Night Feeding Tour from 5.30pm (\$27.5/person).

## LAKE ST CLAIR

There are also treks in the southern part of the park. The Visitor Centre provides a brochure describing the characteristics of each walk and their duration.

### RECOMMENDED WALKS

**Watersmeet** takes you to the junction between Cuvier and Hugel rivers.

**Larmairremener tabeti, Aboriginal cultural walk** and **Platypus Bay circuit**: these 2 treks weave their way through the forest combining views over St Claire Lake and learning about aboriginal culture.

You can combine the 3 walks (1 hour 30 mins) to have a good overview of the park.

Longer treks are also on offer if you take the ferry to Echo Point or Narcissus Bay. Reserve at the Visitor Centre where you can also purchase a Pass (\$12.50/person for 24h)

## Franklin - Gordon Wild Rivers National Park

Untouched nature classed as UNESCO World Heritage, there are 450,000 hectares of national parkland, mainly covered with

impenetrable forest.

You can trek in the northern part of the park, starting from Lyell Highway. **Nelson Falls Nature Trail** (20min), walk through rainforest until you reach each waterfall. **Donaghys Hill** (40 min) the trail is not particularly interesting but leads to a lookout with an impressive view over the mountains, especially Frenchman's Cap. **Franklin River Nature Trail** (25min) follows Franklin River through rainforest.

### FOR THE PROS

**Frenchmans Cap** is a difficult trek leading to the dome summit of the aforementioned name (1,446m). You will need between 3 and 5 days with a relatively high level of endurance. For safety reasons you need to sign up before setting off. There are 2 huts along the route. The weather can change quickly so remember to bring warm clothes and waterproofs. More information at the Visitor Centre.



Lake King  
William  
7km west of  
Lake St Clair  
NP

Franklin -  
Gordon Wild  
Rivers NP







### DON'T FORGET

The weather is unpredictable, so remember to bring warm clothes and waterproofs, and for longer walks take water and snacks!

## THE ISLANDS

*Tasmania is surrounded by 334 islands. Some of them are just giant rocks. Most are uninhabited. The most frequently visited are Flinders, King Island or Bruny (the most accessible) and Maria Island.*

### Bruny Island



DOLPHINS  
at Bruny  
Island

This small island, the size of Singapore, is located in south east Tasmania and has only 600 inhabitants. You can explore by taking one of the many cruises available (\$150/person), or go there by ferry (south of Hobart) with your own vehicle (\$38 for vehicles under 6m, \$33 in low season).

After the 15 minute crossing, you arrive at Roberts Point in the north of the island. Take the main (and only!) road, and a few kilometres south, you will come across the **Bruny Island Cheese Company**, where you can taste a wide variety of cheeses.

**The Neck** is the thin strip of land linking the north and south of the island where you can watch penguins coming back from fishing for food at sunset... (from December to March).

The main shops and services on the island are concentrated in the southern part of the island at Alonnah, Adventure Bay and Lunawan-na. An unsealed road leads you to the lighthouse at the southernmost tip of the island, the end of the world...

We would recommend the following walks on the island:

**Cape Queen Elizabeth** (3 hours) to explore 2 lagoons, with superb views

over the ocean and a never-ending beach.

**Truganini Lookout** (10min), access a platform via a staircase for a panoramic view of the Neck – not to be missed under any circumstances (especially at sunset). You can also see a simple memorial erected in the honour of Truganini, the last entirely aboriginal person, who passed away in 1876 and whose remains were sent for a tour of the island to 'celebrate' the end of the aborigines on the island.

**Mt Mangana** (1 hour 30 mins), will take you to the top of the highest mountain on the island.

### Maria Island

A small island which was made into a national park in the 70s, you can come for the day by ferry from Triabunna.

There are some historical sites (buildings and ruins), magnificent cliffs, forests and beaches. (Pass \$12/person or \$24/vehicle)

Two ferry companies operate:

#### **Maria Island Ferry**

[www.mariaislandferry.com.au](http://www.mariaislandferry.com.au)

#### **East Coast Cruises**

[www.eastcoastcruises.com.au](http://www.eastcoastcruises.com.au)

Day return: \$35/person

You can also join an organized cruise (\$135 for a daytrip).

If you would like to spend several days on the island, there is accommodation available:

In Darlington, the **Old Penitentiary** has rooms (from \$15/person) and a campsite.

Alternative campsites are available at **French's Farm** and **Encampment Cove** (3 to 4 hours on foot - \$7/person).

There are some great walks to do:

**The Reservoir Circuit** (1 hour 30 mins) Trek through eucalyptus forest and ruins until you reach a reservoir, ideal picnic spot.

**Fossil Cliffs** (2 hours) Walk along the cliffs and enjoy views over the Freycinet peninsula.

**Painted Cliffs** (2 hours) Try to time this walk for low tide so you can go via Hopground Beach, to reach the Painted Cliffs, a magnificent rock formation create by erosion from the waves

**Bishop and Clerk** (3 hours 30 mins) Cross cliffs and eucalyptus forest before gradually climbing to the summit (620m) of Bishop & Clerk for a splendid view.

## Flinders Island

This island in the north of Tasmania is accessible only by plane.

You can hire a vehicle on the island to explore the 450km road network on Flinders. Some villages offer essential services (post office, bookshop, supermarket, bank etc...) such as Whitemark and Lady Barron,

the 2 main towns on the island have a population of approximately 850 people.

**Sharpairlines** company operate flights to the island: [www.sharpairlines.com.au](http://www.sharpairlines.com.au)

Prices : \$150/person minimum

## King Island

Also accessible only by plane, you can hire a car when you arrive.

The island has a population of around 1,800 and the main town is Currie. King is famous for cheese, lobsters and beef.

Regional express or King Island Airlines operate flights to the island with prices starting at \$200 depending on the time of year.

*The Neck at Bruny Island*







Adelaide, SA









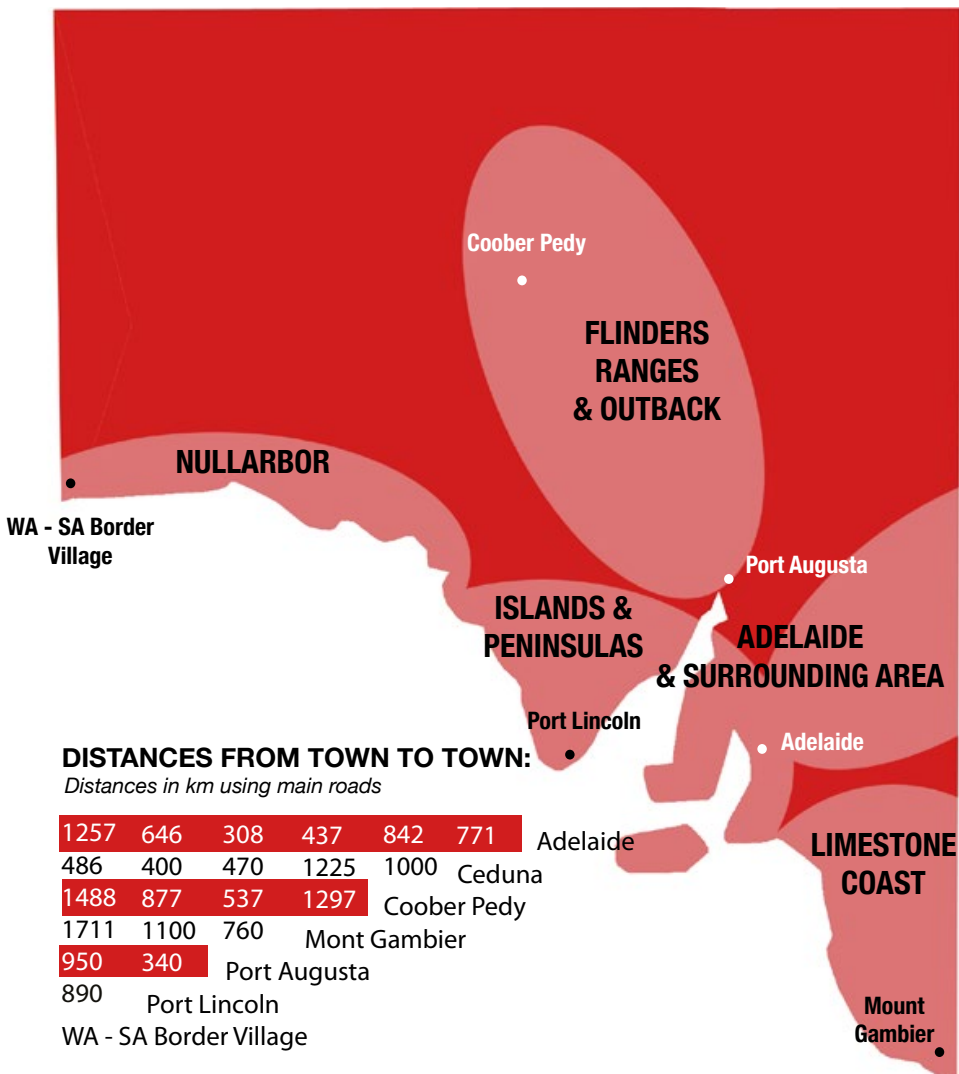
Mont Gambier, SA







*The Breakways Reserve, SA*



**DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN:**

*Distances in km using main roads*

1257	646	308	437	842	771	Adelaide
486	400	470	1225	1000		Ceduna
1488	877	537	1297			Coober Pedy
1711	1100	760				Mont Gambier
950	340					Port Augusta
890						Port Lincoln
						WA - SA Border Village

**LIMESTONE COAST**

Mount Gambier

**AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES (C°) :**

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Adelaide	29	29	26	22	19	16	15	16	19	22	25	27
Coober Pedy	36	36	33	27	22	19	19	24	24	29	32	34
Mt Gambier	25	25	23	19	16	14	13	14	16	18	20	23
Port Augusta	32	31	30	25	21	18	17	19	22	25	28	30
Port Lincoln	25	25	24	21	19	16	16	16	18	20	22	24

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Stretching over 984,000km<sup>2</sup> (including 3700km of coastline), South Australia is the driest state in Australia. Encircled by the states of Western Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory, the south is Australia's crossroads.

Most of the 1.7 million population is concentrated in the capital of Adelaide and the coastal towns around it.

The state's landscapes are varied, from the desertic plains of Nullarbor to the luscious green mountains of Flinders, with winemaking valleys in the east.

Basking in a Mediterranean climate, South Australia has mild winters (between 8 and 16°C) and hot dry summers (sometimes over 40°C). It often rains from May to August.

Southern Australia has varied wildlife, and it is not unusual to meet koalas along the roads to Adelaide Hills, and colonies of sea lions at Kangaroo Island.

Founded in 1836 as a free colony, South Australia has never been a destination for convicts, but rather for cultivated and educated immigrants, mainly British.

In the 1840s, the state received a massive wave of German crafts people and farmers fleeing persecution in Europe. A major event in the state's history, this cultural heritage is the origin for the Germanic villages such Handhorff and the colourful festivals celebrating the grape harvest in Barossa Valley.

Today, a wine producing state with world famous vintages, South Australia is sometimes nicknamed the Festival state thanks to the many events that punctuate the year.

## DON'T MISS!

**Central Market** in Adelaide with local and international products

**Flinders Ranges** at sunset

**Kangaroo Island**, rock formations and protected wildlife.

**Coober Pedy**, the surprising cave-dwelling town surrounded by lunar plains.

**Coorong National Park** with iconic salt lakes stretching to the horizon.



OTTERS



WHALES



KOALAS

## NATIONAL PARKS

There is a single pass available which gives access to all the national parks in the state. Holiday Pass costs \$40 and is valid for 2 months. To purchase online [CLICK HERE](#). Or in any Visitor Centres.

## INTERNET ACCESS

State libraries offer free wifi access with a one-off registration (limited by number of Mega or time).

## WILDLIFE

### Where to see koalas ?

Adelaide Hills (natural habitat)

### Where to see otters?

Seal Bay Conservation Park (Kangaroo Island)

### Where to see whales ?

Fleurieu Peninsula (October to June)  
Nullarbor Plains

### Where to see bluetongued lizards?

Flinders Range National Park





# ADELAIDE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

## Adelaide, Capital of South Australia

Founded as a free colony in 1836 by William Light, Adelaide has kept its colonial charm with wide avenues, Victorian architecture and greenery. The town has avoided building tower blocks, and has a small-town, relaxed atmosphere. Previously known as the city of churches, Adelaide has left behind a Puritan past to enter into the modern age, and is now one of the main art capitals of Australia. It is the most provincial of Australian capitals with a population of only 1.2 million, and is known to be a city where you can have a good quality of life.

Victoria Square

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

**North Terrace** has a number of important museums, including the **Migration Museum** (*free – open daily from 10am til 5pm*), the **South Australian Museum** has a large collection of mammals (*free – open daily from 10am til 5pm*) and the excellent **Art Gallery of SA** with both permanent and temporary exhibitions (*free – open daily from 10am til 5pm*).

In the **Botanic Garden** you can enjoy a stroll in the shade of tall trees, (*free – open from 7am til sunset. Free guided tours daily at 10.30am, meet in front of the Schomburgk Pavilion*).

**Adelaide Zoo** (Frome Road) has 2 giant pandas, Wang Wang and Funi. (\$33,50/person – *open from 9.30am to 5pm*)

**Central Market**, established in 1869, is now the largest covered market in the southern hemisphere.





Located just next to Chinatown, it is a real feast for the senses! (*between Gouger and Grote Street – open all day from Tuesday to Saturday*)

**Port Adelaide**, in the north of the city, was the first settlement area for the pioneers. Along with **Semaphore**, these little towns are now attractive, trendy suburbs with a Victorian look.

**Glenelg** is the closest beach to town (10min). Highly appreciated by locals, the Tram stops right in front of it. You can swim with dolphins here in their natural habitat with Temptation Sailing (\$98/person to swim and \$68 to watch - duration 3 hours 30 mins - [www.dolphinboat.com.au](http://www.dolphinboat.com.au))

**NB:** if you are looking for a job, try the pizzerias in Adelaide!

## GETTING AROUND

The **Glenelg Tram** is an easy way to get around town (free outside the CBD).

**Yellow buses** provide free transport in the town centre, and their routes include the main shopping streets and main tourist attractions.

The **Passenger Transport InfoCentre** (*junction between King William and Currie Street*) has maps and timetables for all public transport.

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

**Exeter** (*246 Rundle Street*) has the reputation of being the best pub in town.

**Universal Wine Bar** to taste almost 300 wines from across the world (*285 Rundle Street*).

**La boheme** is a cocktail bar in a Parisian style... (*34 Grote Street*)

For karaoke fans, the **Buddha Bar** (*31-39 Gouger Street*) has several lounges on an Elvis theme - worth a visit!

**HQ Complex** is THE club in Adélaïde where students go to party. (*1 North Terrace*)

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### BACKPACKER HOSTELS

Compare prices and reserve your bed, [CLICK HERE](#)

#### **Backpack Oz** (*from \$23*)

*Coin Wakefield & Pulteney Streets*

#### **Adelaide Backpackers Inn**

*(from \$23)*

*112 Carrington Street*

#### **My Place** (*from \$26*)

*257 Waymouth Street*

### NEAREST FREE CAMPING SPOT

Rest area on **Main South Road** (about 15km south of town)

### NEAREST CARAVAN PARK

**Adelaide Caravan Park** 2km north of town (\$42-46 per night)

## EVENTS

The city has frequent festivals throughout the year.

**January** : Wine & Food Festival

**February** : Adelaide Fringe Festival

**March** : Adelaide Festival of Arts & WOMAdeelaide (live music)

**April** : Shorts Film Festival

**September** : Semaphore Music Festival (Semaphore)

**November** : Feast Festival (gay and lesbian festival lasting 3 weeks).

More info: [www.southaustralia.com](http://www.southaustralia.com)

### WHERE TO PARK ?

University of Adelaide (north of town), unlimited free parking in a busy area

### STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Junction between North Terrace and Kintore Av. (open daily from 10am)

### GPO

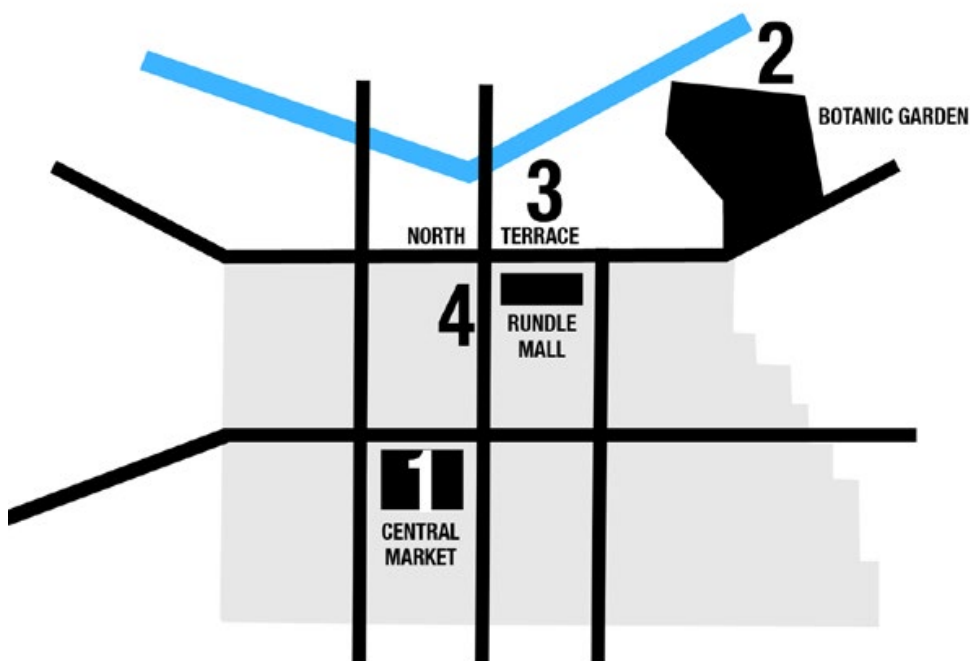
141 King William Street (open from Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm)

### VISITOR CENTRE

Rundle Mall (open daily from 10am) Free hot showers available.

# One **day** in **Adelaide**

1. Taste local produce in Central Market
2. Discover the Botanic Garden
3. Visit one of the many free museums on North Terrace
4. Wander around Rundle Mall





# Adelaide surrounding areas

## ADELAIDE HILLS

South and east of Adelaide, the region is characterized by hills known as the Mount Lofty Ranges, a very fertile area for fruit trees (mainly apples, pears and grapes).

Recognized as one of the best wine producing regions in the world, Adelaide Hills is a charming example of Australian countryside.

Fleeing religious persecution, the first European migrants settled in these hills, founding villages such **Hahndorf** and **Lobethal** loaded with history. The small village of Hahndorf is particularly charming and provides the opportunity to try out the super combo: 1 litre of beer with 1 metre of sausage!

**Lenswood, Gumeracha, Birdwood,**

**Woodside** or **Balhannah**, are important wine producing sites, so this region is ideal to work in fruit picking during the week, and make the most of Adelaide at weekends. Or the opposite: escape from the town to spend a few days in the countryside and taste local produce.

## CLARE VALLEY

Just as famous for its wines, Clare Valley is the best producer of Riesling in Australia.

The **Riesling Trail** introduces you to over 30km of vineyards and historical villages. Located around 150km north of Adelaide, **Clare** is the main town in the valley and a good starting point to look for picking jobs.

## BAROSSA VALLEY

45km north east of Adelaide the old hills of Barossa have built their reputation on creating wines of great quality, (including the Barossa



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Adelaide Hills*



*KOALAS  
at Adelaide  
Hills*

*Cherry  
Orchard  
Adelaide Hills*





*Big Bend  
Lookout  
Rest area  
10km south  
of Swan  
Reach*



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Barossa  
Valley,  
Murray River*

*Houseboats  
on Murray  
River*



Shiraz). This little valley, 25km long, has a strong German heritage, and every year international meetings are held at the local farms.

**Gawler** (population: 23,000) and **Nuriootpa** (population: 5,700) are the main wine production sites.

You can also visit Maggie Beer's Farm Shop at Nuriootpa owned by Maggie Beer, one of the most famous chefs and writers in Australia.

At Williamstown, the Whispering Wall will astonish you with its acoustics... 140m long, you can hear a whisper from the other end of the wall !

## MURRAY RIVER

From its source in the Mountains, Murray River flows over 2,530km to reach the ocean in South Australia. Benefiting from this natural irrigation, the region is the most productive in Australia for wines and fruit.

To discover Murray River in a traditional way, you can rent a houseboat (no qualifications necessary – a driving licence is enough!).

**Berri** à 230km east of Adelaide is one of the main towns in the area, famous for lemon plantations, and in particular the biggest Australia producer of fruit juices, **Berrivale Orchards**. **Berri Estates**, founded in 1922 and also a major wine producer. **Renmark, Loxton** and **Barmera** are also towns with many fruit picking jobs for the taking.

## LIMESTONE COAST

The Limestone Coast runs from South of Adelaide to Victoria. Around a million years ago, the sea receded from this part of the coast and left behind tons of crustaceans and shells forming a soft, porous layer on the ground which explains the name 'Limestone Coast'.

When you leave Princes Highway, little roads lead you to isolated bays, white beaches and salt lakes, icons of the Outback.

## On the coast

### COORONG NATIONAL PARK

Protecting a series of salt lakes, this national park covers 140km of coastline. Over 230 species of birds are sheltered here, and there are numerous aboriginal sites. It is not a very touristy area, but it is an appreciable stop off along the Princess Highway, especially when you take the **Coorong Scenic Drive** south of Meningie (unsealed road).

### KINGSTON SE

This small town with a population of 2,000 is famous among recreational fishermen. "**Larry, The Big Lobster**"





*Narrung  
Jetty Reserve  
Rest area in  
Narrung*

welcomes tourists at the entrance to the town.

## BEACHPORT

This little coast town is appreciated by locals for its beaches and fishing spots. Bowman Scenic Drive leads to limestone cliffs, never-ending beaches and to the **Pool of Siloam** (7 times saltier than the sea) in the middle of the sand dunes, - taking a dip is an interesting experience!

## Inland

### NARACOORTE

Right next to the town, you can visit **Naracoorte Caves National Park**, an underground world with an impressive number of fossils dating back to the last ice age (\$9/person).

In hot weather you can also enjoy a dip in the cold water of the town's lake.

## PENOLA

Located in the heart of the wine-making region of **Coonawarra**, this country town has done well out of the quality wines produced here, in particular the Cabernet Sauvignon. You can taste them in one of the many vineyards in the surrounding areas.

## MT GAMBIER

The main town on this coast, Mt Gambier or "**The Blue Lake City**" is built on the sides of a dormant volcano. The town owes its name to Lieutenant James Grant who gave it his name of Lord James Gambier, Admiral of the English fleet.

Right next to the town centre, the superb **Blue Lake** is worth a visit. Its colour changes during the summer months (November to April) from green to turquoise blue!

*Salt lake  
inCoorong  
National Park*





## ISLANDS & PENINSULAS

### Fleurieu Peninsula

The Fleurieu Peninsula is famous with locals for its wines and beautiful beaches. Victor Harbour is the main town.

The **Fleurieu Way**, 235km long, takes you on a tour of the whole peninsula, passing all the must-see places such as **McLaren Vale**, **Victor Harbour**, and even part of **Coorong National Park**.

In the north, the **McLaren Vale Wine Region**, known for its Shiraz, is packed with shops and wine cellars with free tasting.

The St Vincent Golf Course follows the coastline lined with beautiful clear-water beaches with safe swimming and snorkelling. The small town of **Rapid Bay** has a particularly idyllic beach for a refreshing stop off.

There are also many national parks such as **Deep Creek Conservation Park** with abundant wildlife, more beaches, beautiful views and camping sites in the bush. (\$10/vehicle / \$13 with one night's camping)

### Kangaroo Island

Accessible by ferry from Cape Jervis, Kangaroo Island (3rd largest island in Australia) is a wilderness destination.

The island was first discovered by a Frenchman, Nicolas Baudin, at the end of the 18th century (which explains all the French-sounding names!).

155km long, the island has extremely varied landscapes with stunning cliffs, superb beaches, white sand dunes, and astonishing rock formations.

Kangaroo Island is a highly protected place with wildlife ranging from kangaroos, koalas and otters, to sea lions and pelicans...

**Pure Ligurian Honey** is also produced here, and (only here).

It all started in 1884, when Ligurian bees were sent to 2 farmers on the island. The following year, they received queens of the same species and Kangaroo Island was proclaimed a sanctuary for Ligurian Bees. Even today there is still no other species of bee on the island, therefore making these descendants the only pure Ligurian bees in the world.... You can taste the famous honey ice cream for free at **Clifford's Honey Farm** (on *Elsegood Road, south of Kingscote*).

With 7 regions to explore, 4 or 5 days can be enough to see the island's highlights.

### PENNESHAW AND DUDLEY PENINSULA

This part of the peninsula is famous for its wine cellars and never fails to make wine lovers happy! You can also visit the **Penneshaw Penguin Centre**, ideal spot to observe penguins in their natural habitat on a nocturnal tour and learn more about them. (\$18/person – Guided tours in the evening, timetables vary according to the season).

### KINGSCOTE

The island's main town with a population of around 1,500 people, the main attraction is pelican feeding at **Kingscote Warf**. (\$5/person – 5pm every day).

From Kingscote following the North Coast Road, there are beautiful, peaceful beaches all along the coast **Emu Bay** or **Strokes Bay**.

If you take Playford Highway, you



Rapid Bay  
15km north of  
Cape Jervis  
\$\$\$



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Mc Laren  
Vale Wine  
Region



will come across the small town of Pardana with the **Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park** where you can feed kangaroos and meet native animals in a family atmosphere (\$25/person).

## FLINDERS CHASE NATIONAL PARK

One of the best national parks in South Australia, Flinders Chase covers most of the western part of the island. You can see the **Remarkable Rocks** (Kirkpatrick Point), enormous granite rocks sculpted by time.

Close by, **Admirals Arch** is a natural arch, 20 metres high, and a sea lion colony from New Zealand has moved in there.

The lighthouses of **Cape du Coedic** and **Cape Bordas** show the courage of the first lighthouse keepers living in extremely isolated conditions in the 1860s. (Park entrance \$11/person – open daily from 9am to 5pm)

## THE SOUTH COAST

South Coast Road is the most popular part of the island and with good reason! You can go for a walk at **Vivonne Bay** (sometimes quoted as the best beach in Australia), get very close up to sea lions, or surf on the dunes of Little Sahara...

In **Seal Bay Conservation Park**, you can walk on the beach which is home to a colony of sea lions sunbathing after their meal (Tours at 9am and 4pm – Guided tour \$35/person – access to the BoardWalk \$16/person)

A little further east, **Little Sahara** will be your next stop... With white sand dunes as far as the eye can see, you can try sandboarding or sledging for the less adventurous! (Hire equipment at the General Store or at Kangaroo Island Outdoor Action in Vivonne Bay – budget around \$37 for 2 hours).



*OTTERS on Kangaroo Island*

*Admirals Arch*





Vivonne Bay  
Campground  
next to Little  
Sahara  
\$\$\$

#### FERRY INFORMATION

A company called Sealink provides a ferry route between Cape Jervis and Penneshaw. The crossing lasts 45 minutes with 3 departures per day in both directions. Budget around \$90 per journey for 1 passenger, and an extra \$47 per additional passenger.

For more information:

[www.sealink.com.au](http://www.sealink.com.au)

## York Peninsula

Since the national highway between Adelaide and historic **Port Wakefield** has been improved, it is much easier to access the rural charm of York peninsula.

"The Leg" has beautiful beaches, superb trekking in the national parks, and there are famous fishing spots. Surrounded by the ocean on 3 sides, a few days are sufficient to have a good look round.

On the west coast, **Kadina** (population: 4,500) is the main town on the peninsula.

**Innes National Park**, at the tip of the peninsula, is a great place to admire local wildlife (Western Grey Kangaroos, 140 species of birds, dolphins, Tammar Wallabies...) and a superb view at **West Cape Lookout**.

There are trekking trails available to explore the park, for example the **Stenhouse Bay Lookout Trail**. The park also has bush camping sites (\$16/ vehicle – *Park entrance: \$11/ vehicle. - accessible for all vehicles.*)

## Eyre Peninsula

Between Port Augusta and the desert plains of Nullarbor, this peninsula, with over 2,000km of coastline, has varied landscapes, from wonderful beaches along the coast, to the Gawler mountain chain in the north.

There is plenty of wildlife, in particular the whale migration that passes by between May and October.

## PORT AUGUSTA

This town is known as the Crossroads of Australia. With a population of 14,700, all the major roads leading north, east or west meet in Port Augusta, and a few famous train routes also cross the town: the Ghan (from Adelaide to Darwin) and the Indian Pacific (from Adelaide to Perth).

For a panoramic view, the **Water Tower Lookout**, on Mitchell Terrace offers a view over the town, the golf course and Flinders Ranges.

The **Arid Land Botanic Garden**, will introduce you to native plants as well as a wide variety of birds on a trail of almost 12km. (*Entrance on donation – open from 10am to 4pm*)

## WHYALLA

76km west of Port Augusta, Whyalla (population: 23,000) developed in the 1900s thanks to its port which transported the iron from the region. Today, the town has little of interest for tourist, except maybe for those who enjoy fishing.

## PORT LINCOLN

At the extreme south of the peninsula, the prosperous town of Port Lincoln (population: 17,000) dominates **Boston Bay**. Had it not been for the lack of fresh water, this could have become the capital of South Australia. When the first settlers arrived in the 19th century they were torn between the coast's beauty, and the arid outback.

Now the town is expanding, and is the ideal base for exploring Boston Bay, or to dive with great white sharks (in a cage – several companies offer tours – around \$500).



Fitzgerald  
Bay  
8km north of  
Whyalla



46km from the town, **Coffin Bay** with perfect beaches, still has traces of the colonial period.

## **STREAKY BAY**

So named in 1802 by M. Flinders, Streaky Bay owes its title to the colour of the water. M. Flinders thought that the streaky water in the bay indicated that a river was emptying here into the ocean. In fact, it comes from the oils released by seaweed.

The cliffs around the town are impressive and there are fantastic beaches for swimming and surfing (**Perlubie Beach, Back Beach, Doctors Beach...**)

Don't miss the replica of a great white shark captured in the region in 1990 (over 5 metres long !), which you can find in the town's roadhouse.

39km south of Streaky Bay you can also see **Murphy's Haystacks**, fascinating rose granite rocks, 30,000 years old (free entry).

## **CEDUNA**

This is the last town in the West of the state (800km from Adelaide). Its name comes from the aboriginal word Cheedoona, which means a place to sit down and rest. Well-known to surfers, the beaches are fabulous, especially **Cactus Beach** respected and feared due to huge breakers.

## **NULLARBOR**

After Ceduna, travelling towards Western Australia (WA), you arrive in Nullarbor.

Eyre Highway crosses this desert plain linking South Australia to Perth (in WA).



*Perlubie  
Beach 21km  
north of  
Streaky Bay  
\$\$\$*

*Perlube  
Beach  
Campspot*







Cactus Beach  
Sinclair  
Point  
21km south  
of Penong

Travelling through the 2,000kms of Nullarbor plain is a unique experience. The Australians are proud to display stickers in their windscreens "I crossed the Nullarbor Plain!". For more on information about the Nullarbor, [CLICK HERE](#).

## GAWLER RANGES

North of the Eyre peninsula, the Gawler mountain range was formed by volcanic activity millions of years ago. Now it shelters rare species of birds, colourful flora and dramatic gorges.

Formed by volcanic eruptions, the "Organ Pipes", columns with 5 or 6 sides stretch throughout the park. You can also admire the **Kolay Mirica Falls**, **Mt Allalone** or **Waulkinna Hill**. (\$12/vehicle – accessible only by 4 wheel drive).

Flinders  
Ranges plains



# FLINDERS RANGES & OUTBACK

## Flinders Ranges

The region of Flinders starts only 40km north of Port Augusta and is particularly famous for the picturesque **Wilpena Pound**, a rock formation which could be mistaken for (but is not!) a meteorite crater.

North of Quorn, there are ruins of old livestock stations. **Kanyaka**, built in 1851, is one of the biggest.

Not far from there, **Death Rock** overlooks a permanent waterhole. According to legend, a long time ago an aboriginal chief wanted to die in the shade of this big rock, so his family brought him there, waiting for the old man to pass away.

10km south of Hawker, the last town before the national park entrance, **Yourambulla Caves** hide rock paintings accessible after a short climb of around 30 minutes from the carpark.

Last but not least, **Arkaroo Rock** south of Wilpena is a sacred site for aborigines. A 2km trek leads you to paintings portraying the story of 2 giant serpents which formed the Wilpena Pound.

The entrance to the **Flinders Ranges National Park** is at Wilpena (\$10/vehicle). This park offers many different walks to discover the beautiful landscapes (remember to ask for a brochure at the Visitor Centre!).

We recommend the **Wangarra Lookout Walk**: 7.8km (around 3 hours) takes you to the heart of Wilpena Pound and 2 viewpoints with breathtaking panoramas.

**Bunyeroo-Brachina Road** runs for around 50km winding through the park's gorges with spectacular views,

especially after **Razorback Lookout** (10km south of Bunyeroo Gorge). If you can, go there at sunset! (*Find out about the state of the track at the Visitor Centre before you leave.*)

On **Hawker-Wilpena Road** (sealed main road), **Strokes Hill Lookout** is also worth a look at sunset.

Plan on spending 3 days to make the most of the whole region. There are several camp spots in the national park (\$13/night).

## Coober Pedy

Halfway between the coast and Uluru, the cave-dwelling town of Coober Pedy will not fail to astonish you. The translation of Coober Pedy in the local aboriginal language is “white man’s hole”, which perfectly suits the environment.

A mining city with a population of 3,500, it is one of the main producers

of opal in the world. More than a million holes with piles of dirt surround the town as proof of the importance of the mining industry.

The apocalyptic desert scenery has been noticed by several producers who filmed cult movies here such as “Mad Max”, or “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert” (a cult Australian film).

With extreme climactic conditions (over 50°C in summer!), the miners soon discovered the advantages of living underground, and today half of the town live in underground houses, known as “**Dugouts**”.

Have a wander round the town to take a look at the **shops** offering a wide range of opals, from black (the most precious), to crystal opal, with something for every budget. You can also visit **galleries**, **underground houses** and even **underground churches**.

*Coober Pedy*





You can also visit several opal mines where tour guides will explain the mining profession (*We recommend the Old Timers Mine - \$15/person*).

## Kanku Breakaways Conservation Park

**The Breakaways** are arid hills in orange colours that stretch across the plains to the horizon. They are located 30km north of Coober Pedy and can be reached on 10km of unsealed road that is usually accessible to all types of vehicle.

Two lookouts offer dramatic views over lunar landscapes (**Moon Plain**). Movie fans will recognize the décor from Mad Max III and Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

*Salt & Pepper  
Breakaways  
Reserve*

Just after the lookouts if you continue driving you will arrive at the Salt & Pepper mountains (Pupa), and important site for the aborigines.

Even further on, you will see the **Dog Fence**, a simple barrier over 5000km long, built in the 1880s to limit the spread of dingos on the south coast.

You can buy a Pass to access the park at the tourist info at Coober Pedy (\$10/vehicle).













Perth, WA





Cable Beach, Broome, WA







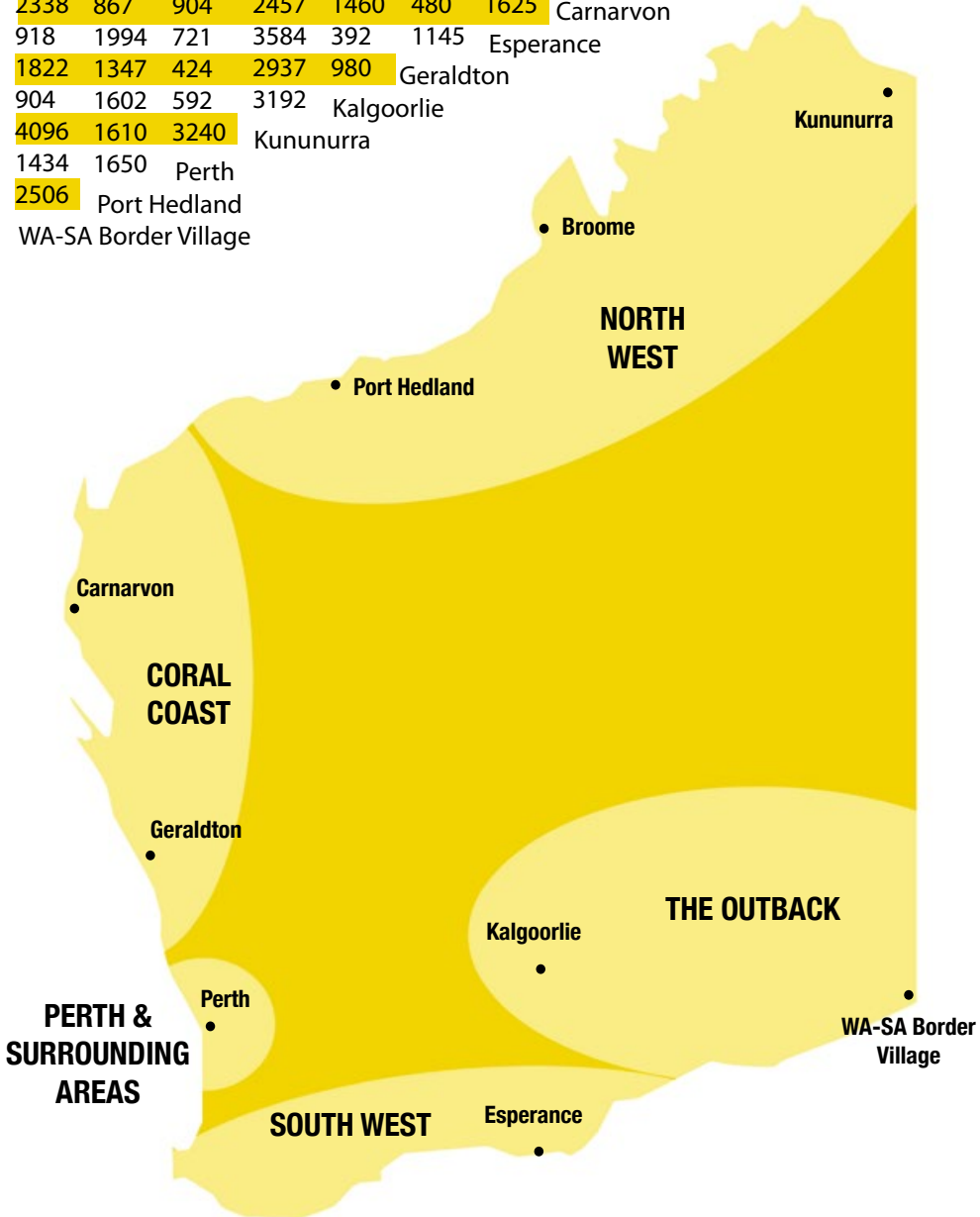
Kalbarri National Park, WA



## DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN :

*Distances in km using main roads*

1401	2020	411	3610	805	835	483	1315	2618	Albany
3101	615	2245	1063	2197	1942	2589	1462		Broome
2338	867	904	2457	1460	480	1625			Carnarvon
918	1994	721	3584	392	1145				Esperance
1822	1347	424	2937	980					Geraldton
904	1602	592	3192						Kalgoorlie
4096	1610	3240							Kununurra
1434	1650								Perth
2506									Port Hedland
									WA-SA Border Village



# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WA has a population of 2,7 million (the least populated state in Australia), but covers one third of the total surface area of the continent, a vast expanse of over 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, mainly consisting of different types of desert filled with very significant flora and fauna.

The landscapes in WA are the most varied in the whole country: stunning rock formations, lush green plains, huge plateaus in the north, and mesmerizing Outback, occupying the largest proportion of the state's territory.

From sumptuous white sand beaches, to the famous baobab trees of the Kimberleys, or Wave Rock, you will keep being surprised throughout your journey in WA.

You can observe an enormous diversity of wildlife in WA, such as camels, wombats, kangaroos, wallabies, reptiles and emus on land, and marine life such as whales, dolphins, whale sharks, manta rays along the coast. Ningaloo Reef in WA is one of the rare places in the world where you can swim with amazing whale sharks or huge manta rays.

The climate is mainly determined by the tropic of Capricorn which cuts the state in two. In the north, seasonal variations in weather and temperature are minimal, and above Darwin there are only 2 seasons: hot and dry, or hot and wet. In the south, winters can be cold or even snowy in the highest altitudes.

WA's history begins with the aborigines, first inhabitants of the region. Rock paintings and tools confirm that they

have lived in WA for tens of thousands of years, and in the south of the state for over 40,000 years!

In the 17th century, the first European navigators mapped the north coast of WA, but it is only from 1826 that a free colony was established in what is now the city of Perth. The discovery of gold at the end of the 19th century helped the colony to grow, before becoming part of the federation of Australian states in 1901.



DOLPHINS



WHALES



MANTAS

## DON'T MISS !

**Perth** and neighbouring islands  
**Margaret River** for waves and wine !  
**Ningaloo Reef Marine Park**  
**Cable Beach** in Broome  
 The **Pilbaras & the Kimberleys**

### NATIONAL PARKS

The Holiday Park Pass costs \$46, is valid for 1 month and gives you free access to all national parks in the state with a couple of (privately-run) exceptions, the most famous of which is Monkey Mia. For more information: [CLICK HERE](#)

### INTERNET ACCESS

Free (slow) access in public libraries.

### WILDLIFE

**Where to see camels ?** The Nullarbor desert plains

**Where to see dolphins?** Monkey Mia, Rockingham

**Where to swim with manta raies and whalesharks?**

Ningaloo Reef (Exmouth is best for whale sharks, Coral Bay for Mantas)

**Where to see Dugongs?** Shark Bay (Monkey Mia) - call to check the season

**Where to see quokkas?** Rottnest Island

WA: PRACTICAL TIPS

## AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES (°C) :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Albany</b>	23	23	22	21	19	16	16	16	17	18	20	22
<b>Broome</b>	33	33	34	35	31	29	29	30	32	33	34	33
<b>Carnarvon</b>	31	32	32	29	27	24	22	24	25	26	27	29
<b>Exmouth</b>	38	37	36	33	28	25	24	26	29	32	34	36
<b>Kalgoorlie</b>	34	32	30	25	20	18	17	18	22	26	29	32
<b>Kununurra</b>	36	35	35	35	33	30	30	33	36	38	39	38
<b>Perth</b>	31	31	29	25	22	19	18	19	20	23	26	29



# PERTH & SURROUNDING AREAS

## Perth, Western Capital

If you want to discover Western Australia, the capital cannot be overlooked. Sometimes known as « the city of light » thanks to a remarkable amount of sunshine throughout the year, Perth has a population of more than 2.1 million, and is growing fast! The closest city with population over 1 million is Adelaide, 2,100kms away, which makes Perth one of the most isolated cities in the world.

Perth is the 4th city in Australia and enjoys a Mediterranean climate,

*Elizabeth quay*

long summers from December to February, and a temperate winter from June to August.

The city was founded in 1829 by Captain James Stirling as part of the Swan River colony. The British government declared the colony to be one of Australia's first free areas, thereby becoming a refuge for the first pioneers. The colony developed significantly after the discovery of gold in the region at Kalgoorlie.

The city is still developing – locals say that since the mining boom over 1000 new residents have been arriving each week – and is known as one of the most beautiful in Australia.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

### THE BEACHES

The city of Perth offers a wide range of activities and places of interest.

Blessed with the Indian Ocean to the west, there are magnificent beaches





accessible with public transport. **Scarborough** and **Cottesloe Beach** are the most famous.

### THE CBD

On the banks of Swan River, **Bell Tower** (*Barrack Square*), is one of the largest musical instruments in the world at over 82 metres tall. The bells ring out on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12h-13h (\$9/person – open from 10am to 1.45pm).

### Elizabeth Quay

Opened in February 2016, this new space is dedicated to water games, fun and families. There are a lot of activities to do there and they are all free.

### Shopping

Two streets (Hay and Murray Street) have most of the shops and act as the town's **Mall**.

**London Court** is a shopping arcade built in 1937. You will suddenly have the impression that you are in England!!

5km west of town is **Subiaco**, one of the oldest suburbs of Perth, well-known for bars, pubs and fashionable restaurants.

On weekends you can take advantage of the big discounts on fruit and veg at **Market Station**, and during the week (Thursday to Sunday) at **Rokeby Road Market** which also has local art and craft stalls.

### PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Despite the skyscrapers, the **town centre** manages to remain green with over 1000km<sup>2</sup> of grounds dedicated to public gardens, natural parts and sports facilities.

**King's Park**, a botanical garden is nature's jewel in the city centre. It is one of the biggest city parks in the world, with magnificent panoramic views over the cityscape, especially from Top Walk.

**Perth Zoo** (*Labouchere Road* -

\$29/person – open from 9am to 5pm) showcases over 1 800 animal species, including Australian fauna. Activities and guided tours are on offer throughout the day.

### Museums and Monuments

The **Aboriginal Art and Craft Gallery** in Kings Park displays aboriginal art in all its splendour and sells a large selection of paintings (*open daily from 10.30am-4pm*).

**Perth Mint** (*310 Hay St. - \$19 - open daily from 9am to 5pm*)

*This is where they make money! You can watch them melting gold into bars, or even strike your own money (extra charge).*

The **Perth Cultural Centre**, in Northbridge, includes the **Art Gallery of WA** (*free – open from 10am to 5pm*) and the **WA Museum** (*free – open from 9.30am to 5pm*) where you can see a superb collection of Aboriginal art, a whale skeleton 25m long, meteorites, and an “old jail” built in 1856 and now integrated into the museum.

The **Northbridge** area, north of the town centre, can be considered the cultural and cosmopolitan heart of Perth, overflowing with trendy restaurants and bars which liven up when evening comes.

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

### Brass Monkey

*Large bar with different atmospheres At the junction of James & William Sts.*

### Carnegie's

*Relaxed atmosphere  
356 Murray Street*

### Hula Bula Bar

*Exotic atmosphere with cocktails served in unusual glasses!  
12 Victoria Avenue*

### Velvet Lounge

*Nightclub  
639 Beaufort Street*



## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### BACKPACKERS HOSTELS

Compare and reserve your room:  
[CLICK HERE](#)

#### Perth City YHA

300 Wellington Street (town centre)

From \$32 per night

#### Britannia

253 William street (Northbridge)

From \$27 per night

#### Billabong Backpackers Resort

381 Beaufort Street (Northbridge)

From \$29 per night

### NEAREST FREECAMPING SPOT

#### Noble Falls Camp area

Around 50km to the east.

**Free camping** is “tolerated” at Scarborough Beach, where you will find other campervans (there are even showers & barbecues available!) Free camping also tolerated at **The Esplanade, Mt Pleasant** (toilets and shower).

### NEAREST CARAVAN PARK

#### Perth Central Caravan Park

34 Central Avenue (8km east of the town centre - \$45 for a powered site).

## GETTING AROUND

**Transperth's FTZ** covers most major shopping streets for free.

The **Free CAT buses** have 3 free lines covering the whole city and its tourist attractions.

The **Transperth train network** enables you to explore towns in the surrounding areas (\$2,10 per ticket).

## EVENTS

The city has frequent events and festivals throughout the year:

**Jan** : Lotterywest Australia Day Skyworks

**Feb** : Perth International Arts festival

**May** : WA music industry festival

**June** : Winter Arts Festival

**Aug** : Targa West

**Sept** : Perth Fashion Festival

**Oct** : Pride festival and parade

**Nov** : Northbridge festival

**Dec** : City of Perth Festival of Christmas and New Year's Eve.

For more details on all the festivals taking place in Perth:

[www.perthfestival.com.au](http://www.perthfestival.com.au)

## PERTH: PRATICAL TIPS

### WHERE TO PARK ?

Try to park just outside of the centre, for exemple on St George Terrace or the Esplanade, and then use public transport (CAT).

### STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre - *open from 9am on weekdays and from 10am at the weekend.*

### GPO

3 Forrest Place - *open from 8.30am to 5pm during the week, and til 12.30 midday on Saturday.*

### VISITOR CENTRE

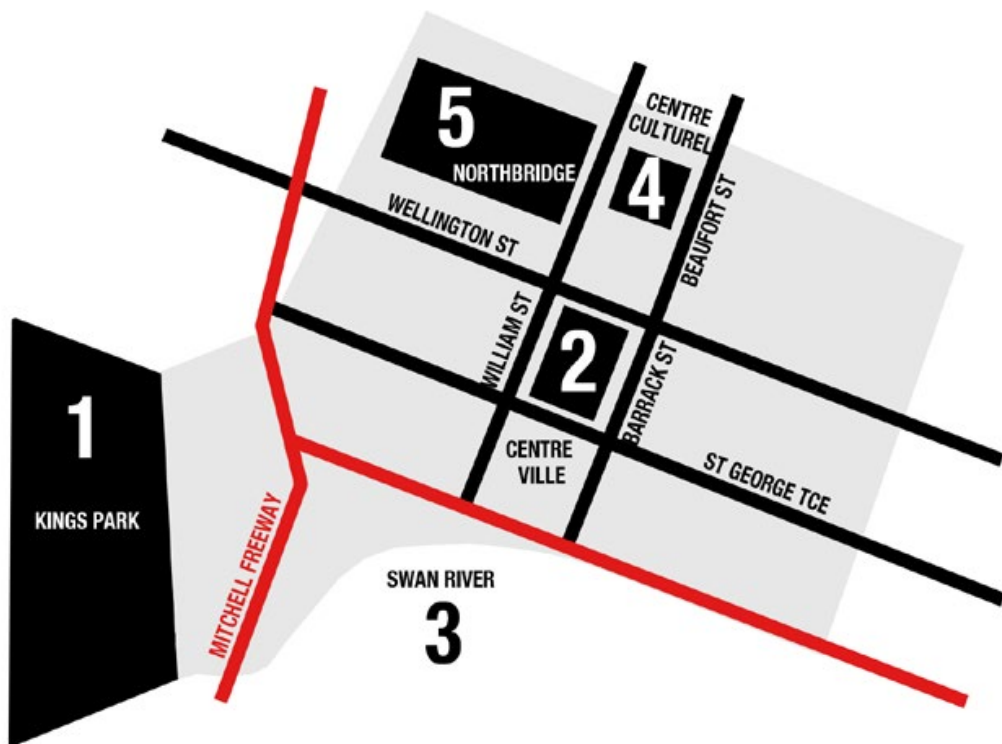
On the junction of Forrest Place & Wellington Street - *open daily.*



# One day

## in Perth

1. Admire the view from King's Park!
2. Stroll around the town centre
3. Take a walk along the banks of Swan River
5. Visit the museums at the Cultural Centre
6. Have a cocktail in Northbridge





## Around Perth

### FREMANTLE



Noble Falls  
Camp Area  
50km east of  
Perth

18 km south of Perth, this colonial-style town is now famous for shopping, cafés and fashionable restaurants.

The **Fremantle Arts Centre** is housed in a historical “lunatic” asylum, and tells the town’s story.

The **Western Australian Maritime Museum** is dedicated to maritime exploration.

**The Prison**, built in 1850 by convicts, was used as a jail for over 140 years. Now it is a museum taking us back in time to see the conditions prisoners endured in the past.

**Fremantle Market**, in a Victorian-style hall, is an essential meeting place for locals (*every Friday, Saturday and Sunday*).



ROCKINGHAM  
Dolphin Swim  
Tours

Quokka on  
Rottnest  
Island

Each year Fremantle hosts many festivals bringing to life the streets of the town.

**For more details:**

[www.visitfremantle.com.au](http://www.visitfremantle.com.au)

[www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/Festivals](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/Festivals)

### ROTTNEST ISLAND

This idyllic island, only 19km from the coast, is a favourite destination for the residents of Australia’s western capital. Discovered in 1696 by a Dutch navigator, he originally baptised the place Rats Nest, startled by the number of rodents he spied on arrival. This completely pedestrian island is surrounded with sumptuous white sand beaches and you will meet there the famous quokkas.

To go there, you will need to take a ferry (30 minutes). Rottnest Express offers departures from Fremantle, Barrack Street Jetty (CBD). Prices depend on the departure location but will be approximately \$80 return for the day.

Once there you can take the bus or rent a bike. We recommend you to rent a bikewhen booking your ferry trip, as they offer packs (ferry + bike + snorkelling gear) for a better price.

The island is 22 kilometers with hills so be ready for some exercise! On the way, do not miss The Bassin, Little Armstrong Bay or Little Salmon Bay.

Bring with you plenty of water and some food as Thomson Bay (only place where you can buy food) prices are pretty high.

*NB : prices for the ferry are cheaper on Tuesdays (up to 50% off).*

### ROCKINGHAM

45 minutes south of Perth, Rockingham is well-known for its marine attractions, for example swimming with dolphins, or you can





see dolphins from a glass-bottomed boat (\$55/person approx).

## EAST OF PERTH

If you follow the Swan River, you will come across the picturesque region of Perth Hills only 45 minutes from the town centre. It is the ideal place to get back to nature within sight of the city, with lush green landscapes, paths and trekking tracks.

Less than an hour east of Perth, the Swan Valley and Avon Valley regions are the perfect destination for a foodie's weekend.

You can taste delicious local wines in the oldest wine area of Western Australia.

## THE SOUTH WEST

From Esperance up to south of Perth, this region basks in a Mediterranean climate, offering diverse landscapes from huge forests in the south to famous surf spots on Margaret River.

## Margaret River Region

The main attractions in the Margaret River region are the surf spots and the local world famous wines. The region is an ideal place to find work in grape picking or pruning, depending on the seasons, and to catch some of the coastline's famous waves.

The little town of **Margaret River** is often swamped with backpackers in the harvest season, and Settlers Tavern becomes the nocturnal meeting place (*114 Bussell Highway, [www.settlerstavern.com](http://www.settlerstavern.com)*).

The limestone caves have also helped make this wine region famous. Located 10km south of Margaret River, you can visit them accompanied by a guide **Mammoth, Lake and Jewel caves**

are the most famous (\$22/person).

All along the coast there are numerous places where you can watch marine wildlife.

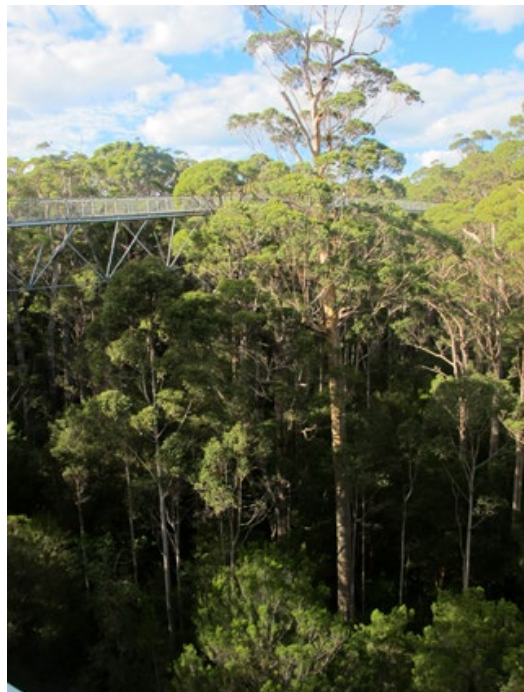
The **whale migration** is one of the key attractions in the bay. Every year, hundreds of humpback and southern right whales cross the icy waters of the Antarctic to warmer waters in the north. They are visible from June to September during their migration.

**Dolphins and sealions** also bathe in coastal waters throughout the year, and can be seen from the coast.

**Cape Leeuwin**, 10 km south of Augusta, is located at the most south-westerly point in Australia, where the Indian and Pacific Oceans meet. The famous lighthouse there 114 years old, and is the tallest in Australia. (*Entrance \$8, entrance and tour of lighthouse \$12/person – 8.45am to 5pm*)



*Tree Top Walk, The Valley of the Giants*





*Cosy Corner  
Camp area  
30km west of  
Albany*



*WHALES  
in Albany  
from July to  
October*



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Albany*

*Wharton  
Beach at  
Esperance*

## The forests of the south

The vast forests of Karris and Jarrahs stretch from Pemberton to Denmark, home to giant eucalyptus trees which can exceed 100 metres in height.

In **Warren National Park**, close to Pemberton, several lookouts were built in the giant karris canopies in the 1940s to detect and provide warning of forest fires.

The **GloucesterTree** is the tallest of them all, and you can reach its observation platform, 60 metres high, by climbing the stairway built around its trunk. The view is impressive! (\$12/vehicle).

**The Valley of the Giants**, located a few kilometres east of Denmark, offers visitors a route across suspended bridges in the forest, 40 metres high. A pedestrian track, **Ancient Empire**, enables you to see the giant trees keeping your feet firmly on the ground. (\$12/pers).

## Albany

408 kilometres south-west of Perth you will find the charming town of Albany. Although there are only 39,000 residents nowadays, Albany was the first colony in Western Australia in 1826. In a peaceful atmosphere, Albany offers a multitude of cultural activities and is buzzing with festivals all year round (for information see [www.amazingalbany.com](http://www.amazingalbany.com)).

You can watch whales migrating from July to October from the beach or on "Whale watching tour" (\$90/person).

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Albany has magnificent beaches, the most famous of which are Little beach (Two People Bay Nature Reserve), Nanarup for surfing and swimming, Frenchman's bay, or Gull rock for turquoise waters.

For a beautiful walk in the area, Natural Bridge, The Gap (in Torndirrup



National Park), or Blowholes, are recommended.

## Esperance

Located to the extreme east of the state, Esperance is a port which first became famous when gold deposits were discovered in Kalgoorlie in the 1890s.

The little seaside town is highly appreciated by the Western Australian population for the peaceful atmosphere and the luxuriant bay, well-known to backpackers for the beaches with ULTRA-WHITE sand!

You can sunbathe on the white sand of Twilight Beach or enjoy the hot waters of the lagoon at Ten Mile Beach.

## THE OUTBACK

The Golden Outback covers more than half of the state of Western Australia. The deserts stretch across from the border along with South Australia with many famous rock formations in the north.

The 19th century gold rush profoundly impacted this region's history. Thousands of people have travelled and lived here for centuries.

From the Aborigenes, to the prospectors, miners, or even the Afghan camel herders, they have all contributed to the region's history.

Over the last 150 years in particular, many have set out to make their fortune in the Outback. Some succeeded, and others were forced to abandon everything, leaving ghost towns behind them.

*Typical  
Outback  
landscape*







## Norseman

Norseman is the first mining city you meet after crossing the Nullarbor Plain.



*CAMELS  
Nullarbor Plain*

In 1894, a prospector was roaming the region looking for gold. When he took off his horse's shoe to take out a stone (his horse was called Norseman), he realised that the stone was in fact a gold nugget!!! He continued prospecting in the region until he discovered a gold deposit and the town was baptised Norseman in honour of his horse.

Now this small town with a population of 1,000 is the first or last trace of civilisation next to the endless desert plain of Nullarbor.

## Nullarbor Plain

Australia is a country filled with long roads crossing immense expanses. The 2,000km stretch separating Perth

and Adelaide cross the never-ending desert plain is called the Nullarbor. The name is from "nul arbre" in Latin, which simply means..... 'no trees'! Deprived of fresh water, this zone was a real challenge for the first explorers such as **Edward Eyre** who in 1841 was the first to cross the plain on foot to reach Adelaide after several months of hardship.

You do not meet many people on this incredible road, but the landscapes are breath taking!

All along Eyre Highway, named in honour of the explorer, deserts stretch away from the road as far as you can see, with abrupt cliffs, and 'oceans' of white sand.

A few animals which have been able to adapt to the extreme conditions in the region live peacefully on the plain. For example, you may bump into a camel at the side of the road, some of the only wild camels remaining in the world. You can also watch the

*Typical  
Nullarbor  
landscape*



humpback whale migration from July to September from the “**Head of Bight**” **observation platform**.

If you arrive from SA, remember to eat all your fruit and vegetables (even dried fruit/nuts/honey) before you arrive, as they could be confiscated when you cross the border with Western Australia.

With only a few roadhouses as oases in this long crossing, take plenty of water, and also a container of petrol to avoid breaking down in the middle of nowhere (and also save you some money given the price of petrol at the rare patrol stations!)

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Nullarbor Links** – the longest golf course in the world!

The 18 holes are stretched over 1,300km (par 72) with a hole in each town or partner roadhouse all along Eyre Highway (between Ceduna SA and Kalgoorlie WA).

Each hole has a teeing ground and a putting green, the rest is just bush in its natural state.

So bring your old clubs or hire them at the Visitor Centre in Ceduna, Kalgoorlie or Norseman. Coloured balls can also be very useful!

## Kalgoorlie

Further north, Kalgoorlie is the only mining town that remains fully active to this day, a distinctive place, anchored in the heart of the Golden Outback.

In 1893, an Irishman discovered a vein of gold 3km long. A pipeline was built to bring water from Perth so that the lode could be mined. This huge deposit, called the Golden Mile, is visible from space, and is still mined today producing thousands of kilos of gold each year. Every day trucks the size of a house transport tons of rocks in the hope of finding a few grams of gold. You can see the

deposit from the **KCGM Superpit Lookout**. Nowadays the town of Kalgoorlie Boulderest is dynamic and cosmopolitan.

A **tour of the mine** is a must-do when visiting the town. You can visit the mine site, or fly over it for a reasonable price (*budget \$100 for a flight*).

The **statue of Paddy Hannan**, the man who discovered the deposit, can be seen in the main square. Continuing north, next to Menzies, the salt **Lake Ballard** with strange statues and a ghost town, is a characteristic attraction of the region.

On a level with Carnarvon, but inland,

### THE MULKA LEGEND

*According to the Aboriginal legend, Mulka's Cave, 20km from Hyden, was home to a giant cannibal named Mulka, who devoured children for food. On the roof of the cave, you can still see the giant's hand prints.*

Wave Rock





*Sandy Cape  
Recreational  
Park*

*Camp area  
12km north of  
Jurien Bay  
- \$15 -*

***Did you  
know?***

*In the past,  
Dutch  
explorers  
thought  
these rock  
formations  
were the ruins  
of an ancient  
city!*

*The Pinnacles*

you can see the biggest monolith in the world at **Mount Augustus National Park**. Mount Augustus is 825 m high and covers a surface area of 47,95 km<sup>2</sup>.

## Wave Rock, Hyden

Further west, this strange rock formation is one of the main attractions in the south-west, with almost 100,000 visitors every year. Located in the tiny village of Hyden, 340km east of Perth, **Wave Rock** (*free entry*) is a wave of granite 15m high, in the shape of a wave about to break on the shore. Formed by time and the erosion which has eaten away at the base of the rock, it is 110m long, and according to research is estimated to be 2.7 million years old.

You can also visit **Hippos Yawn** from the site of Wave Rock. This is another rock formation that looks like the giant open mouth of a hippopotamus.

## CORAL COAST

From Cervantes to Exmouth the Coral Coast stretches for around 1,100km. Bathed in a Mediterranean climate in the southern part, and a sub-tropical climate in the north, the Coral Coast has pleasant temperatures all year round. White sand beaches run all along the coast, with a coral reef a few metres from the beach, and impressive gorges and canyons.

## Cervantes and the Pinnacles

This unmissable site marks the start of the Coral Coast (245km north of Perth). The small town of Cervantes is best known for the **Nambung National Park** home to the Pinnacles Desert.

This vast desert is filled with rock formations sculpted by nature. The limestone rocks, up to 5m high





Cliff Head  
North  
Camp area,  
90km south  
of Geraldton

and 2m wide are thought to have appeared around 30,000 years ago (\$12/vehicle).

Travelling north, **Jurien Bay** is an ideal stop to enjoy the coastline and maybe even meet a few otters!

## Geraldton

Approaching the town you will be surprised by trees bent down to the ground. This natural phenomenon is linked by the winds from the south, and the bowed trees have now become a symbol of the region.

With a population of 39,000 people, Geraldton is the administrative capital for this part of the coast. Located next to the ocean, the town offers a wide variety of nautical and cultural activities.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

20 minutes south of Geraldton, the **Central Greenough Historic**

**Settlement**, tells the story of the first pioneers arriving and settling in the 19th century (\$5/person, open from 9am to 4pm).

The **HMAS Sydney II Memorial** is a monument with a silver dome to commemorate the Australian sailors who died in the 2nd World War, offering beautiful views over the port (free guided tour daily at 10.30am).

The **Geraldton Regional Art Gallery** has an attractive permanent collection and sometimes has exhibitions (free – open from 10am to 4pm).

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### Geraldton Backpackers

From \$25 for a dormitory bed -  
Located behind the Visitor Centre

### Foreshore Backpackers

Dorm from \$25 - On Marine Terrace

Kalbarri  
National Park  
Gorges







## WHERE TO GO OUT?

**Freemasons Hotel**, 2 bars “the Irish Bar” and “Freo’s”, 2 restaurants and rooms for backpackers (\$40 per night). Junction of Durlacher Street and Marine Terrace

**Camel bar**, live groups and Dj 3 nights a week.

**Up Nightclub**

60 Fitzgerald Street

[www.upnightclub.com.au](http://www.upnightclub.com.au)

**Vibe Nightclub**

38-42 Fitzgerald Street

suitable for conventional vehicles with care).

The most famous viewpoint is “**The Loop**”, where the rock forms a natural window looking out over the landscape.

From **Red Bluff** cliff to 10 km south of the town, there are numerous viewpoints to view the majestic cliffs eaten away by the ocean. Plan at least a day to visit the park and the surrounding area. (\$12/vehicle)



**For more information go to:**

*Kalbarri Visitor Centre*

[www.kalbarri.org.au](http://www.kalbarri.org.au)

## Kalbarri National Park

Kalbarri is located 165 km north of Geraldton. The town has a superb white sand beach in its centre, but is best-known for the National Park.

Over millions of years the Murchison River has sculpted the land which is now **Kalbarri National Park**, forming impressive gorges, surrounded by beautiful landscapes stretching to the horizon. After 25km you will reach the viewpoints looking out over the gorges, (14km unsealed road –

*On the way to Shark Bay*







## Shark Bay

Shark Bay was discovered in 1699 by an English explorer, who named it for its significant shark population. Classed as UNESCO world heritage in 1991, the bay is now famous for dolphins at Monkey Mia. After leaving the North West Coastal Highway, a 130km road leads to Monkey Mia passing astonishing natural sites on the way.

## HAMELIN POOL

This is one of only two sites in the world where you can see marine stromatolites. These living fossils are the oldest organisms on the planet. Colonies made up of bacteria, stromatolites grow extremely slowly at a rate of only 0.3mm per year.

## SHELL BEACH

This incredible beach does not have any sand! Instead the beach is made of tiny shells all from the same marine species. Millions of these creatures have formed a layer of white shells 10m deep covering a distance of 120km.



## EAGLE BLUFF

This is a superb viewpoint at the top of a cliff, from which you can see many different marine animals, such as sharks, manta rays, dugongs and turtles!

## DENHAM

The small town of Denham is the commercial centre for Shark Bay, offering most of the accommodation and food facilities. You will also find here one of the only petrol stations in the Bay, and the Visitor Centre giving out valuable information about excursions and local free camping spots.

*Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery and Visitor Centre:*

*Tel : 08 9948 1590*

*[www.sharkbayvisit.com](http://www.sharkbayvisit.com)*

### Permit camping:

There are several authorized one night only free camping spots on or close to the beach lower down the peninsula (Eagle Bluff, Fowlers Camp, Whalebone, Goulet Bluff) for which you will need a permit costing \$10. (Call Denham Visitor Centre to pay by card over the phone to avoid



**MONKEY  
MIA**  
*Feed the  
dolphins!*

*Left:  
Shell Beach*

*Right:  
Denham*

*Left:  
Eagle Bluff*

*Right:  
Monkey Mia*



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Carnarvon



New Beach  
or Bush Bay,  
Camp spots  
42km south  
of Carnarvon

Banana  
Plantations at  
Carnarvon



driving up to Denham and then back down again to the sites. You will be given a code to display in your car windscreen in case a ranger comes by overnight.)

## LITTLE LAGOON

Around 5km from Denham, Little Lagoon is an ideal place for a lunch stop with BBQ facilities and a beautiful beach.

## FRANCOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK

Covering the northern part of the peninsula, this **sandy** park is only accessible by 4 wheel drive. You can see plenty of wildlife here, in particular from Cap Peron cliffs (\$11/vehicle).

## MONKEY MIA

World famous for dolphins, Monkey Mia reserve is one of the rare places where you can get very close to dolphins in their natural environment (\$15 per person / **WA National Park** Holiday Pass not valid).

Every morning from 8 o'clock staff invite visitors to take part in feeding these beautiful marine animals. The reserve also offers many other activities (camel rides, catamaran cruises....).

Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort is the only place where you can stay the night, offering villas with ocean views, or simpler backpacker dorms and a campsite.

*For a dorm bed budget \$30 per night, \$16 for a tent, and \$44 for a powered van site.*

## Carnarvon

Located a few kilometres from the tropic of Capricorn, this town enjoys a pleasant sub-tropical climate all year round (26° on average).

Carnarvon is also a real oasis, growing many different types of fruit and vegetables. Particularly well-known for banana plantations, the town is often a target for backpackers looking for work. If you want to find a job, start looking on Gascoyne River, where most of the plantations are. In peak season you will often see small signs at farm entrances saying "SORRY NO JOBS".

There is very little nightlife in the town with only one pub.

The nearest beach is **Pelican Point**, 5km from the town centre. If you want to enjoy the coastline, we recommend you take **Blowholes Road** which leads to some magnificent sites.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Culture Centre** displays the heritage of the 5 aboriginal ethnic groups from the region.

The **OTC Dish** is a huge satellite, dominating the town. It played an important role in the 60s and 70s, specifically in the Apollo moon mission.

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

**Carnarvon Hotel** in the town centre (*from \$25 per night*)

**Gascoyne Hotel** on Olivia Tce. (*not recommended*).

## Ningaloo Marine Park

**Ningaloo Reef** (known as the West Coast's Great Barrier Reef) is 260km long, and is famous for its corals in

particular (more than 220 species have been identified). Abundant marine life inhabits the waters throughout the year: dugongs, manta rays, turtles, whales, and a wide variety of colourful fish.

It is the only place in the world where whalesharks can be found at the same time each year, feeding on plankton and little fish, and in season (April to July) is the most reliable place in Australia to view or swim with these giant fish.

Coral Bay is the best place to see manta rays; Exmouth for whale sharks and dugongs. If you want to see the BIG 3 (whale sharks, manta rays and humpback whales) your best bet is Exmouth. Check the season for the wildlife you want to see.

## CORAL BAY

Moving northwards up the coast, around 230km from Carnarvon, the small seaside town of Coral Bay is

*Coral bay*





**EXMOUTH**  
*Swim with  
Manta Rays*

the first stop in this marine paradise. The town has a population of 200, 2 caravan parks, and a hotel for backpackers. Out of the small number of shops and businesses, most sell souvenirs or are tour operators. There is a small supermarket for emergencies, but we would recommend stocking up in a larger town on the way. There is a wide range of activities from kayaking to a day snorkelling on a Catamaran.

## **EXMOUTH**

Previously a naval base, Exmouth is now a town in the middle of a tourist boom.

Famous worldwide for its rich marine wildlife, Exmouth is located in the heart of Ningaloo Reef.

There is little of interest in the town centre but the surrounding beaches, stretching 80kms southwards, are remarkable.

There are many expensive camp sites in the town, which fill up in peak

season (arrive early in the morning for a site that night), *and some beautiful free camping sites in Cape Range National Park (see entry below for details).*

Between July and November you can watch the whale migrations from Exmouth.

There is a huge choice of marine excursions on offer to see the aquatic treasures of Ningaloo Reef.

Here are a few examples (approximate prices, per person)

### **SWIM WITH MANTA RAYS**

(July to October)

Day trip on board a Catamaran. Snorkelling with rays and observation of marine wildlife (humpback whales, dolphins, sea turtles, dugongs).

*Prices : approx \$150 / with a dive approx \$250.*

*Equipment and snacks included.*

### **SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS**

(April to July)

*Cape Range  
National Park*





*De Grey River  
Rest Area  
82km north of  
Port Hedland*

Day trip on a Catamaran to enjoy the unique experience of swimming next to one of these gentle giants, which can grow up to 12m long!

*Prices : from \$370 - Exmouth  
Includes equipment, lunch and  
snacks.*

## **WHALE WATCHING**

(August to November)

2h excursion to see humpback whales.

*Prices : \$80 (2h) / with snorkelling  
(1/2 day) : \$100*

## **CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK**

Situated in the north west part of the peninsula, this park is particularly rich in wildlife. Inland you can see deep canyons and red gorges criss-crossed with turquoise-water.

To the west you arrive at magnificent beaches along the coast, such as **Turquoise Bay** or **Mauritius Beach** (\$12/vehicle).

There are beautiful free-camping sites sprinkled along the coastline of the National Park, next to the beach (some with great snorkelling). Book in advance online for reservable spots, or queue up from 6am for a non-reservable site (\$8 per night).

## **THE NORTH WEST**

The Pilbara and Kimberley regions in this part of Western Australia combine to form grandiose, colourful and contrasting landscapes.

The climate becomes extreme up here, with temperatures that can vary between -5°C and 40°C in the same year. There are two main seasons: winter from May to October and summer from November to April. The region is also sometimes affected by tropical cyclones, usually between November and May, which can cause significant damage.

## **Mackerel islands and Dampier archipelago**

North of Exmouth is the Pilbara region. Formed around 2 billion years ago, the region has breath taking landscapes and has the state's main sources of wealth (iron, natural gas, salt and minerals).

Trains several kilometres long constantly ply the region transporting their precious minerals to Port Hedland.

## **ONSLOW AND THE MACKEREL ISLANDS**

A detour of around 70km from the West Coastal Highway will take you to the historic town of **Onslow**.

Here you can explore the ruins of the old city, abandoned at the start of the 20th Century.

From there, you can also investigate the **Mackerel Islands**, located 23km from the coast, well-known as a paradise for fishing, snorkelling or just relaxing on one of the many deserted beaches.

You can reserve your transport to the islands on [www.mackerelislands.com.au](http://www.mackerelislands.com.au)

## **DAMPIER AND THE ARCHIPELAGO**

The harbour town of Dampier developed in the 1960s, and is now best-known for its archipelago of 42 islands.

It is the ideal place to observe turtles nesting on the beaches (from September to April) and relax. You can find information about sea crossings at Karratha's Visitor Centre.





*Albert Togno-  
lini Rest Area  
17km south  
of Auski  
Roadhouse*

## KARRATHA

Meaning “good country”, this town also grew in the 1960s when Dampier could no longer house all the miners in the region.

With a population of around 16,000, Karratha is now the commercial centre of the Pilbaras.

## Karijini National Park

Pushing further inland you discover the jewel of the Pilbara: Karijini National Park. Covering a surface of 6,274 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the second largest park in WA, famous for the waterfalls, gorges, and gulfs, grouped in the north of the park.

Home to abundant wildlife, you might see kangaroos, echidnas, geckos, goannas, bats, snakes...

Entering the park by the east, you

*Karijini National  
Park*

soon reach **Dales Gorge**, the most accessible and most often visited site. A short descent on foot (800m) leads you to magnificent **Fortescue Falls** with a basin of turquoise water, **Fern Pool**. A 2km walk at the bottom of the gorges takes you to **Circular Pool**.

Arriving by the west, an unsealed road takes you to similarly remarkable sites, the most famous of which are **Hancock Gorge**, **Kalimina Gorge**, or **Joffre Lookout**.

From the car parks there are walks to explore the gorges – but be careful. Tourists have lost their lives here!

### WALKS

**Hancock Gorges** descending to Kermit pool. (1,5 km, 3 hours) with difficult passages.

**Joffre Gorge**: a short track joins the car park with a viewpoint overlooking the waterfalls and the pool at their base (100 m).





*BROOME  
Camel rides  
on Cable  
Beach*

**Gorge Weano:** A trail takes you to a steep descent down into Weano gorge and the pool (300m). Some difficult passages.

*Park entrance fee \$12/vehicle  
Camping From \$10/person*

*Remember to find out about the state of the unsealed road at the Visitor Centre.*

## Port Hedland

200km north of Karratha, the town of Port Hedland has not got much to offer to tourists.

It is one of the most active **industrial ports** in the world, built on an island linked to the continent. Every day enormous cargo ships of over 300m wait to be loaded with iron ore.

Now you moving closer to the tropical north there is always the risk of salt water crocodiles in sea water,



so one of the only beaches where you can swim here is **Pretty Pool** situated a few kilometres from the town. However, even here the crocs sometimes get in, and swimming may be forbidden – check for warning signs!

Backpackers often sleep in the car park of Community Park. Free camping is not authorised but is visibly tolerated.

## Broome

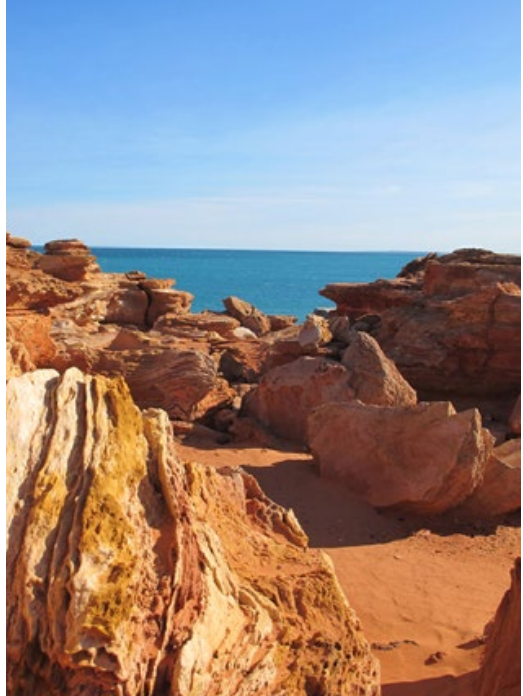
The southern port of the Kimberley region, the charismatic town of Broome deserves a few days of your time.

This small city (population 14,000) is where red rock desert meets the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean.

Broome was built in 1880 as a pearling port. After the Second World

*Left: Port  
Hedland*

*Right:  
Gantheaume  
Point in  
Broome*





War, the mother-of-pearl industry diminished as plastics were invented. However, Broome has succeeded in keeping some of its pearl production and offers tours to visit pearl farms in the area.

In the 60s, the town started to attract tourists and so has been able to develop into a peaceful, charming, seaside town. Cable Beach, the main beach, is often animated and at sundown you can watch the camel caravans crossing.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Chinatown** is the historic part of town, and also the town centre, with shops mixing Western and Asian atmospheres.

**Cable beach** is the town's main meeting place, and with 22km of white sand, it is often considered one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

*Cable Beach*

At **Gantheaume Point**, at low tide you can see dinosaur footprints from 120 million years ago.

Each year, from March to October, you can see the natural phenomenon of the "Staircase to the moon". The rising full moon is reflected by the ocean creating the optical illusion of a stairway leading to the moon. Ask at the Visitor centre for dates and times.

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

There are several hotels in the town where the price per night starts at \$25.

### **Beaches of Broome**

**4 Sanctuary road, Cable Beach**

### **Broome's Last Resort**

*Bagot street,*

### **Kimberley Klub**

*62 Frederick St*





## WHERE TO GO OUT?

The Oasis in Chinatown

**The Sun Pictures Cinema**, the oldest outdoor cinema in Australia, opened in 1916.

*Carnarvon Street, in Chinatown*

*(\$17/person - cheaper on Tuesdays)*

## The Gibb River Road in the heart of the Kimberleys

If you have ever wanted to venture into one of the most isolated and inhospitable places in Australia, the Gibb River Road expedition is exactly what you are looking for.... as long as you have a very well-equipped 4 wheel drive. It is the wildest and least accessible area of the country. The road was originally created to transport herds of cattle from the Kimberleys to the ports of Derby and Wyndham, and now this route provides a unique outback experience. The track winds through gorges, rivers and waterfalls in sometimes extreme conditions.

To give you an idea, here are some figures for the Kimberleys and Gibb River :

- Network coverage: 0
- Population density : 0.1 inhabitants per square kilometre
- Only 2 or 3 places to buy provisions
- Almost 20 river or creek crossings along the road, before counting access to gorges.
- The main section of the route is 659 km long
- 1000 km including tracks to each gorge, 1500km if you are going to do the detour to Kalumburu and Mitchell Falls.

In summary, the Gibb River Road is 659km of unsealed road taking you from Derby to Kununurra, via magnificent gorges. The best known

gorges are located between 120 and 220km east of Derby (**Lennard, Windjana, Bell Gorge**) and around 40km from the end (**El Questro**). A detour via **Drysdale National Park** and **Mitchell Falls** is essential if you really want to make the most of the region. Take Kalunmburu Road, 416km east of Derby (at the level of the Gibb River) and continue for 216km. You can do speleology (pot holing) in Tunnel Creek to access a pool literally 500 metres 'under the mountain', a really worthwhile detour!

Plan at least 4 days if you want to truly appreciate the trip, although you will need at least 10 days to enjoy the magnificent sights along the way, which you often need to leave the road for, and are not easy to get to.

Even more than usual, for this route a 4WD is essential – impossible to drive this track in a conventional vehicle.

If you plan to do this independently



*Mary Pool  
Rest Area  
108km west  
of Halls  
Creek*

*Boab Tree  
Prison in  
Derby*







in your own vehicle, it is strongly recommended to link up with other travellers planning the same trip, in case you have problems in this isolated region. You should also inform local authorities of your trip.

Facilities in this region are extremely limited so it is mandatory to bring your own supplies of water, food and petrol. There is the occasional petrol station to fill up (Mount Barnett and El Questro).

For more information, check out this website focusing on the Kimberleys region: [www.kimberleyaustralia.com](http://www.kimberleyaustralia.com)

## The Great Northern Highway

### FROM DERBY TO FITZROY CROSSING

The town of **Derby**, north of Broome, is well-known for its baobab trees. The most famous of them is the

*Bell Gorge*



**Boab Prison Tree** which was used as a prison at the end of the 19th century.

**East of Derby**, the town of Fitzroy Crossing is a frontier-style Aboriginal town, where you can fill up with petrol (watch out for petty crime). If you are feeling adventurous, stop off for a drink at the raucous Crossing Inn, the oldest established hotel in the Kimberley region, its bar packed with tipsy locals!

The town is also the access point for **Geikie Gorge**, 20km north. Holloed out by Fitzroy River, this gorge was once part of a great barrier reef, 350 million years ago (4 wheel drive recommended – call Fitzroy Crossing visitor centre for the state of the road).

Between April and October you can take a boat cruise down the river to get closer to the gorge faces, and to the crocodiles that live there (*approx \$30/person*).

### FROM FITZROY CROSSING TO KUNUNURRA

The town of **Halls Creek** is the main starting point for visiting the region. 6km north of the town, there is a white quartz rock formation 6 metres tall, called “China Wall”.

146 km south of Halls Creek, **Wolfe Creek Crater** is a meteorite crater recorded as the second biggest in the world, measuring 850 metres in diameter and 50 metres deep.

This is where the horror film **WOLFE CREEK** was filmed. Don’t watch it **before** you go there!!

### WYNDHAM

Located at the confluence of 5 rivers, Wyndham is the oldest town in Western Australia (1885). The main places of interest are near the town: **Five Rivers Lookout** on Mount Bastion, a **crocodile farm** (\$17/person) and 15km away the **Parry**





FRUIT  
PICKING  
Kununurra

**Lagoons Nature Reserve** (a marshy plain).

**The Grotto**, only 2km from the Northern Highway, is a waterhole in the middle of a natural amphitheatre. Accessible via 140 steps it is a chance to bath amidst goannas.

## BUNGLE BUNGLE RANGE

Until this amazing rock formation was shown on TV in 1983, only the Aborigines and a few livestock farmers knew of its existence.

It is a national park, jointly managed by the department of conservation and land management, and by representatives of the two Aboriginal language clan groups who have traditional connections with the park, the Djuru and the Kija people. The aboriginal groups prefer the name Purnululu (*the Kija word for sandstone*).

These unusual formations reach as far as 400 metres high. The park is only accessible by 4 wheel drive, via a rough unsealed track crossing 5 streams.

Once you have arrived, you can go on beautiful short walks to see rock formations, viewpoints, Aboriginal paintings and ancient burial grounds. (\$12/vehicle - from April to November) *Bush camping is available at Walardi and Kurrajong. (\$10/vehicle - open from April to November.)*

*If you are in a conventional vehicle but would still like to go (highly recommended!) there is a commercial campsite that runs daytrips in with a 4-wheel drive bus. Contact Halls Creek Visitor Centre for details.*

## KUNUNURRA

Meaning “meeting of waters” in the local Aboriginal language, this small town with a population of 7,000 was founded in the 1960s as the base for an irrigation programme to increase farmable land for the east Kimberley region. A dam was built on the river

Ord, creating Lake Argyle, currently the largest reservoir in the entire country.

**Celebrity Tree Park** showcases different species of trees, planted by celebrities.

A few metres from the park, **Lily Creek Lagoon** is a good place to watch freshwater crocodiles.

**Lake Kununurra** has a Swim Beach where you can take a refreshing dip in the cool water, but make sure you check the signs as there can still be crocodiles.

**Kelly's Knob Lookout** is a great lookout to watch the sunset over the red mountains lining the plain.

**Lake Argyle**, created in the 60s, is now the biggest freshwater reservoir in the country. You can watch crocodiles from the picnic area, and locals say swimming with care is ok (freshwater crocs eat insects and small fish and will only injure humans if they feel threatened). Avoid secluded bays with gravel/sandy banks or weeds where crocs might be resting or basking in the sun. Lake Argyle Resort and Caravan Park also acts as an informal Visitor Centre and can provide a paper map with short walks and a swimming spot.

## MIRIMA NATIONAL PARK

A few minutes from town, Mirima National Park covers a small area, and has sedimentary formations which look like a mini Bungle Bungles. There are walks available. (Entrance fee \$12/vehicle)





Wharf Precinct, Darwin, NT









Litchfield National Park, NT





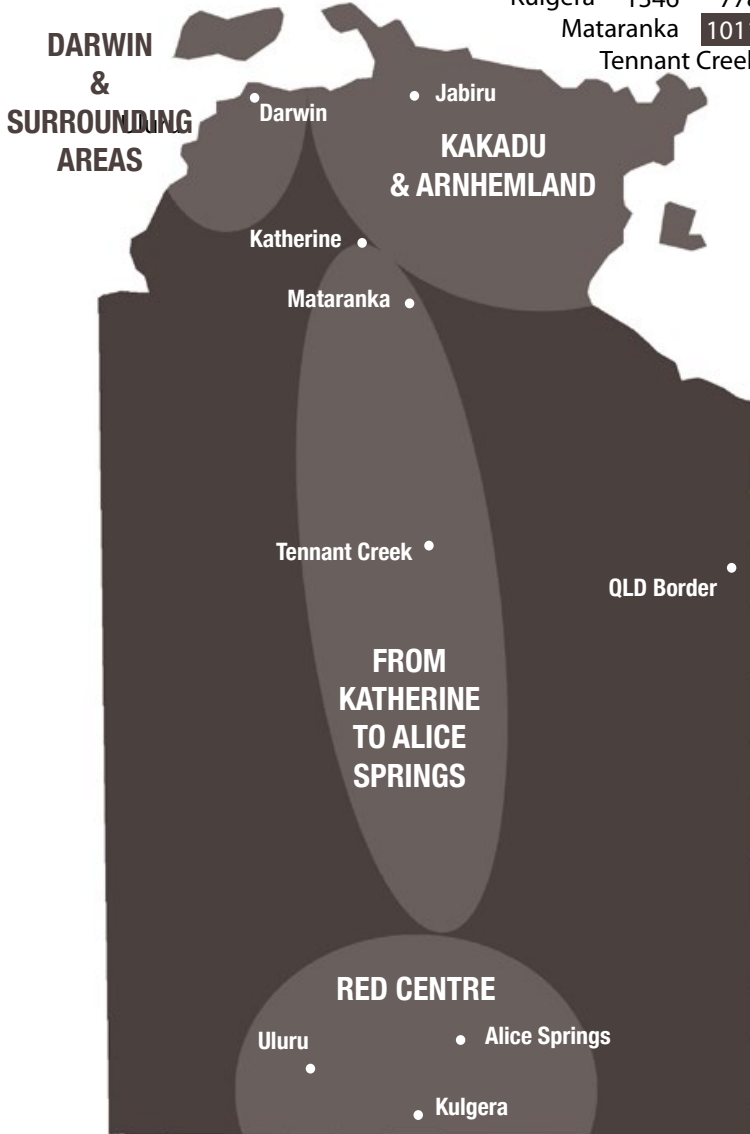


Uluru, NT

## DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN :

*Distances in km using major roads*

Alice S.	1499	977	1473	1178	273	1073	505	443
Darwin	1418	254	321	1772	426	994	988	
QLD Border	1392	1097	1250	992	472	1420		
Jabiru	295	1746	400	968	1916			
Katherine	1451	105	673	1621				
Kulgera	1346	778	318					
Mataranka	1011	1516						
Tennant Creek	948							



# NORTHERN TERRITORY

When you cross over into the Northern Territory, you have an inexplicable feeling that everything will be different. The spirituality of these lands, and the strange landscapes give you the impression that this will be a unique experience.

With only 247,000 people in an area over five times the size of the UK, the Northern Territory is a vast space. Most of the population is grouped around the main towns, Darwin and Alice Springs. The Aborigines make up one quarter of the population in this state. Since the 1960s, campaigns demanding the return of their lands has improved their situation to a certain extent.

There are tropical forests in the north, and red deserts in the centre. This state of contrasts is packed with natural resources.

The most mythical sites in Australia are on offer here, such as Ayers Rock or Kakadu National Park, passing on the riches of Aboriginal culture and history. The Northern Territory has 27 national parks and 73 natural reserves.

The northern part of the territory (Top End), home to the cosmopolitan city of Darwin, has 2 main seasons: the dry seasons from April to September,

and the rainy season from October to March with cyclones and storms crossing the zone. The Aborigines recognize 6 seasons following the natural cycles of plants, animals *and the weather*.

The centre's (Red Centre) main town is Alice Springs, which has the widest range of temperatures in the state, sometimes ranging from frost at night, to more than 40°C during the day.

The Northern Territory is also the most dangerous state. Most of the rivers are infested with crocodiles (freshwater crocs and salties), impressive and dangerous reptiles, the *salties* can grow up to 7 metres long. The northern beaches are also infested between the months of October to May by the Box Jellyfish, which has a lethal sting.

**Useful tip** : *If you are stung, vinegar neutralises the tentacles which remain stuck to you, and boxes containing this precious liquid are usually available along the beach.*

The Northern Territory's main road is Stuart Highway, which crosses Australia from north to south. Before this road was built, the territory was isolated from the rest of the



*Estuary crocodiles are protected in the Northern Territory. These creatures are very territorial and have attacked and killed people, so be very careful and obey the warning signs!*

## AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES (C°) :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alice Springs	36	35	33	28	23	20	20	23	27	31	33	36
Darwin	32	33	33	32	31	28	28	29	30	31	31	30
Katherine	35	35	34	34	32	30	30	31	36	37	37	36
Tennant Creek	37	36	35	31	28	25	25	28	30	34	37	37





CROCS

*Australian population.* Now the main tourist sites are accessible by sealed roads, although you still need a 4 wheel drive to visit certain more isolated areas.



BUFFALOS

The best season to visit this part of Australia is May to August, when the temperatures are most pleasant. However, even the rainy season can be a fascinating experience: few tourists during this time, and incredible electric storms to be witnessed.



BATS

**Warning :** *When you stop by the side of the road to sleep, try to avoid being completely isolated, and opt for a camp spot where there are other campers if possible. Even though the risk is low, theft or attacks have been known to happen in this isolated region.*

## DON'T MISS!

Rock paintings at **Kakadu National Park**

**Darwin's market**

Waterfalls and swimming holes in **Litchfield National Park**

Red gorges at **Nitmiluk National Park**

**Kings Canyon**, the Australian "Grand Canyon"

The famous red rock at **Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park**

# PRACTICAL TIPS

## NATIONAL PARKS

Most parks are managed by the Aborigines in partnership with the government. There is no annual pass for all the parks in the state.

## ABORIGINAL LANDS

You need a permit to visit Aboriginal lands, from the Central Land Council (Central Australia) [www.clc.org.au](http://www.clc.org.au) or the Northern Land Council (Northern Australia) [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

## INTERNET ACCESS

Free access from Darwin and *Alice Springs* library. McDonalds, coffee shops.

## WILDLIFE

### Where to see crocodiles?

Kakadu National Park  
Adelaide River

### Where to see rock wallabies ?

Litchfield National Park

### Where to see red bats ?

Mataranka





# DARWIN & SURROUNDING AREAS

## Darwin, capital of the north

Located at the extreme end of a peninsula, and bordering Timor Sea, the Northern Territory's capital is the most tropical of all!

In 1869 the decision was made to establish a "white state", and finally (after 3 attempts at colonization) it worked. Initially called Palmerston, then Port Darwin, the town was renamed Darwin in 1911.

During the Second World War, Darwin was in the line of fire from Japanese attacks. However, despite being bombed 64 times, the town was still not destroyed. But cyclone Tracy

*National newspaper from 26th December 1974. Evacuation due to cyclone Tracy*



had more physical impact on the town, striking on Christmas Eve 1974 around midnight. The result: 71 dead and only 400 houses left standing out of 11,200. Rebuilt in the 90s, Darwin enjoyed an economic boom thanks to the mining industry and tourism.

Nowadays, with its young, relaxed atmosphere, this cosmopolitan town gathers together more than 50 different nationalities, many from Asia.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

The **Esplanade**, very close to the town centre, is a park shaded by tropical trees: a nice place for a short stroll in the shade.

### WHARF PRECINCT

Recently renovated, this part of the port has a small beach amidst the tower blocks, and a big pool with a wave machine. Avoid peak periods! *\$18 per day*

### DECKCHAIR CINEMA

This charming cinema at Darwin port shows all kinds of films: new releases, Australian films, foreign films, or short films.

*\$16/person – open throughout the dry season.*

### THE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

Located in the north of the town, this museum has Aboriginal paintings and sculptures. An interactive gallery is dedicated to cyclone Tracy so you can « experience » this catastrophe.

There is also a large collection of stuffed animals on show, including the famous crocodile "Sweet Heart", who used to scare fishermen, and was accidentally killed in 1979 when there was an attempt to transfer her elsewhere.

*Free - from 9am to 5pm.*

### FANNIE BAY GOAL MUSEUM

Just next door to the NT Museum, you can visit Darwin's old gaol (from 1883 to 1979). Here men, women and children were imprisoned, or even handed!

*Free - from 10am to 4.30pm*





FRUIT  
PICKING  
Darwin

### Mindil Beach Market

Every Thursday and Sunday evening in the dry season the Asian market takes place on Mindil Beach. There are numerous stands selling international food....

### CROCOSAURUS COVE

If you've never seen a live crocodile, or would like to see them close-up, then this is the place for you!

Enormous live crocodiles are on show, and you can even take a swim in "The Cage of Death", and go underwater with a 600kg specimen (\$165/person or \$125/person for a cage with 2 people - Entrance fee \$35 - from 8am to 8pm).

### GEORGE BROWN BOTANIC GARDEN

This park with 42 hectares gives you the opportunity to admire vegetation from the Top End and some other parts of the world, while at the same time finding out about how these plants are used by the Aborigenes. An ideal place to unwind in the shade.

(Free - from 7am to 7pm)

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

### Deckbar

Happy hours every Friday from 5pm (50% off drinks). 22 Mitchell St.

### Moonsons

Delicious cocktails, a bar 20m long, and live music. 46 Mitchell St.

### Sandbar

The new trendy place with a view over the ocean. DJ every weekend. Skycity, Girluth avenue, The gardens.

### WHERE TO PARK ?

In the main roads around the CBD.

### STATE LIBRARY OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mitchell St. Open from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 1pm-5pm on weekends.

### GENERAL POST OFFICE

Cavenagh St. Open 9am-5pm during the week, and 9am-12.30 on Saturday.

### VISITOR CENTRE

6 Bennet St. Open every day from 8.30am.

DARWIN  
TIPS



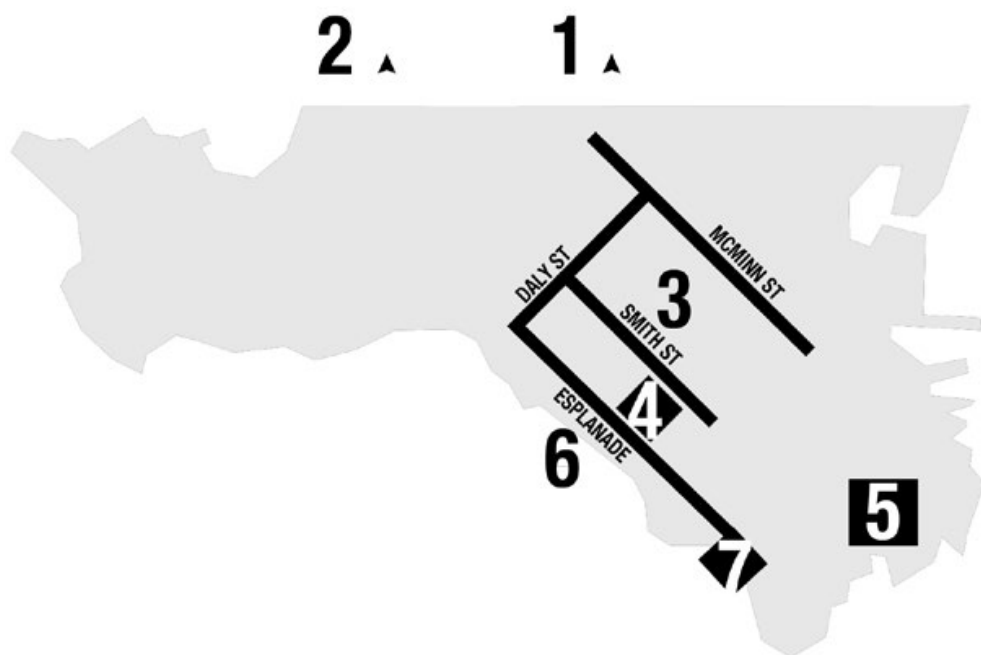
Darwin, Wharf Precinct



# One<sub>day</sub>

## in Darwin

1. Discover the tropical flora in the Botanical Gardens
2. Visit the Northern Territory museum
3. Window shop on Smith Street
4. Annoy a crocodile at Crocosaurus Cove
5. Surf at the wave pool
6. Stroll down the Esplanade
7. Finish your day in style with open-air cinema





**ADELAIDE  
RIVER**  
*Jumping  
Crocodile  
Cruises*

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### BACKPACKERS HOSTELS

Compare and reserve your backpacker hostel, [CLICK HERE](#)

#### **Dingo Moon Lodge**

88 Mitchell St

#### **Frogs Hollow**

27 Lindsay St

#### **Darwin YHA**

97 Mitchell St

### CLOSEST FREE CAMPING SPOT

**Beatrice Hill Rest Area**, 60km away

### CLOSEST CARAVAN PARK

10 km away, on Stuart Highway, take line 8 for the town centre. (\$40 *unpowered site* - \$49 *powered site*)

## GETTING AROUND

### **Darwinbus**

\$3 for a ticket that you can use as many times as you like for 3 hours. Purchase tickets directly in the bus.

Remember that in the town centre outward and return bus stops are not necessarily opposite each other, or even in the same street!

## Areas surrounding Darwin

### ADELAIDE RIVER

There are numerous tourist attractions in the areas around Darwin, in particular on Adelaide River. Located only 64 km from the capital, this river is where you can take the famous jumping crocodile cruises.

Attracted by lumps of meat, estuary crocodiles display their impressive propulsive capacities, demonstrating stylish gymnastic moves (*around \$45/person for a 1 hour cruise*).

## LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

This magnificent national park, 130km south of Darwin, is loved by locals for its many natural swimming holes. 1,500km<sup>2</sup>, tourist sites are accessible via sealed roads.

**Batchelor** marks the southern entrance to the park. This small town with a population of 1,000 started growing after 1949, when uranium was discovered in the area.

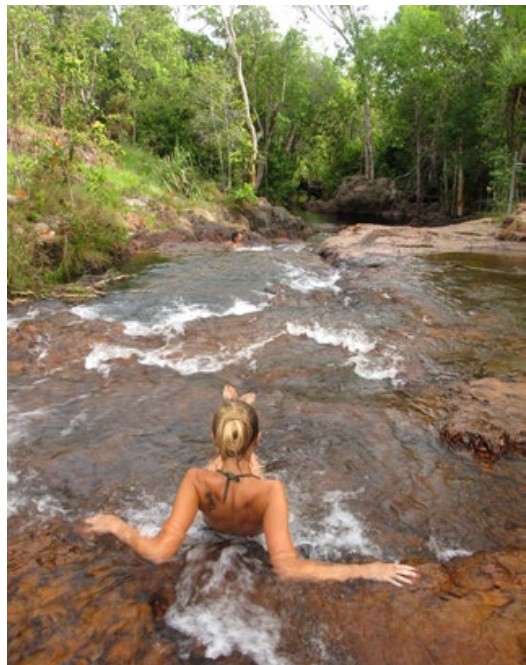
### MAGNETIC TERMITE MOUNDS

At the park entrance hundreds of 2-metre tall termite mounds stretch towards the sky, all oriented north-south to avoid maximum exposure to the sun and to maintain a balanced temperature inside.

### BULEY ROCKHOLE

A series of pools in a large river offers safe bathing in crystal clear waters.

*Buley  
Rockhole,  
Litchfield  
National Park*





### FLORENCE FALLS

Surrounded by tropical forest, this impressive double waterfall feeds a swimming hole where you can cool off while watching the resident fish. Accessible via 2 paths, we recommend the short walk in the forest to see the wildlife close up.

### TOLMER FALLS LOOKOUT

From the viewpoint, you can watch

the waterfall crashing into the natural pool below. Bats live in the waterhole, so in order to protect their habitat there is no access for humans.

### WANGI FALLS

Top attraction in the park, these 2 waterfalls flow all year round into an immense basin. Very well designed, this site offers bathing and BBQs in the shade of the trees. Swimming can be dangerous in the wet season.

## LITCHFIELD PRACTICAL TIPS

#### PARK ENTRANCE

Free

#### CAMP SPOTS

At Florence Falls, Buley Rockhole and Wangi Falls (\$3.30/person)

#### SERVICE STATION AND SUPERMARKET

at Batchelor.

#### FOR MORE WILDLIFE AND FEWER TOURISTS

Get up early!

## TIWI ISLANDS

These 2 large islands are located 80km north of Darwin and are inhabited by the Tiwi tribe. The Tiwi people have been able to conserve their culture and their own characteristics thanks to their isolation.

You can see the famous sculpted and painted funeral posts.

Access is by plane or ferry and requires a permit.



Wangi Falls,  
Litchfield National Park



**KAKADU  
NATIONAL  
PARK**  
*Careful!  
There are  
crocodiles  
everywhere!*

# KAKADU & ARNHEMLAND

## Kakadu National Park

Kakadu is the largest national park in Australia (20,000km<sup>2</sup>). Classed as UNESCO World Heritage, the park is recognized for its natural and cultural heritage, and is jointly managed by the Australian government and its ancestral owners, the Bininj in the north and the Munggy in the south.

A sandstone cliff, 200m high, separates Kakadu Park from Arnhemland to the east. The remarkable scenery is an ever-changing tapestry through the seasons: arid and dusty during the dry season, and drowned in torrents during the wet season. The waters flow down from the high plateaus,

transforming the north of the park into an immense green swamp. The wildlife is exceptional, including certain species of birds, frogs or serpents that exist nowhere else, and of course the famous, but dangerous, estuary crocodiles.

There are numerous sites all along the road which crosses the park for you to stop and discover the region's riches. For example, the park has one of the biggest rock art collections in the world. These rock paintings, over 20,000 years old, tell us about the age where giant kangaroos and Tasmanian devils roamed the Australian plains. The park is bursting with fascinating frescos (around 5 000) of which only the Ubirr and Nourganlie galleries are open to the public.

### SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Arriving from the south, you will cross a small town called Pine Creek where

*Yellow Waters  
Kakadu  
National Park*







there is nothing of real interest. At Mary River roadhouse you can buy your Pass to visit the park.

Further on, an unsealed road takes you to the site of Gunlom (Creek Waterfall). *(The 37km road is sometimes in poor repair – check up on this at the Visitor Centre).*



The waterfall feeds a clear water pool where you can swim. There is a walk to view the waterfall from above, accessible from the carpark (1km walk). By the way, this site was used in the filming of Crocodile Dundee!

#### YELLOW WATERS

Riddled with billabongs (permanent waterholes which remain throughout the dry season), this region is famous for boat cruises on Alligator river (around \$70/person for a 2 hour cruise). You can take a short stroll along the river banks to observe the flora and fauna (more wildlife visible in the morning).

#### WARRANDJAN ABORIGINAL CENTRE

Retrace the cultural origins of Kakadu with the aborigines. This centre includes a permanent exhibition of objects and sample rock paintings (free entry from 9am to 5pm).

#### JIM JIM FALLS AND TWIN FALLS

Accessible by 4-wheel drive only, these waterfalls are the most famous in the park. Even though they are less impressive in the dry season, it is still pleasant to take a dip in the Jim Jam Falls water hole (watch out for crocs!)

#### NOURLANGIE

19km south of the Bowali Centre, a short walk (1.5km) leads to an impressive gallery of rock paintings. Used as shelters for thousands of years, the walls of these caves tell stories of the people's beliefs and their relationship with their environment.



#### MIRRAI LOOKOUT

A 1km climb takes you to mount Cahill offering a view over Kakadu.

**KAKADU PRACTICAL TIPS**

**Park entrance:**  
\$25/person - Pass valid for 14 days.

**Camp spots**  
Accessible throughout the park. Between \$5 and \$10/person per night depending on the sites.

**Walks**  
A wide range of walks are available to explore the park. We recommend you do them early in the morning to see wildlife.  
Free talks are on offer from the park rangers in the dry season.

## UBIRR

The aborigines living in Ubirr for thousands of years left behind them a gallery of magnificent rock paintings from different periods with different styles, including the famous « Xray » paintings resembling an Xray image of animal skeletons.

Leave around 1 hour for the 1km walk that guides you round the gallery and viewpoint (*open from 8.30am til sunset*).

## JABIRU

Main town of Kakadu, Jabiru centralizes all the services in the park (service station, mechanics, supermarket etc...). There is also a very nice town swimming pool (\$5/person).

## Arnhemland

Occupying all the northern part of Top End, Arnhemland is one of the last wild, untouched, areas of Australia.

A permit is needed to access this region, which is still home to aboriginal tribes, who combine their ancestral culture as nomad hunters, with elements of modern lifestyles.

The Cobourg and Gove peninsulas are the most accessible parts, as long as you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

### Useful tip:

A permit is required to access the region.

You can purchase a permit from the Northern Land Council Office – situated on Endeavour Square at Nhulunbuy [www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

Only a few tour operators offer excursions from \$250/person:

**Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris**

[www.arnhemland-safaris.com](http://www.arnhemland-safaris.com)

**Arnhemlander**

[www.arnhemland-safaris.com.au](http://www.arnhemland-safaris.com.au)

**Lord's Kakadu & Arnhemland safaris**

[www.lords-safaris.com](http://www.lords-safaris.com)

# FROM KATHERINE TO ALICE SPRINGS

## Katherine

The 3rd largest town in the Northern Territory has a population of around 11 000. Devastated in the wet season in 1998, Katherine is now mainly visited by tourists on their way to the Top End.

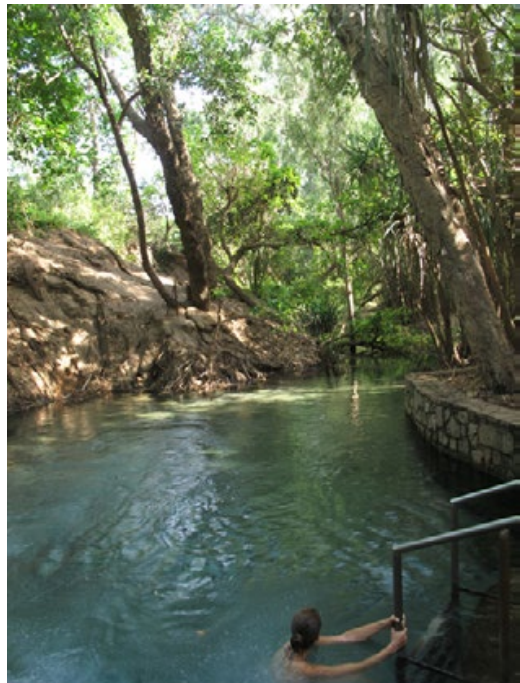
You can take advantage of the **Hot Springs** situated less than 2km from the town. These warm springs (32°C all year round) have minimum facilities so you can bath comfortably.

This town has a high aboriginal population, and when you see individuals and small groups sitting in the shade of trees or wandering around shopping centres, you can understand the extent to which their lives in modern Australian society are still difficult.



*KATHERINE  
Fruit Picking*

*Hot Springs  
Katherine*





## NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

Only 29km from the town, 13 natural gorges were carved out by Katherine river. Surrounded by sandstone cliffs up to 200m high, it is well worth viewing the gorges on a boat cruise (*from \$60/person*), or independently by hiring a kayak canoe (arrive early to be sure to get one).

There is a lookout to admire the gorges from the clifftops.

60km from Katherine, **Leliyn (Edith Falls)** is a magnificent waterfall where you can swim safely. A 2.6km walk takes you to a viewpoint overlooking the valley and the **Upper Pools** (less touristy). Ideal to cool off at midday! *Free park entry.*

## Victoria Highway

Leading to WA, this route winds its way across 513km.

*Edith Falls,  
Nitmiluk  
National Park*

## TIMBER CREEK

This is the only small town between Katherine and Kunnunurra. It is the starting point for cruises on **Victoria River**, where you can admire the wildlife and a beautiful sunset on the river (*\$85/person*).

## GREGORY NATIONAL PARK

A few kilometres away, this park is named after the expedition leader AC Gregory in 1855-56. Following a short (3km) path, you will reach the Baobab (**Gregory's Tree**) where the explorer inscribed the dates of his expedition in the heart of the Northern Territory. Accessible by 4-wheel drive only, the rest of the park offers superb gorges like **Limestone Gorge** where swimming is allowed.



# Stuart Highway

## MATARANKA

105 km south of Katherine, you will reach the oasis Mataranka. With a population of 250 people, the capital of “Never Never” is now mainly known for its hot springs.

The region was made famous by Jeannie Gunn’s autobiographical novel in 1908, “We of the Never Never” where she recounts her daily life at Eleyse Station.

In the heart of Eleyse National Park, **Thermal Pool** is the top local site. In the middle of tropical decor underneath the soaring bats, you can enjoy a 34°C dip in the crystal clear waters all year round.

A not particularly interesting 1.2km walk leads to the much less touristy **Stevie’s Hole**. The water is not as clear, and a sign warning of crocodiles discourages many!

**Bitter Springs** a few kilometres further north, is a quieter hot spring, with fewer tourists due to the muddy floor which makes the experience less pleasant. A short walk around the site is still enjoyable (watching out for mosquitoes all the same!)  
(Free, open every day)

## DALY WATERS

This village with fewer than 30 inhabitants was named ‘Daly Waters’ by the famous explorer Stuart, referring to a spring which had been discovered there, and in honour of the Prime Minister. An **aerodrome** was built in 1930 which was used for many years as a refuelling station for tourist planes and bombers during the second world war. The main hangar of the aerodrome still exists and is open for the public to visit.

Nowadays, it’s tourists who stop by to refill at the **Daly Waters Pub**. Opened in 1933, this strange pub is full of surprises! Recognized as the oldest pub in the

Northern Territory, the unique decor will provide ample entertainment to accompany your drink.

## Tennant Creek

With a population of around 3,000, Tennant Creek is the only large town between Katherine and Alice Springs. Known as « Heart of Gold », this was one of the last gold field towns discovered in 1930. Nowadays the town is less inviting, with grills fitted to their shop windows, but it can still be a useful pit stop as you pass through. You can visit the **gold mines** (1.5km from the town) at the Battery Hill Mining Centre. (\$30/person)

The fascinating **Nyinkka Nyunyo Cultural Centre** presents the culture and art of the Watumungu people through permanent exhibitions, including the famous « bush TVs » and a themed garden (\$15/person - from 8am to 5pm).



BATS  
at Eleyse  
National Park

Thermal Pool  
Eleyse  
National Park







*Devils  
Marbles  
Campground  
3.30\$/person*

## From Tennant Creek to Alice Springs

### DEVIL'S MARBLES

105km south, these massive balls of granite seem to have been placed intentionally in the middle of the plain. Known as « Karlu Karlu » by the aborigines, this sacred site is associated with the many stories and traditions of Watumungu people. These rock formations, sculpted by time, were once all part of the same rock! (*Free entry*)

### WYCLIFFE WELL

This Roadhouse is actually more than a simple Roadhouse... Famous for the appearance of UFOs, this service station (which is also a caravan park) is decorated with press cuttings, models of aliens and flying saucers!

*Devil's  
Marbles*

## THE RED CENTER

### Alice Springs

The Great Lady of the Red Centre, framed by the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is now a modern town with a population of only 28,600.

The story started more than a century ago when a telegraph station was built in the middle of the desert to link Adelaide with Darwin, and thereby Australia with the rest of the world. The site was chosen because of a permanent water hole in the Todd River.

In 1871 the station was built, and named Alice in honour of the telegraph station administrator's wife. In 1929, The Ghan, railway line, (so called in memory of the Afghan cameleers), finally starting stopping in Alice, bringing modernity to the town. However, the town really only took off





Neil Hargrave  
Lookout,  
West  
MacDonnell  
Ranges

from the 1940s. The Second World War accelerated the construction of a road between Adelaide and Darwin, which ended the town's isolation.

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ANZAC HILL

Offers a great view over the town, and over the MacDonnell Ranges in the surrounding area.

The town's **market** has local produce, jewellery, clothes, Aboriginal art, in a relaxed atmosphere (*every 2nd Sunday in the month, from 9am to 1pm*).

### ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

*(\$17/person - from 9am to 4pm)*

Opened in 1939, this service was a true Outback legend, and is still functioning to this day. Follow the daily work of these doctors working in the heart of Australia's most isolated regions.

### ALICE SPRINGS REPTILE CENTRE

*(\$18/person - from 9.30am - 5pm)*

From lizards to pythons, this park has a wide variety of reptiles, not forgetting Terry the crocodile.

### OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN

*(Free - from 8am to 6pm)*

A concentration of the region's flora, including Aboriginal medicine plants. If you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle, you can explore the **Simpson Desert** starting from Alice Springs with a choice of 5 tracks: Old Ghan Heritage Trail, Old Andao Track, Chambers Pillar Track, Rainbow Valley Track and Bookie Track.

For more information on the state of these unsealed roads and the sites to visit, ask at the Alice Visitor Centre.

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

### Bojangles 80 Todd St.

There's an outback saloon atmosphere here, the most popular pub in town

Alice Springs  
Market





thanks to the friendly vibe.

**Todd Tavern**

*1 Todd Mall*

Local pub with live concerts.



*Neil Hargrave  
Lookout  
24km east of  
Glen Helen  
MacDonnell  
Ranges*

**WHERE TO SLEEP?**

**YHA**

*Junction between Parsons and  
Leichhardt St., from \$24 per night in  
a dorm*

**Toddy's Resort**

*39-41 Gap Road, from \$23 per night.*

**MacDonnell Ranges**

The MacDonnell Ranges stretch over 400km from east to west around Alice Springs. They shelter the oldest river in the world, Finke River, certain sections of which are thought to be over 350 million years old.

The **West MacDonnells** offer many sites accessible via a sealed road, Larapinta Drive. You can explore gorges, waterholes and viewpoints

*Kings Canyon*

overlooking the Ranges.

The first stop is **Simpson Gap**, where a nice walk brings you to a water point. Two walks are available from there (10 et 23km).

**Ellery Creek Big Hole** is the perfect stop for a swim. Dolomite Walk (3km) will take approximately 1h30.

A 300 meters walk from the car will bring you to **Ochre Pits**, ochre cliffs which colours are used by aboriginal people during ceremonies.

Next stop is **Ormiston Gorge**. You can do a short walk to reach a water point (perfect for a swim) or choose the Gum Ghost Walk, a 2,5km loop.

A short climb in the rocks at **Serpentine Gorge** will give you a view to contemplate the MacDonnells in all their splendour.

Only the famous **Standley Chasm** charges a fee (\$10/person).





The western part can be explored within a day. However, if you intend to do the walks, allow 2 days to visit the West MacDonnells.

The **East MacDonnells** cover 100km, also offering gaps and gorges to visit. A sealed road will bring you to Emily Gap and Jessie Gap Natural Park.

However, certain sites are only accessible by 4-Wheel Drive, for example **Ruby Gap** and **N'Dhala Gorge**.

## Kings Canyon

Considered to be the Australian Grand Canyon, Kings Canyon is one of the Australian must-sees. Located 275km from Stuart Highway, and halfway between Uluru and Alice, this immense red crack, 270m deep, is a fascinating place. There is a choice of several walks to explore this impressive site.

### Kings Creek Walk (2km)

This short walk takes you to an observation platform in the heart of the Canyon.

### Kings Canyon Rim Walk (6km)

After climbing up amidst the rocks, this walk winds its way around the rim of the Canyon, taking you to numerous magnificent viewpoints. At the halfway point you will discover the Garden of Eden, a luxuriant tropical oasis surrounding a natural water hole in the rocks. (*Free, open all year round*).



*Salt Creek Rest Area  
140km west of Kings Canyon*

## Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park

Located 461km south of Alice Springs, this park receives almost 500,000 visitors each year. On the way, around 100km from Yulara, you will notice **Mont Conner** (sometimes confused with Uluru), reigning 863m above the desert.



*Sunset at Ayers Rock*







When you enter the park, it is essential to make a stop at the Cultural Centre on your way, to understand the meaning and importance of Uluru to the Aborigines. Numerous art galleries provide the opportunity to buy paintings produced by the Anangu people.



*Sandy Way  
Rest Area  
28km east of  
Yulara*

## Uluru/ Ayers Rock

A 348m high monolith, Uluru (Ayers Rock) is the red heart of Australia. This enormous rock, with a circumference of 9km, 2/3 hidden in the sand, cannot help but impress visitors with its beauty and mystery. Formed around 600 million years ago, Uluru, meaning “meeting place” is one of the most important sacred sites for the Aboriginal people. Remember that it is prohibited to collect stones or sand inside the park. Apparently this action can even bring bad luck, according to the « Sorry Book » in the cultural centre.

*At the Rock*

## SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

A wide choice of walks are available to see the rock from all angles:

The **Base Walk** (10km, 3 hours), makes a complete tour of the base of Uluru taking you past many sacred sites.

The **Mala Walk** (2km) takes you to Kantju Gorge with its impressive red walls. During the walk, you can see rock paintings on the monolith.

The **Lungkata Walk** (4km) follows the side of the rock to the sacred site of Pulari.

The **Kuniya Walk** (1km) leads to the rock's only permanent water hole, Mutitjulu. This waterhole, according to aboriginal culture, was created by a battle between 2 serpents.

Last but certainly not least, 2 viewpoints around the rock offer sunset and sunrise views over Uluru. The **Sunset Viewing area** has the familiar sunset post card view of Uluru.



From October 2019, you won't be able to climb Uluru anymore. The perilous ascent of 1.6km, which has already resulted in 35 deaths, did not offer any real safety net.

But more importantly, the Anangu people consider this site sacred, and that climbing it disturbs their ancestors. Climbing the rock does not appear in their Dreamtime legends. This path was walked by the Mala, the sacred (god-like) ancestors, not by humans.

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

A single accommodation site is available at Yulara (20km from Uluru): the Ayers Rock Resort offers a campground and 6 hotels. Camping for the night is \$38 (unpowered), \$48 with power.

## Kata Tjuta/ The Olgas

32km west of Uluru, the 36 domes of Kata Tjuta are just as enigmatic as their famous neighbour. Mont Olga, at 546m, is the highest of these, 200m higher than the famous red rock. A sacred zone for the Anangu, climbing is strictly forbidden, but you can explore these impressive rock formations with 2 beautiful treks.

**The Valley of the Winds Walk** (7.4km, around 3 hours) – highly recommended: this loop between the domes crosses varied landscapes from desertic plains to a creek bed at the bottom of the gorges, and includes 2 viewpoints offering an unforgettable panorama of the Olgas.

**The Walpa Gorge Walk** (2.6km): this short walk in amongst the red walls of the gorge is particularly beautiful in the afternoon.

*Please be respectful of the Anangu, the traditional owners of this site, and do not take photos of sacred sites!*

### PARK ENTRANCE

\$25/person - Pass valid for 3 days.  
Purchase tickets at the park entrance.

### OPENING HOURS

1 hour 30 mins before sunrise, closes 1 hour after sunset.

### CAMPGROUND

Only at Yulara. Between \$30 and \$40 per night in the resort's caravan park.

### REST AREA

Sandy Way Rest Area - Free, 28km from Yulara.

### SUPERMARKET

Ayers Rock Resort, small convenience supermarket.

ULURU - KATA TJUTA

## PRACTICAL TIPS

Kata Tjuta









Brisbane





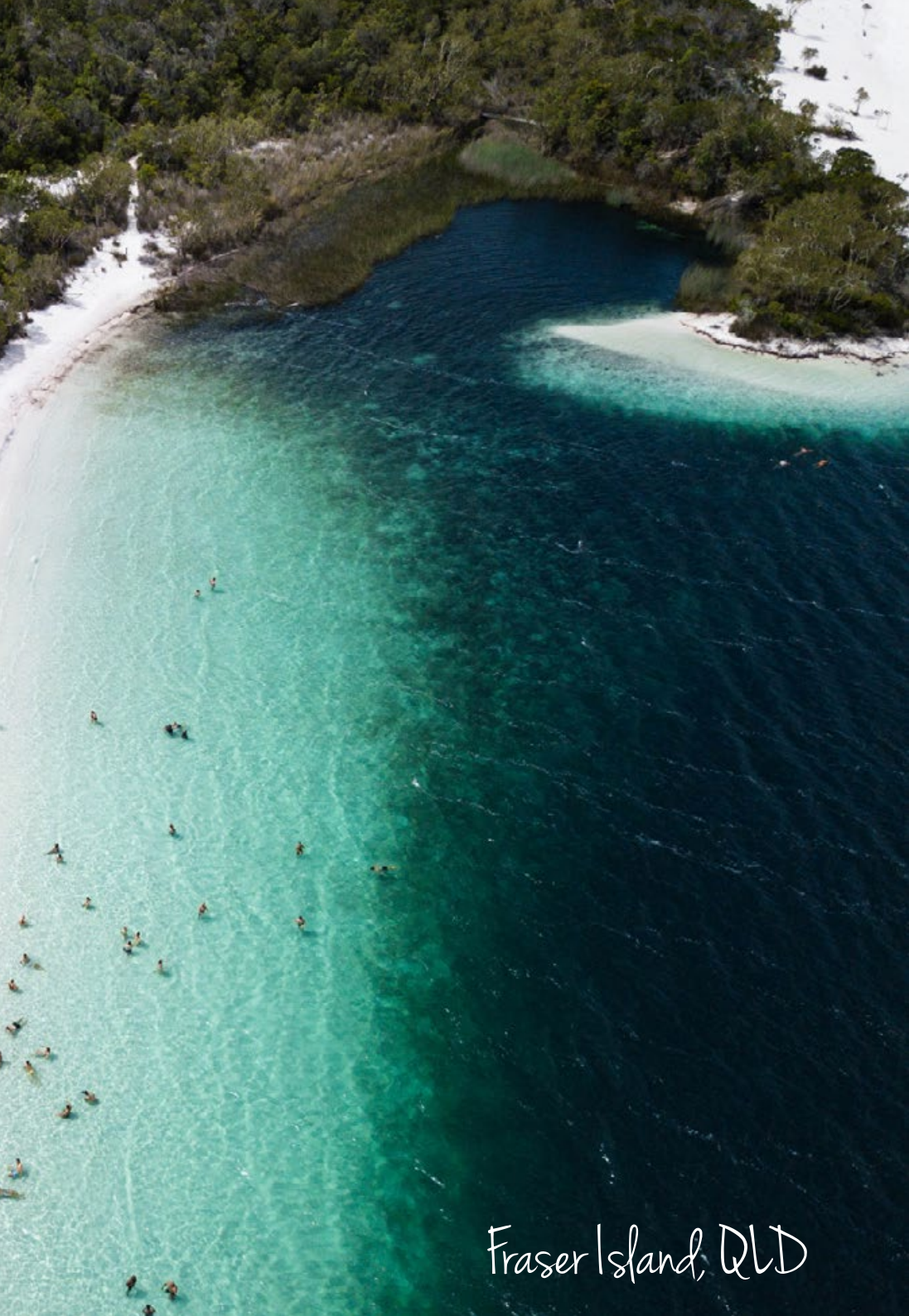


White Heaven Beach, QLD









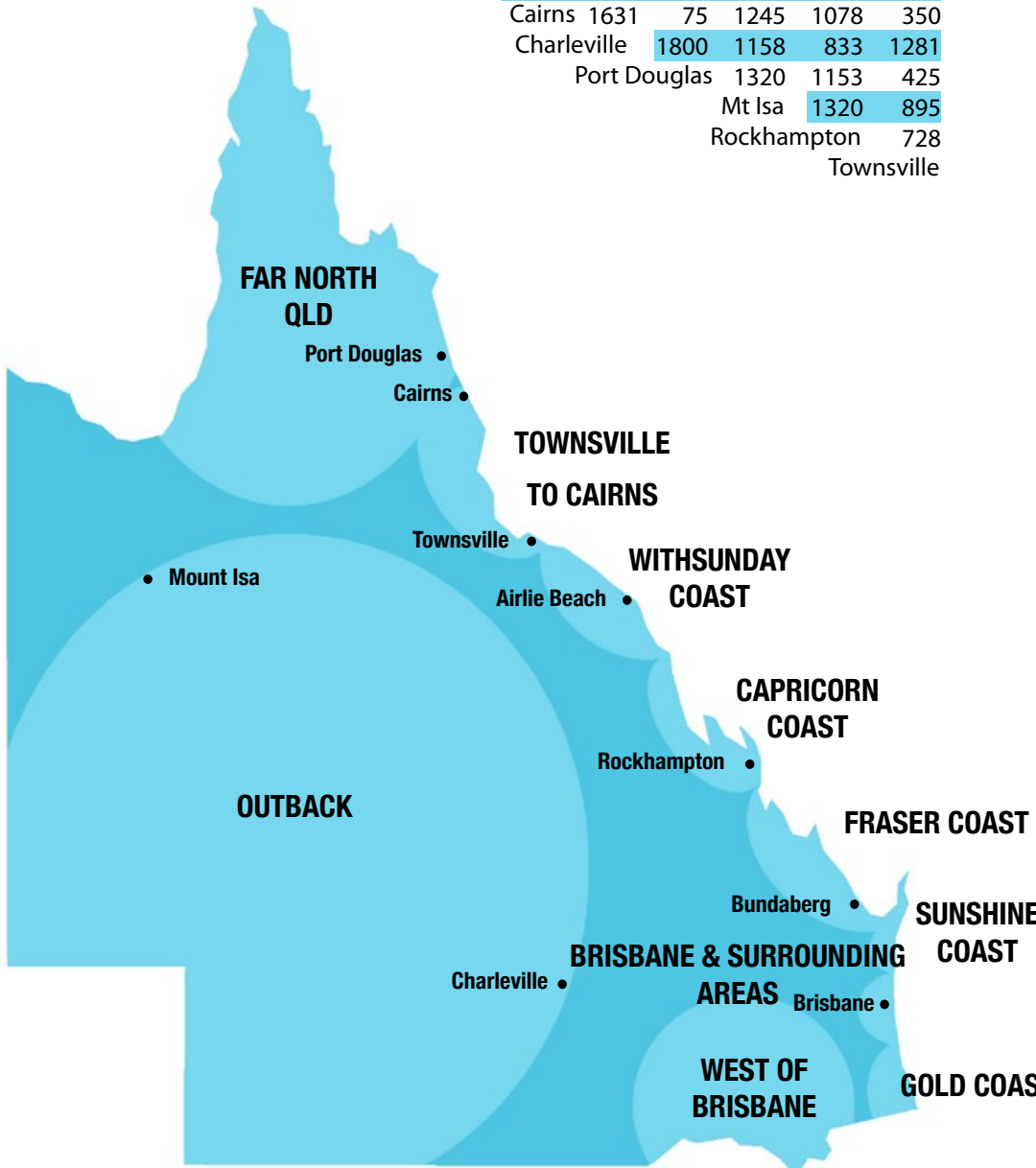
Fraser Island, QLD



## DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN :

*Distances in km using major roads*

Airlie B.	1150	786	650	1146	725	1115	500	250
Brisbane	361	1713	742	1788	1819	635	1363	
Bundaberg		1400	916	1475	1642	322	1050	
Cairns	1631		75	1245	1078	350		
Charleville		1800	1158	833	1281			
Port Douglas			1320	1153	425			
Mt Isa				1320	895			
Rockhampton					728			
Townsville								



# QUEENSLAND

Queensland is the second largest state in Australia, covering a surface area of 1,730,650 km<sup>2</sup>. Most of the population (5 million) is concentrated around Brisbane, which is the state's capital and the third largest city in the country.

The "Sunshine State" is an ideal tourist destination thanks to its tropical climate and is the only state in Australia with several international airports.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the main reasons for Queensland's fame, covering more than 2,000km along the coast and has been classed as UNESCO world heritage since 1981.

The state offers amazing diversity: beaches with white or golden sand, island paradises, the wild region of Cape York, tropical rainforests and astonishing wildlife. The coastal region is separated from the rest of the state by the Great Dividing Range. On the other side green plains stretch to the horizon sprinkled with farms and crops. Still further inland the deserts of the outback dominate the landscape.

The state has 2 different climate

zones: the north is tropical with high humidity, and the south is subtropical.

In the south the winters are hot with long sunny days, and in Brisbane temperatures rarely drop below 20°C in the daytime. Summers are dry and hot – sometimes very hot!

In Cairns, winter temperatures are around 25° on average, and in summer they can climb to 40°C with very high humidity.

Queensland began as a penitential colony, administered and controlled by NSW. In 1859, Queen Victoria agreed to a new free colony. In 1901, Queensland was proclaimed an independent state and a member of the Australian Commonwealth.

Most of the north and the inland areas were explored by cattle farmers looking for land to support their cattle, or by prospectors looking for gold.

## DANGERS

From November to April, the **BOX JELLYFISH**, a fatal jellyfish, appears in the waters of north Queensland.

A box jellyfish sting contains enough



WHALES



DOLPHINS



CROCS



CASSOWA-

RIES



DINGOS

## AVERAGE TEMPERATURES (C°) :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Airlie Beach	31	31	29	28	26	23	23	24	26	27	29	31
Brisbane	29	29	28	26	23	21	20	22	24	25	27	29
Cairns	31	31	31	29	27	26	26	27	28	29	30	31
Rockhampton	32	31	30	28	25	23	23	24	27	29	31	32
Surfers Paradise	28	27	25	25	23	21	21	21	23	25	27	28
Townsville	31	31	31	29	28	26	25	26	28	29	31	31
Port Douglas	30	30	29	28	27	25	25	25	26	28	29	30

poison to kill 3 adult humans!

Jellyfish stings are treated in the same way as snakebites. The victim is given first aid (vinegar on the wound) and rushed to hospital.

«Salties» or salt water crocodiles also lurk in the waters above the Tropic of Capricorn, and are a real danger, so be vigilant – especially on a deserted beach!

- The **Whitsunday Islands** and Whitehaven Beach !
- Party and relax on the magnificent beached of the **Gold Coast**
- Admiring **whales** as they migrate from June to September

## **DON'T MISS !**

- Diving on the **Great Barrier Reef**
- **Driving on Fraser Island** - biggest sand island in the world
- Exploring **Brisbane** and its artificial beach
- Discover **Fraser Island** on 4WD

# QUEENSLAND PRACTICAL TIPS

## **NATIONAL PARKS**

There are more than 220 national parks to explore. Entrance is free, so no need to purchase any kind of Pass.

## **INTERNET**

No free access in libraries. The only remaining option is McDonalds!

## **WILDLIFE**

### **Where to see crocodiles?**

Hartley Crocodile adventures

North of Rockhampton if you are lucky (natural environment)

### **Where to see cassowaries?**

Mission Beach (natural environment)

### **Where to see dingos ?**

Fraser Island

### **Where to see whales ?**

Port Douglas

Hervey Bay







## BRISBANE & THE SURROUNDING AREA

### Brisbane, Queensland's capital

Located 25km from the sea and built on the banks of a river of the same name, Brisbane is the capital of Queensland.

In 1829, a penitential colony was established here to house the most difficult prisoners from the colony of Sydney. In 1842, the prison was closed, and the region was declared open for free settlers.

This new colony developed slowly and seemed to be stagnating until the Universal Exhibition in 1888 brought Brisbane into the limelight.

*Street Beach*

Nowadays, with a population of 2.5 million, Brisbane is a lively, modern city, with a surprising mix of architectural styles, where the spires of Victorian churches brush up against multi-coloured glass skyscrapers. "Brisvegas" is also a rapidly expanding city, attracting new citizens every day. Given the pleasant temperatures all year round (23°C on average in winter) it is easy to understand why the city keeps growing!

### SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Most of the historical buildings are located in the town centre whereas the museums and galleries are clustered on the other side of the river at Southbank. Some of the surrounding suburbs (Valley, New Farm) are good for nightlife, as is West End, the bohemian suburb of Brisbane.



## TOWN CENTRE

### City Botanic Gardens

*(Free daily tours at 11am and 1pm, leaving from the Alice St. entrance)*

The first real green space within the town, the city's botanical gardens (not to be confused with the Brisbane botanical gardens, on the slopes of Mount Coot-tha) were originally used as the storehouse for the convicts' food supplies. You can explore the gardens on foot, admiring the flora, and there are also several historical sites.

You can see possums after nightfall at **Mangrove Boardwalk**, on the banks of the river.

In the town centre, there are several historical buildings worth a look, for example:

**Parliament House**, a superb French Renaissance style building, building started in 1865.

**City Hall** (on the junction of Ann/ Adelaide Street) is one of the most

impressive buildings in the city, opened in 1904.

**Treasury Building**, has an Italian Renaissance style façade, and houses the town's casino.

**Commissariat stores building** (115 William Street) was built by convicts in 1829, and is the oldest building in the town.

**Roma street Parkland** (Parkland Bld) is the biggest urban subtropical garden in the world. Right next door, you can see the **Old Windmill** built in 1828 by convicts.

## SHOPPING

**Queen Street Mall**, hosts more than 700 shops split between the arcades and the shopping centres, in particular **Queens Plaza**. There is also **Brisbane Arcade**, a building dating back to 1923 sheltering an elegant 3-level gallery.

**Adelaide Street** and **Elizabeth Street** have all the international fashion brands. **Edward Street** is more sophisticated and chic.

*Brisbane*





## SOUTH BANK

On the other side of Victoria Bridge, this area has the cultural centre and the parks to the south of the city.

## CULTURAL CENTRE

### Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art

*(Stanley Place, South Bank- free)*

**Art Gallery** offers a diverse collection (sculptures, modern art, Aboriginal artists) .

**GOMA**, opened in 2006 and is now the largest modern art gallery in the country offering temporary exhibitions, galleries dedicated to international art and a sculpture collection.

### Queensland Museum

*(Junction of Grey and Melbourne St. - free)* offers an impressive collection of stuffed animals as well as interactive exhibits.

### Queensland Performing Arts Centre

*(Junction of Grey and Melbourne St.)* Continental style theatre with concerts, ballets, exhibitions, opera....

## PARKS

Built on the site of the Universal Exhibition of 1988, these gardens stretch as far as the **artificial beach** with a view over the skyscrapers.

**Brisbane Wheel** (\$21) 60m high, offers superb views over the river and the town.

From Friday evening to Sunday evening **South Bank Lifestyle Markets** sells fresh produce, and products by young designers...

## FORTITUDE VALLEY

### Chinatown

*(Brunswick Street)*

### St John's Cathedral

*(373 Ann St - free)* Good example of Gothic architecture swallowed up by modern apartment blocks.

**James Street** has a lot of fashion boutiques (young designers). Further south, connected by Story Bridge, **Kangaroo Point** has beautiful views over the town.

## NEW FARM

In the old industrial quarter, buildings have been converted into galleries....

### Brisbane Powerhouse

*(119 Lamington Street)*

This old station was a centre for the tramway system in the old days. Now this distinctive building is a venue for concerts and exhibitions...

To fill up on fresh produce, the **Farmer's Market** takes place every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month in the Powerhouse Centre for Live Arts.

## WEST END

West End has thrift shops (like **Box Vintage**), old bookshops and buzzing cafés on Boundary Street..

On Saturday until 1.30pm, **Green Flea Community Market** offers organic produce, bric-a-brac and second hand clothes.

# BRISBANE PRACTICAL TIPS

### Where to park?

In the town centre there are fees for all parking spaces. Park in the outskirts of the town if you want to avoid paying.

### Lockers

Lockers are available at Streets Beach

### State Library of Queensland

Lockers are available at Streets Beach

### GPO

261 Queen St. (ouvert du lundi au vendredi, de 7h à 18h)

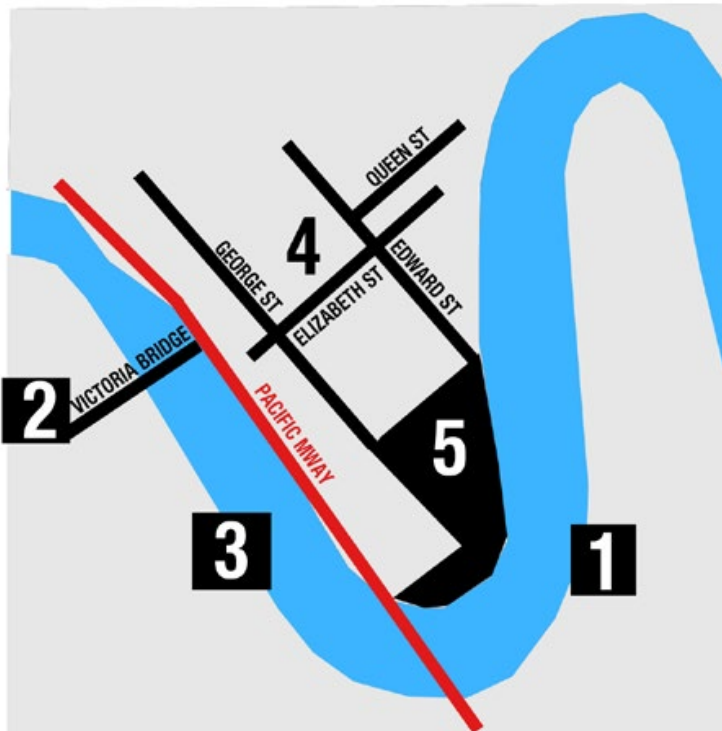
### Visitor Centre

Queen street Mall (open Monday to Friday, from 7am to 6pm)

# One day

## in Brisbane

1. Observe the town from the lookout at Kangaroo Point Cliffs
2. Choose a museum to visit at the Cultural Centre
3. Take a dip at Street Beach
4. Window shop in the CBD
5. End your day in the calm of the Botanic Gardens







Burpengary  
rest area

## DAYS OUT FROM BRISBANE

### Cruise on Brisbane River

With, **Mirama Cruise** (\$78 including entrance to the *Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary*) and **River City Cruise** (\$29).

### Whale Watching (June to November)

Day cruises to watch humpback whales migrate. Brisbane Whale Watching (\$125), Tangalooma (\$129 with a scenic cruise in Moreton Bay).

### Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, at

Fig Tree Pocket (\$38 - open from 8.30am to 5pm). Located 10km from the town centre, this koala sanctuary opened in 1927 and was the first in the world. You can cuddle a koala and leave with a souvenir photo.

## WHERE TO GO OUT?

**The Valley** has the best bars according to young people, with live concerts almost daily.

**New Farm & West End** are also suburbs with a good atmosphere where you can go out.

## WHERE TO SLEEP?

### BACKPACKERS HOSTELS

Compare and reserve your backpacker hostel, [CLICK HERE](#).

#### Base Central

308 Edward St (from \$22)

#### Base Embassy

214 Elizabeth St (from \$30)

#### Bunk Brisbane

21 Gipps St, Fortitude Valley (from \$23)

### NEAREST FREE CAMPSpot

**Burpengary Rest Area**, 40km north of the town.

### NEAREST CARAVAN PARK

2 km from the centre, **NewMarket Garden** (Ashgrove Avenue) is serviced by buses 345 and 390. Sites from \$36.

## GETTING AROUND

**Free City Loop** is the town's free bus network serving the main attractions (Monday to Friday only). If you plan on staying several days in Brisbane, make sure you get hold of a **GO CARD**. It is free (deposit of \$10), can be procured from any Newsagency, is rechargeable and enables you to use all the town's public transport (bus, boat, train). For example, for a journey in Zone 1 the normal tariff is \$4.80, but with Go Card it is \$3.35.

## EVENTS

Festivals and exhibitions take place all year round. A selection:

**January** : Chinese New Year (Valley) Raggamuffin (one of the best reggae festivals in the world)

**February** : Brisbane International Motor Show

**April** : Brisbane Queer Film Festival

**May** : QUT Urban Country Music Festival (Caboulture)

**June** : Brisbane Pride Festival

**July** : Brisbane International Film Festival

**October** : Island Vibe festival (Soul, reggae music)

Sounds of Spring Festival (rock, hip-hop, electro...)

## Areas around Brisbane

On your way to Moreton Bay, the viewpoint at **Mt Coottha Lookout** offers a wonderful panorama of Brisbane and the bay. Only 25km from Brisbane, Moreton Bay has more than 300 islands, so it is a paradise for boating and dolphin-watching. All along the coast you will see a string of little villages (selling very good fish & chips!) such as **Redcliffe, Scarborough, Manly, or Wynnum**.



## NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND

North Stradbroke Island is a big sand island, very popular for its surf spots, including Point Lookout. The beaches are located at the east of the island, with fishing villages on the western side. Only accessible by boat from (water taxi or car ferry), the island offers a selection of treks including the magnificent North Gorge Headlands Walk. You can also visit Dunwich museum, recounting the region's Aboriginal and European history. Several camp sites are available on the island.

## MORETON ISLAND

Moreton Island, the 3rd largest sand island in the world, is best known for its dolphins. You can take part in feeding them every night at Tangalooma Island Resort. Completely free of sealed roads, driving on the island is strictly reserved for 4 wheel drive vehicles,

and a permit is required (\$40). If you want to climb the highest coastal sand dune in the world, Mt Tempest (285m) is a must... and you can slide down!

Several tours leave from Brisbane to spend the day exploring the bay and Moreton Island, from \$100 per day.

## BRIBIE ISLAND

**Bribie Island**, in the northern part of the bay, takes its name from the convict Briby who ran away from his Aboriginal wife. Today the island has a population of 16,000 and is the only island accessible by vehicle via a bridge. Most of the island falls within Bribie Island National Park and there are some wonderful campsites (northern side). Thanks to its calm waters and surf beaches, Bribie is a popular destination for locals and has a relaxed, family atmosphere.



*DOLPHINS  
at Moreton  
Island*

*Bribie Island*



## WEST OF BRISBANE

There are numerous historic towns and traditional villages in this region. Inland, agricultural villages attract backpackers looking for work.

A few kilometres south of the coast there are several national parks. Located on the Great Dividing Range, there is a wide range of walks on offer, to observe the flora and fauna.

### National Parks

3 main national parks account for more than 100,000 hectares of dense forest and magnificent landscapes, for you to escape from the city for a few days of peace and quiet.

*A typical landscape at Darling Downs*

## TAMBORINE

Dominated by **Tamborine Mountain** (530m), this national park has cliffs, rocky outcrops, waterfalls and lush tropical forest.

9 walks lead up to beautiful viewpoints, impressive waterfalls, and forests of giant red cedar trees. Via **Cedar Creek Falls** short walk, you will arrive at some waterholes, perfect for a refreshing dip, or simply to appreciate the surroundings.

Thanks to an attractive camping ground on Tamborine Mountain Road you can stay in the park for a few days.

Don't miss the **distillery** in northern Tamborine, a small company producing a wide range of homemade liqueurs with free tastings! (*Beacon road - open Wednesday to Sunday*).



## LAMINGTON

Located 110km south of Brisbane, Lamington National Park is classed as UNESCO world heritage. With the largest remaining subtropical rainforest in Australia (20,000 hectares), this park has spectacular landscapes and a huge variety of fauna. The park's plateau and cliffs are all that remains from an enormous 20 million year-old volcano.

The park is divided into several sections. **Binna Burra** and **Green Mountains** are the most accessible and the most popular.

There is a great selection of treks from 1.2km – 54kms in distance, over a total of 160km, stretching across the undulating terrain of McPherson Range. For serious walkers, the famous Border Track (21km - 7 to 8 hours) traces the border between QLD and NSW.

You can obtain a map with all the treks at Binna Burra or Green Mountains at the ranger station.

## SPRINGBROOK

Located 96km from Brisbane, the forests and waterways of Springbrook national park offer impressive landscapes. Spectacular waterfalls and cascading streams are the key features of this UNESCO world heritage park.

In the 4 sections of the park (Plateau, Natural Bridge, Numinbah and Mt Cougal) you can picnic, or stroll in each beautiful environment.

From the Plateau, at an altitude of 900m, several lookouts offer beautiful views, for example Best of All Lookout (you will understand how it got its name!)

In the Natural Bridge section, a natural stone bridge is home to a firefly colony that lights up the surroundings as soon as night falls (1km walk).

The Visitor Centre, close to Hardy's Lookout will supply you with all the brochures you need to explore the park.

## Darling Downs

This agricultural zone has several towns well-known in backpacker circles for jobs in fruit picking.



*FRUIT PICKING  
Darling Downs*

## TOOWOOMBA

The main city in this zone, Toowoomba has more than 150 parks and gardens, and is a city of flowers.

On Ruthven Street, the **Regional Art Gallery** has a collection of antiques, photographs and rare antique books.

3km from town, the **Japanese Garden** has some lovely walks, small waterfalls, picnic tables...

## GATTON

Located in the heart of Lockyer Valley, this small town is home to Gatton College, currently part of the University of Queensland, recognized as the best agricultural faculty in the country.

Gatton occupies the centre of an important agricultural district producing a vast quantity of vegetables throughout the year. The fertile soil produces potatoes, onions, carrots, lettuce etc with many job opportunities for backpackers.



*Heifer Creek 41km southwest of Gatton*

## GOONDIWINDI

Located on the border between QLD and NSW, this small town (population 5,000), makes a living mainly from producing cotton. Cotton fields cover over 30,000 hectares, and during the harvest season road trains invade the area to leave loaded down with cotton.



# GOLD COAST

72km of beautiful beaches, omnipresent skyscrapers, and a surfer on every street corner, the Gold Coast is without doubt, the most touristy part of the state. With over 300 days of sunshine each year, the region attracts more than 9 million tourists annually. Starting in Southport and ending in Coolangatta, this is also the part of the coast where a string of seaside towns offer intense nightlife and theme parks on a variety of topics (Dreamworld, Seaworld...).

## Southport & Main Beach

From Brisbane, theme parks like **Dreamworld** or **Australian Outback Spectacular** appear at regular intervals along the coast to Southport. Northern gateway to the Gold Coast,

Southport is a vibrant town with a population of 28,000. The main beach is lined with sky scrapers, offering numerous shopping centres, cafés, bars and restaurants.

A little further south at **Main Beach, Sea World** is a huge park where you can see dolphins, polar bears, dugongs, sharks, and learn an enormous amount about marine wildlife.

Right next door to Sea World, on the first and third Saturdays each month, a local market has fresh produce on offer in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Gold Coast is well known for its attraction parks. Among them: **Dreamworld** is the largest theme park in the country with over 40 rides and attractions, including five roller coasters. It is made up of several themed lands: Ocean Parade, DreamWorks Experience, Gold Rush Country, Tiger Island and the Dreamworld Corroboree with a collection of

*Photos 1,2,3  
Surfers  
Paradise,  
Photo  
4 Burleigh  
Heads*



rides, animal exhibits, shows, food outlets and merchandise shops.

**Sea World** is the premier marine animal park in Australia, offering amazing attractions and rides.

**Warner Bros - Movie World**, is dedicated to famous movies. You can also enjoy the numerous rides and the great Green Lantern Roller Coaster.

**Wet'n'Wild** is dedicated to aquatic rides. Don't miss classics like the Aqualoop, Kamikaze and Mammoth Falls.

There are a lot of other theme parks in the same area.

*We recommend you to get a Pass to visit several parks. Price is approximately \$100 for a Pass for four parks, valid 14 days.*

## Surfers Paradise & Broadbeach

Located at the heart of the Gold Coast, **Surfers Paradise** is a fashionable seaside town, and one of the most popular tourist destinations in Australia.

Vibrant and eclectic, Surfers Paradise has activities to offer every hour of the day or night.

Here the tall buildings stretch down to the beach and in the evening it's easy to find a place to party!

During the day you can admire the beach from the Esplanade or climb onto **QDeck** for a view 230m from the ground. In the evening you can choose between over 40 bars and clubs (mainly on Orchid Avenue).

Further south, **Broadbeach** is also a great place to go out. The town has an amazing casino - **Conrad Jupiter's Hotel & Casino!**

## Burleigh Heads

Between Surfers Paradise and the border with NSW, Burleigh Heads

and the national park of the same name, offer fantastic walks (brochure from the Visitor Centre). This reserve covering more than 25 hectares is noteworthy for the beautiful waterfalls at **Currumbin Rock Pools**.

In this town the locals consider their beaches to be the best on this part of the coast, and Kirra Point is the surf beach with the best reputation.

## Coolangatta

The last town before crossing the border with NSW, Coolangatta was the first town to set up a lifeguard station in the whole country.

From **Point Danger**, you can contemplate stunning views of the ocean.

In the surrounding areas one after another there are famous beaches with impressive (scary!) waves, such as Rainbow Bay or Greenmount...

## SUNSHINE COAST

Sunshine Coast starting at Bribie Island north of Brisbane and ending at Gympie, is less developed than the Gold Coast.

Just a few kilometres from Brisbane, here summer never ends, and the surfers – always looking for the next big wave – never leave. But there are other treasures here, such as the Glass House Mountains, named by Captain Cook. This region also offers exceptional diving sites such as Wolf Rock or Old Woman Island.

The main tourist centre, Noosa, is a small chic seaside town, with a laid back atmosphere and postcard picture beaches.



*Browns Creek  
rest area  
2km north of  
Yandina*

## Glass Hill National Park

Accessible from Bruce Highway, this national park is made up of 16 volcanic peaks rising from the midst of forests and plains. Rich in spiritual significance for the Aboriginal people, these mountains were given their name in English by Cook in 1770 when they reminded him of the glass factories in Yorkshire.

**Glass House Mountains Lookout** has a beautiful view over the different peaks - of which Mt Beerwah (556m) is the highest of all - and of the ocean. The park has 8 treks, ranging from 25min to 3 hours, with different levels of difficulty. The Lookout Circuit is a short sloping loop crossing forest on the way to a ravine.

If you have more time available, a 1.5km return route will take you to the summit of Mount Ngungun

*Noosa  
National Park*



for unobstructed views of the neighbouring mountains. For the fittest, you can reach the peaks of Tibrogargan or Beerwah after a pretty exhausting climb!

Not far from Beerwah, in the north of the park, the **Australian Zoo** is a must-do. Created by the famous crocodile hunter **Steve Irwin**, this park has animals from all over the world and organizes feedings, opportunities for interaction with the animals, and activities throughout the day (\$59 - from 9am to 5pm).

## From Caloundra to Noosa

**Caloundra** has a population of almost 100,000 and is a well-known destination for surfers. With at least 7 surf beaches, linked by an attractive esplanade, Caloundra is a great place to live! Next to the main street, **Bulcock Beach** has the most tourists, while the beaches to the north are quieter and equally beautiful.

From Caloundra, you can take part in a wide range of activities from kayaking, parachute jumping, or trying your hand at surfing for beginners.

**Mooloolaba** and **Maroochydore**, a few kilometres further north, are also seaside towns, but are more residential. These towns offer beautiful beaches, numerous cafés, restaurants, shops, and many activities for tourists (kayaking, whale watching tours, boat hire...)

**Coolum Beach**, just before Noosa, has a pretty beach and nice cafés, ideal for a coffee break sitting out on the terrace.

## Noosa

Located at the extreme north of the Sunshine Coast, Noosa is made up of a succession of villages with similar names, and it is very easy to get lost! Given that there are more than 40 roundabouts, we recommend making directly for the Visitor Centre on arrival (Hasting Street at Noosa Heads) to obtain a map.

As a general rule of thumb, the main points of interest in the town can be found by the sea or on the banks of Noosa River. The commercial centre is located at **Noosa Heads**, access point for the main beach and the national park. In town, **Hasting Street** is the trendiest place, mixing cafés, surf shops and stylish boutiques.

**Noosa National Park**, is accessible from Park Road, covers 447 hectares and is really worth the detour! You can go on short treks, including the excellent Coastal Track, a 6km walk to Sunshine Beach passing beautiful lookouts, Hells Gate and Alexandria Bay (naturist beach). With some luck you will be able to see a koala relaxing in the trees.

If you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle, from **Tewantin**, you can take a ferry to **Great Sandy National Park**. Follow a track along the beach as far as Rainbow Beach. If not, 4 wheel drive tours are available from Noosa, to discover Great Sandy National Park (Cooloola section) from \$115 for the day.

17km from Noosa Heads, on Cooroy-Noosa Road, a 30min walk leads to **Mt Tinbeerwah** lookout (265m) for a superb 360° view of the area.

## FRASER COAST

Fraser Coast is a region popular with tourists, stretching from Gympie to Bundaberg. Thanks to breathtaking beaches, Fraser Island, and the best places to whale-watch, this part of the coast is simply unmissable!



DOLPHINS

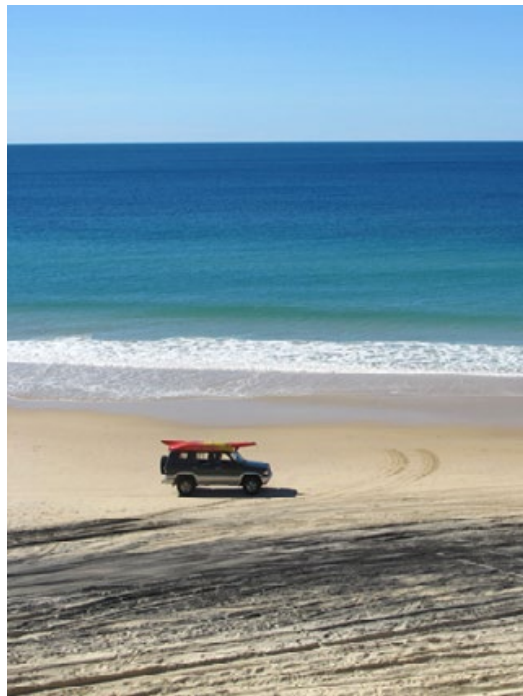
## From Gympie to Maryborough

### GYMPIE

The mines in this old town were active until the early 20th century. There is not much of interest here now, although you can visit the museum, dedicated to the region's history, **Gympie Gold Mining & Historical Museum** on Brisbane Road (\$10/ person - open from 9am to 4.30pm).

If you time, **The Valley Rattler** is a train built in 1913 offering tours (1/2

Rainbow Beach







Petrie  
Park 41km  
south of  
Maryborough

Aboriginal  
dance at  
Maryborough

or full day) to explore Mary Valley. (from \$22/person – leaving from the historic station of Gympie every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday – reserve on [www.thevalleyrattler.com](http://www.thevalleyrattler.com)).

## RAINBOW BEACH & TIN CAN BAY

At Rainbow Beach, it's clear that everyone is there for the same reason – to enjoy the clear waters and golden sand, the main attractions of this well-preserved little town. From the carpark perched on high ground you can admire the view and watch the 4 wheel drive vehicles mulling around on the beach below. The town is also well-known as a good place to surf with the friendly local surf school team.

Tours are available to explore the surrounding areas, for example Great Sandy National Park (4 wheel drive, diving, kayak...)

A few minutes down the road, the little town of **Tin Can Bay** is famous for its dolphins. For over 30 years, they have been visiting **Norman Point** on a daily basis for feeding and interaction with visitors...! A presentation and dolphin feeding session every day from 8am.

## MARYBOROUGH

Located 80km north of Gympie, Maryborough is a charming small town with Victorian-style buildings. This is also where Pamela Lyndon Travers was born, the author of *Mary Poppins*, and you can spot the allusions to this in the town!

The **Maryborough Heritage Walk** (with or without guide) is a pleasant walk around local historical sites to discover the town's past. Brochures are available at the Visitor Centre in City Hall.

On Lennox Street, the likeable **Brennan & Geraghty's store Museum**, is an old bric & brac shop converted into a museum (\$5,50 - from 10am to 3pm).

If you are passing through on a Thursday, you will be able to browse in the town's **market** in the main street, where you will find local produce, clothes...

## Fraser Island

184,000 hectares in size, Fraser Island is the biggest sand island in the world, and the only place where trees grow in the sand. Known as K'Gari by the Aborigines (meaning "Paradise"), this island is top of the list for backpackers, and is also home to the purest race of dingos in Australia. These animals wander around completely free on the island.

Initially used as a natural prison to imprison Aborigines, in 1850 the islands riches were discovered, and prisoners were transported



elsewhere to make way for deforestation and sand extraction. In the early 20th production gradually stopped in favour of protecting the island, which finally gained UNESCO world heritage status in the 1990s.

To explore the island, you can take a ferry, and then hire a 4 wheel drive vehicle (the only way to move around the island). You can also take a day cruise (prices and companies in « Fraser Island: practical tips »).

Once on the island, the track starts at Eurong and runs the length of Seventy five Miles Beach to the north of the island.

From **Central Station** (in the centre of the island), there are several treks enabling you to see more of the island and to reach certain lakes. The island has over 100 freshwater lakes, the most famous of which is **Lake McKenzie** with its green-blue waters.

Further east, **Wabby** the emerald lake is the island's deepest. A 3km trek showcases superb views of the surroundings.

Perched on the sand dunes, lake **Allom** is the habitat of turtles and little frogs. The waters are sometimes black in colour (a natural phenomenon caused by tannin in the trees).

Swimming at **75 Miles Beach** is strongly discouraged due to violent currents and the presence of tiger sharks in these waters. However, you can take a look at the **Maheno** shipwreck, a boat that ran into trouble during a cyclone and was abandoned on the beach.

**The Cathedrals**, located 18km south of Indian Head, has a series of impressive, colourful cliffs.

**Indian Head** is the best observation point to watch dolphins, sharks, rays and whales during their migration.



DINGOS

Fraser Island



From there, a track takes you to **Champagne Pools**, the only place which offers safe swimming.

## FRASER ISLAND PRATICAL TIPS

You need a **RAM access permit** to take a vehicle onto Fraser Island. You can purchase this before crossing over to the island at DERM Rainbow Beach, Hervey Bay Marina Kiosk, or River Heads Information Kiosk.

### FERRY

The ferry across to the island leaves from Hervey Bay, River Heads, and Rainbow Beach.

From **River Head**, Fraser Island Barges offers the crossing from \$55 return for a pedestrian (\$165 return for a vehicle).

From **Hervey Bay**, Kingfisher Fast Cat and Kingfisher Vehicular Ferry also offer \$58 tariffs for pedestrians and \$175 with a vehicle (up to 4

Hervey Bay



people.)

From **Rainbow Beach**, Manta Ray Barges offers the crossing at \$110 return with a vehicle (+ 4 people).

### FLIGHTS

You can fly from **Hervey Bay** airport for around \$90 return.

### ON THE ISLAND

If you came with a 4-wheel drive, you're free to enjoy!

For everyone else, you can hire a 4 wheel drive vehicle from \$200 per day.

An experienced driver is a must to navigate around the island: some parts are tricky to get past!

*IMPORTANT : Driving on Fraser is subject to tides so check them before you go.*

### CAMPING AND HOTELS

A permit is mandatory to be able to camp on the island. These permits are issued by the EPA (\$5.45/person). There are several camp spots at Wanddy Point, Dundubara, Central Station, or at Lake Allom, Lake McKenzie (which have fewer facilities). There is also a private campground at Cathedral Beach with cabins and sites. For more comfort, apartments, guesthouses, and backpacker hostels are also available.

### PETROL/GAS, SERVICES...

Kingfisher Bay, Eurong Beach, Happy Valley, Cathedral Beach and Orchid Beach.

### TOURS AND EXCURSIONS

You can opt for a 4-wheel drive tour to explore the island in a group in a risk-free way:

#### Fraser Island Adventure Tours

(7am to 5pm, leave from : Noosa, 4WD bus tours + 2 hours at Lake McKenzie)

#### Fraser Explorer Tours

leave from Hervey Bay at 8.30am, tour of the main places of interest

on the island, and a buffet lunch in a resort (from \$200).  
2-day tour also available with a night in the resort (from \$355).

You can also take a 1 or several day cruise (from November to July):

### Cool Dingo Tours

Leave from: Brisbane, visit Rainbow Beach then transfer to Fraser island + night in a resort.

### Drop Bear Adventure

Leave from Noosa. 2 or 3 days tours available (from \$375).

## From Hervey Bay to Bundaberg

### HERVEY BAY

A growing town, **Hervey Bay** is one of the best places in the world to observe whales as they migrate between mid-July and October. With tranquil waters (thanks to

Fraser Island) ideal for snorkelling and swimming, this town with a population of 63,000 is a fashionable destination. The Esplanade offers a wide choice of restaurants, bars, fish & chip shops and other shopping on one side, and a lovely beach on the other.

Ferries and excursions to Fraser Island leave from the town's Marina.

Only 15 min from Hervey, **River Heads** has superb views of Fraser Island, the Mary River estuary, and the Great Sandy Straits.

From mid-July to October there are frequent excursions on offer to see humpback whales, - sea giants that can weigh up to 45 tonnes! - for example:

### Blue Dolphin Marine Tour

(catamaran, \$80 for half day),

**Hervey Bay Whale Watch** (from \$115 for a half-day).

**Shayla Cruises** (\$105 day-cruise).



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Childers

Bundaberg  
Distillery





## CHILDERS

This small town, 60km north of Maryborough is unfortunately only famous for the catastrophe which took place in July 2000. That winter, the Palace Backpackers Hostel burned down, and 15 young people, mainly from abroad, were killed. The hotel has since been renovated and now houses the Visitor Centre as well as a very moving memorial to the event, and a gallery upstairs.

Good opportunities for fruit picking work are available in the region (tomatoes, avocados...) especially in the months from April to September.

named Samuel McMahon added the polar bears which appear on the bottles. In the 1950s he created the brand's characteristic square-shaped bottles and introduced the polar bear logo because the rum is supposed to warm you up however cold you are! Remember to wear closed-toe shoes to visit this factory.

The town has a few other attractions, such as the **Botanic Garden** with over 10,000 trees, or the surrounding beaches, like **Mon Repos Beach** north of town, where turtles lay their eggs from November to January

## Bundaberg

An industrial centre for sugar cane, Bundy is mainly famous for its rum! Many people only stop off here to visit the **rum distillery** where you can see how the beverage is produced from A to Z, and taste the final product (\$28.5 - open every day). An Irishman

## CAPRICORN COAST

This marks the start of the Great Barrier Reef. The Capricorn Coast has the wild Island of Great Keppel, cowboy towns, and national parks, making it one of the wildest and most beautiful sections of the coast.

Town of  
1770



“Beef capital”, Rockhampton is the commercial heart of the region.

The Tropic of Capricorn crosses the town, explaining the pleasant subtropical climate here, compared to the south coast has several seasons.

## Agnes Water & Town of 1770

After a 50km detour from Bruce Highway, you will reach the small towns of **Agnes Water** and **Town of 1770**. Known as the birthplace of Queensland, Town of 1770 was so named when James Cook and his crew weighed anchor here on 24th May 1770. With only a few shops and businesses, these twin towns have remained quiet and attract tourists looking for peace and tranquility. You can enjoy the pretty beaches (with lifeguards in summer) or explore the 2 nearby national parks.

From Town of 1770’s marina, you can visit 2 superb islands that are part of the Great Barrier Reef: **Lady Elliot** and **Laday Musgrave** - divers’ paradises. Day trips offer snorkelling in the transparent water (\$150/person). You can also camp on Lady Musgrave where turtles lay eggs between November and February (*permit required - see [www.nprsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au)*).

There are no shops at all on the islands, so bring food and drinking water for your entire stay.

## Gladstone

With a population of 33,000, Gladstone is a peaceful little coastal town, with few tourist attractions. Two lookouts offer pleasant views over the town and surrounding islands from a high vantage point, at **Auckland Hill** and **Round Hill**. The main road Goodoon Street has some

beautifully preserved buildings.

But Gladstone is the main gateway to the truly beautiful islands of **Heron** and **Wilson** south of the Great Barrier Reef, which unfortunately are reserved for luxury travellers.

Budget \$640 for 2 people for Heron Island (transfer and night in a resort) and \$1,700 for Wilson Island (transfer and night’s accommodation included).

## Rockhampton & the surrounding area

With a population of over 86,000, Rockhampton is the largest town on the Capricorn Coast. Nicknamed “Rocky”, it is a cosmopolitan city mixing country and modern atmospheres. The iconic bull statues (which you can spot all over the place!) symbolize the town’s identity,



*Calliope River Rest Area 25km southwest of Gladstone*

*Yeppoon main beach*



in the heart of a cattle station region.

Every Friday night you can watch the town's free rodeo – the enormous bulls are impressive!

During the day, do not miss the **Botanic Garden** with a small free zoo where you can see wombats, kangaroos, koalas, dingos, cassowaries...

For some culture, the **Art Gallery** (*free – open every day except Monday*) has a permanent collection of works by Australian artists, including the well-known Sidney Nolan.

10 min from the centre, **Dreamtime Cultural Centre** tells the story of the region's first inhabitants, the Darambal people, as well as the inhabitants of Torres Strait (\$15.5 - *open 10am to 3pm*).

On Bruce Highway, **Rockhampton Heritage Village** (*open from 9am to 4pm*) is the ideal place to gain an understanding of the town's heritage,

and see what it looked like between 1850 and 1950. You can also try your hand at milking cows, or go for a ride in a car from that era.....

**Mount Morgan**, (38km west of Rocky), is a mining town with an interesting past which you can relive at in the historical village or in the town's museum. **World of Fossils** is also worth a visit if you have the time. North of Rocky, the small town of **Yeppoon** is the departure point for the Keppel islands. Packed with little seafood restaurants, the town attracts foody tourists.

Further north, **Byfield National Park** can be described as a true oasis. Blessed with beautiful sea views, large sand dunes, and pleasant camping spots, the park is a great getaway, but is unfortunately only accessible on unsealed or sandy roads requiring a 4-wheel drive.

*Another catch off Great Keppel Island !*



## Keppel Bay Islands

The superb **Great Keppel Island** is the main island in this group of 20, only a 30 min ferry crossing away. With only 20 residents, it is an untouched paradise, suitable for budget travellers.

If you feel like getting away for several days in complete freedom, choose this island!

Holiday Village is the only place to stay on the island, and offers all different types of accommodation (from tents to private rooms).

[www.gkiholidayvillage.com.au](http://www.gkiholidayvillage.com.au)

There are no businesses or shops on the island, so take with you all the food and camping material you will need for your entire stay. With 14km of fine sand beaches, you will find everything you need here to enjoy sunbathing, fishing, and watching marine wildlife...

There are also some walks to do on the island starting from the main beach: **Fisherman's Beach**.

Accessible by ferry with Freedom Fast Cats (\$55 return) or Water taxi (from \$50).

The other islands in the group can also be visited on daytrips from Great Keppel, and you can camp if you obtain a permit:

[www.nprsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au)

## WHITSUNDAY COAST

Stretching from Mackay to Bowen, the Whitsunday Coast has superb beaches, strange marshes, and lush rain forests. But this part of the coast is best known for the Whitsunday islands – paradise on earth.

The marine wildlife is also superb and abundant in this area. In January, you

can watch turtles, and then from June to September impressive whales follow the coastline as they migrate.

However, free camping is not allowed on this part of the coast, covered by night patrols. The risk is a fine of \$220 per person, which could otherwise be invested in an excursion!

## Mackay

Mackay is a small town with little to attract tourists. **Pioneer River** snakes through the town centre, bordered with mangroves.

In the town centre, with a view over the river, **Bluewater Lagoon** is a place to relax entirely for free. You can enjoy the 2 main lagoons, BBQs, and a small café offering drinks and snacks all day.

Not far from there, the excellent art gallery **Artspace Mackay** has exhibits by local and foreign artists (free – open from 10am to 5pm).

*Mackay*





The town also has several **Art-Deco buildings**, concentrated mainly in Victoria, Sydney and Wood Streets.

The **Botanical Garden**, in the south of the town provides a pleasant place for a stroll (*free – open from 8.45am to 5pm*).

To the north, you can explore some lovely beaches such as **Blacks Beach** and **Bucasia** (with BBQs).

Around Mackay, you can also visit the beautiful **Finch Hatton Gorge** (80km west of town). Several walks are on offer, leading to water holes, or pretty waterfalls in the forest. Right next to the gorge, you can stay at Platypus Bushcamp, a camp site in the middle of the bush! (*\$7.50/night*)

A 1 hour drive west of the town, **Eungella National Park** is a national park at high altitude with rainforest over 30,000 years old!

This park is marvellous, thanks to the exceptional fauna, such as the famous gastric frog which incubates its eggs in its stomach and then spits them out of its mouth. You can choose from a wide range of walks

## Airlie Beach & Whitsunday Islands

### AIRLIE BEACH

Located 150km north of Mackay, this small town with a population of 7,000 is the main departure point for the Whitsunday islands.

Serviced by an airport and the bus company Greyhound, Airlie Beach is very easy to get to without a vehicle. With thousands of visitors each year, Airlie always seems busy, especially in the evenings when its many bars and restaurants are buzzing.

During the day, most of the town's occupants go off to explore the islands or simply enjoy the small **lagoon** in the town centre.

If you would like to stay several days at Airlie Beach, you will find the backpacker hostels along with mainstream hotels on the main **Shute Harbour Road**, along with the town's bars and restaurants (*from \$20 a night*).

Photo 1 & 2 :  
Whitehaven  
Beach



Photo 3 & 4 :  
Daydream  
Island



## WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

This archipelago includes 74 subtropical islands, sprinkled along the coastline up to Mackay. Most of them are uninhabited or have been turned into national parks, although a few have large resorts.

### DAYDREAM ISLAND

This is the smallest island in the archipelago, only 2km long. The only attraction is the rather kitsch hotel complex with a lagoon where you can see sharks, rays, fish and coral.

### HOOK ISLAND

The second biggest island, Hook, is wilder – a real mini paradise – with beautiful beaches where you can see the coral (close to the shore) and stay in lovely camping spots (\$5 per night), or at a friendly resort.

### LONG ISLAND

Close to Shute Harbour, this island is ideal for those who would like to explore the 13kms of trekking tracks which cross-cross the island. There aren't any camping spots available, but there are 3 resorts in different price ranges.

### SOUTH MOLLE ISLAND

This mountainous island is dominated by Mount Jeffreys, which you can climb for a view over the island and the bay. A resort offers a night's stay from \$275... for more restricted budgets there is a campsite in the north of the island (\$5 per night).

### WHITSUNDAY ISLAND

The biggest island of the group, there aren't any hotels here, but there are several campsites with facilities spread across the island. But Whitsunday Island is really all about **Whitehaven Beach**, 7km of extraordinary fine white sand. At the northern end of the beach **Hill Inlet** is an incredible place where the tide mixes sand and turquoise water to create a magical fusion of colours.

### HAMILTON ISLAND

Hamilton the island with the most tourists thanks to the airstrip, a huge marina, and a large number of hotels and restaurants. There is a choice of over 40 activities, from snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, to flights over the Whitsundays.

*Whitehaven Beach*



You can also visit Hayman Island where there is a luxurious resort (\$1,500 per night!), a favourite place for national and international celebrities.

#### LINDEMAN ISLAND

Part of this island is classed as a national park. Lindeman has over 20km of managed hiking tracks, and this island is also the home to Australia's Club Med. From here you can explore all the little deserted islands in the surrounding area.

#### BRAMPTON ISLAND

Located in the south of the archipelago, this island sees few tourists, and part of it is classified as national park.

At low tide, you can access the still uninhabited neighbouring island, **Carlisle**, thanks to a thin strip of white sand. Cruises leave from Brampton to see this island's old forest, dating back to more than 1,000 years ago.

*Cruising the Whitsundays*



## TOURS & CRUISES

You can take a ferry which drops you off on the island of your choice. A range of companies offer transfers:

#### Cruise Whitsundays

Ferry to Daydream, Hamilton, Long Island and South Molle Island (*from \$50 return*)

#### Whitsunday Escape

Ferry linking Prosperine (Whitsund Island) from Abell Point Marina, Airlie Beach, or Shute Harbour \$18 one way/ person.

#### Scamper

Water taxi company transferring visitors from Airlie Beach to camp spots (*from \$65 return*), also offering camping equipment rental from 40\$/ night.

You must have a permit to camp on the Whitsunday Islands.

[www.nprsr.qld.gov.au](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au)

#### 1 DAY EXCURSIONS

You can explore the islands on a one-day trip (leaving around 8.30am and arriving back around 5pm).

Lunch, tea and coffee, and snorkelling/diving equipment are often included in the price.

Several companies offer these cruises, for example:

#### Whitehaven Express

3 stops to visit Hill Inlet, Whitehaven Beach with white sand and turquoise water, and a snorkelling spot in Mantaray Bay. \$175 - *family atmosphere*.

#### Whitsunday Island Adventure Cruises

3 stops on the following islands: Daydream Island, Hook Island and Whitehaven Beach.

Snorkeling on Hook Island, relaxation at Whitehaven Beach with the option to take a flight on a seaplane from the beach. \$150 - *check for special offers*.

**Ocean Rafting** offers 2 different day tours, one taking you as far as

Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet and Border Island for snorkelling.  
*\$160 per day - buffet not included*

## 2 OR MORE DAYS

Many companies also offer 2-3 day tours, or even longer. You board a sailing boat from which you will explore the archipelago's islands through various snorkelling and diving sites.

### Freight Train - 2 days/ 1 night

Snorkeling, stop at whitehaven (from \$295/ pers).

### Powerplay - 2 days/ 2 nights

Cruise in a catamaran (18 people) Snorkeling, paddle, kayak, jacuzzi and Whitehaven Beach.

### Siska Sailing - 2 days/ 1 night

Snorkeling, Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet and Hook Island (from \$369).

## FLIGHTS - HELICOPTER OR PLANE

If you want to splash out on a unique and unforgettable experience, you can take a flight (seaplane or helicopter) over part or all of the islands.

Three companies offer excellent flights over the Whitsunday Islands from \$110/person:

**GSL Aviation** (seaplane) from \$229.

**Aviation Adventures** (helicopter) from \$99 to \$425 depending on the package

**Heli Reef & Island Air** (helicopter) from \$135/person.

## Bowen

A coastal town with a population of 11,000, Bowen was founded in 1861, which makes this one of the oldest towns in Queensland. Bowen is also a place where several scenes from Baz Luhrmann's film, **Australia**, were filmed in 2008.

The town's beautiful white sand beaches attract numerous tourists all year long, and backpackers come in the harvest season (mainly May to

January). Remember that you can also find work in the surrounding towns such as **Clare** or **Ayr**.

The best of Bowen's beaches are north of the town, especially **Horseshoe Bay** and **Rose Bay** (less touristy).

However, only **Queens Beach** has anti jellyfish barriers so you can bathe there throughout the year.

These beaches are also ideal for snorkelling to observe fish and see the surrounding coral reefs (the best spot is at Horseshoe Bay).

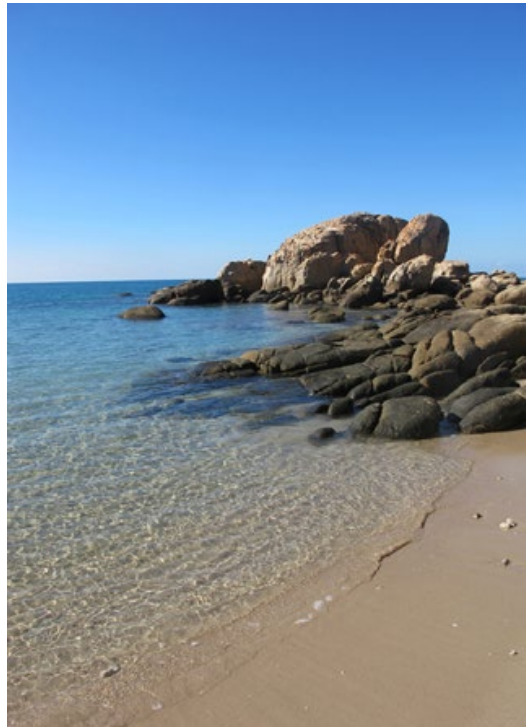
**Bowen Front's Beach** has recently been turned into a relaxation area with BBQ, outside amphitheatre and a skate park.

There is also a small additional visitor centre (the original visitor centre still exists on Bruce Highway).



*FRUIT PICKING  
Bowen region*

*Horseshoe Bay at Bowen*







*Alligator  
Creek  
Roadhouse  
22km south  
of Townsville*

At **Flagstaff Hill Lookout**, several viewpoints offer a 360° view over the surrounding areas. Other lookouts also offer beautiful views, especially Horseshoe lookout, accessible via a walk.

## FROM TOWNSVILLE TO CAIRNS

The 370km long road following the coast from Townsville to Cairns is called the Great Green Way. You will see mountain ranges, sugar cane plantations, deserted beaches surrounded by tropical forests, and cute little towns. Bordering the Wet Tropics Rainforest, national parks, and the Great Barrier Reef, this part of the coast will meet even the highest expectations!

If you are looking for some greenery after all the blue, Atherton Tablelands

is a good destination. Located only a few kilometres west of Cairns, you will find waterfalls, green pastures, and deep forests.

## Townsville & Magnetic Island

Townsville has a population of 200,000, which makes it the 3rd largest town in Queensland. Built around a red hill, **Castle Hill**, a viewpoint has been set up, offering a plunging view over the town and over Cleveland bay. The recently modernized main street, **Flinders Street**, contains all the town's historic buildings, and every Saturday the street hosts a colourful market. Townsville has 3 shopping centres all close to the town centre. In the evening, these areas liven up, and the many bars and restaurants fill up with locals and tourists out to party.

The seafront, **The Stand**, is well-

*Townsville  
main beach*



designed with barbecues, tables, leisure areas, and sports equipment. Certain beach zones are equipped with anti-jellyfish nets so it is safe to swim even during the jelly fish season. Remember that between November and May the waters are infested with Box Jelly fish which have a deadly sting.

At the extreme end of the sea front, **Rock Pool** is a pool of sea water designed for safer swimming. However, be careful, because between November and May there could still potentially be jelly fish! (*free entry*)

In the centre, the **Reef HQ Aquarium** provides the opportunity to visit the Great Barrier Reef without getting wet (\$28/person). You can see more than 130 species of coral and fish here.

The **Museum of Tropical Queensland** right next door, has a diverse range of exhibitions as well as interactive experiences focused on Queensland, its fauna, flora, climate... (\$15/person).

The **Cultural Centre** (\$5/person) is a museum-gallery dedicated to aboriginal art.

17km south of the town, **Billabong Sanctuary** (\$35/person – open from 8am to 5pm) gets you close up to Australian fauna, and why not cuddle a koala..... or a crocodile!

Located only 8km away opposite Townsville, **Magnetic Island** owes its name to its talent (according to Captain Cook), for sending compasses haywire. Nowadays, this island of 22 bays is highly prized by tourists who come here to relax for a few days.

Nicknamed Maggie by locals, the island is only accessible by ferry (from Ross Street with your car, and from Ross Creek for pedestrians). Budget around \$180 to cross with your vehicle, but only \$35 return if you are on foot!

Once on the island, you can take the bus (\$15 for a day pass) or hire a moped, car, bicycle...

The main road on the island starts at **Picnic Bay** and goes up to **Horseshoe Bay** in the north. The ferry arrives near **Nelly Bay**, where **Full Moon Parties** are held! On the last Friday of every month, over 2,000 people dance on the beach to mixes by famous DJs.

If you are interested in snorkelling, the best-known spots are in **Arthur Bay** and **Florence Bay** (the best beach on the island).

Divers head to Florence, Geoffrey Alma and Arthur Bay, to explore wrecks.

In the north of the island, **Horseshoe Bay** has the biggest beach. Here you can also swim with a horse, thanks to Horseshoe Ranch (1/2 day of riding).

But the best way to get to kno Maggie is still to simply wander along the trekking tracks all around



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Townsville  
Region*

*Townsville  
Esplanade*





*Balgol Beach  
50km north of  
Townsville*

the island. Don't miss The Forts Walk (4km return) which takes you to a Second World War defence base, and also gives you opportunities to view koalas in their natural habitat.

You can pick up a brochure listing all the walks available at Townsville Visitor Centre, or download it from [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

## On Bruce Highway

Between Townsville and Ingham, there are a series of free camping spots one after another along the beach. Often limited to 48 hours, they have facilities and a beautiful view of the ocean.

## PALUMA RANGE NATIONAL PARK

Also between Townsville and Ingham, this park is a short detour away from Bruce Highway. With several water courses and a dense forest, the park

*Paluma  
Range  
National Park*



offers varied walks and swimming. Take **Big Creek Road** to reach **Paradise Waterhole**, a peaceful river with water pools where you can swim. The neighbouring campground has BBQ, toilets and showers (\$5.75/night/person)

On *Little Creek Road* which leads to Paluma there are several waterholes where you can refresh yourself in the middle of the forest.

Further north in the park, **Jourama Falls** is accessible from the highway with a 6km detour. From the car park a 3km return walk takes you to a lookout with a view over waterfalls. Close to the campground (\$5.75/night/person), an artificial waterhole allows swimming with no risk of slipping on rocks.

## INGHAM

**Ingham** is a small town (population of 5,000), mainly famous for **Tyto Wetlands**. At the Tyto Wetlands Centre, a 3km area has been developed so that you can discover the wetlands easily through pleasant short walks, starting from the Visitor Centre. You can see a wide range of birds (including some rare species) and families of wallabies.

51km west of the town **Wallaman Falls** are the main attraction in **Gerringun National Park**. You can admire the highest waterfalls in the country (305m) from a lookout reached by a short walk. A nearby camping spot enables you to chill out in the park's calm environment, and why not do one of the treks on offer?

## CARDWELL & HICHINBROOK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

The next town is Cardwell, an area that was seriously impacted by cyclone Yasi in January 2011. This town is famous for dugongs which you can see from the jetty or while walking on the beach. **Cardwell Forest Drive** is

a small track starting from the town, which takes you to some waterfalls, a lookout, coves and waterholes.

Port Hinchinbrook closeby is the departure point for excursions to **Hinchinbrook Island National Park**. Accessible by ferry (*from \$85*), this wild and well-preserved island has been a protected zone since 1932. You can walk the famous Thorsbone Trail (32km) to discover abundant wildlife (estuary crocodiles, wallabies, dugongs...).

You should have a good level of physical fitness, and be self-sufficient to do this trek. A permit is mandatory. (*Information at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)*).

## TULLY

With over 4 metres of rain per year Tully is one of the wettest towns in Australia! And the residents are proud of it, displaying an iconic giant boot, 7.9m high (matching the record

amount of rain the town received in 1959). You can climb Mount Tysen for a view over the town. With so much water, it is not surprising that the town produces a significant volume of sugar cane, bananas, and melons, offering many employment opportunities in fruit-picking.

7km from the town **Tully Gorge** and **Alligator Nest** are ideal spots to relax and swim. For the more adventurous, a White Water Rafting Tour is on offer on the Tully River (*\$200/person*)

## MISSION BEACH

Mission Beach, a small town with a population of 5,000, is famous for its beautiful 14km of beach fringed with palm trees. The town has escaped the construction of high rise buildings and remains on a human scale. There is a caravan park, a few small shops, and agencies offering parachute jumps. Experienced divers can explore the wreck of "**Lady Bowen**"



*Bingil Bay  
Campground  
3km north  
of Mission  
Beach  
\$\$\$*



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Tully Region*

*Mission  
Beach*







*The Boulders  
6km west of  
Babinda*

at 34m deep (*from \$200 for the dive*).

If you are lucky you may also meet a **cassowary** in the area surrounding Mission Beach. This enormous bird looks like it has just wandered out of Jurassic Park! The size of a human, it vaguely resembles an ostrich with a blue neck and a bony crest on its head. It plays an essential role in spreading seeds from more than 100 plants but is currently in danger of extinction. There are only 1200 such birds left in the wild in total in Australia.

Mission Beach is also the departure point for **Dunk Island**, one of the Great Barrier Reef islands. There is a wide range of treks here (13km of trekking tracks) or just enjoy the beaches and explore the reefs.

You can purchase a pass (\$40) to access the facilities at the island's resort (swimming pool, lunch...)

The island is accessible by ferry (\$55

return) or Water Taxi (\$35 return) or via an organized day tour (\$43/person)

On the road between Mission Beach and Al Arish, there are several rainforest walks to look close-up at the dense vegetation in the area, in particular Lacey Creek (3,2km) which is an especially nice walk.

## INNISFAIL & ALENTOURS

Innisfail is the biggest town between Townsville and Cairns, and has some attractive buildings in Art Deco style, mostly rebuilt after being destroyed by a cyclone in 1918. The town is surrounded by sugar cane and banana plantations, which keep the economy healthy.

**Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walk** (30km west of Innisfail) is a 1km long suspended bridge in the heart of the forest. From the observation tower, the view of North Johnston River Gorge and the forest is spectacular (\$25/person – open from 9.30am to 5.30pm).

**Wooroonooran National Park** has attractive treks through rainforest and the **Boulders**, huge rocks comfortably resting in the river bed. There is a pool for swimming. Located 7km west of Babinda, the area is associated with an aboriginal legend combining romance and tragedy.

Further on you will come across **Josephine Falls**, with superb waterfalls in a jungle setting. There is a 2km walk and swimming available in the clear river waters.

Last but not least, 30km south of Innisfail you will find **Paronella Park**. José Paronella, a Spaniard, fell in love with the region when he arrived in 1913. He dreamt of building a castle here and after working in the cane sugar fields, he decided to build Paronella Park. The 5 hectares around Mena Creek Falls used to

*The Boulders*



contain a castle, a bridge, a tunnel and no less than 7 500 tropical plants and trees. Ravaged by repeated cyclones, a fire, and floods, the castle is now ruined, but covered by creeping vegetation it remains a magical place. The entrance fee (\$44) includes a guided tour explaining the castle's history, a night tour, and one night in the caravan park next door.

## Atherton Tablelands

Located to the west of Cairns, this vast plateau has an average altitude of 700m, superb landscapes and abundant fauna, including the rare Tree Kangaroo. This part of Queensland was explored late in time due to numerous conflicts with the aborigines. The discovery of gold accelerated the region's development, which quickly came to focus on agriculture and plantations. The soil is particularly fertile thanks to the volcanic soil and frequent rainfall, and a lot of fruit is grown in the area such as mangos and avocados....

## MILLAA MILLAA & WATERFALLS CIRCUITS

Moving on from Innisfail taking the Palmerston Highway, the road crosses tea plantations and the tropical forests of **Wooroonooran National Park**. From the highway you can see some waterfalls and a beautiful view over the valley (Crawfords Lookout). There are also several starting points for walks to observe local plants and wildlife.

Next you will come to the **Waterfalls Circuit**, a narrow 15km road which snakes its way through verdant hills leading to 3 waterfalls.

The first is **Ellinjaa Falls** accessible via a stairway taking you to the foot of the waterfall. You can lunch at the picnic tables to soak up the surroundings, and do battle with the hungry wild turkeys.

**Zillie Falls**, a little further on, can be seen from a platform a few minutes away from the car park.

**Millaa Millaa Falls**, last (or first) in the circuit is without doubt the most beautiful and most impressive. You can swim in a pool in this idyllic place surrounded by vegetation.

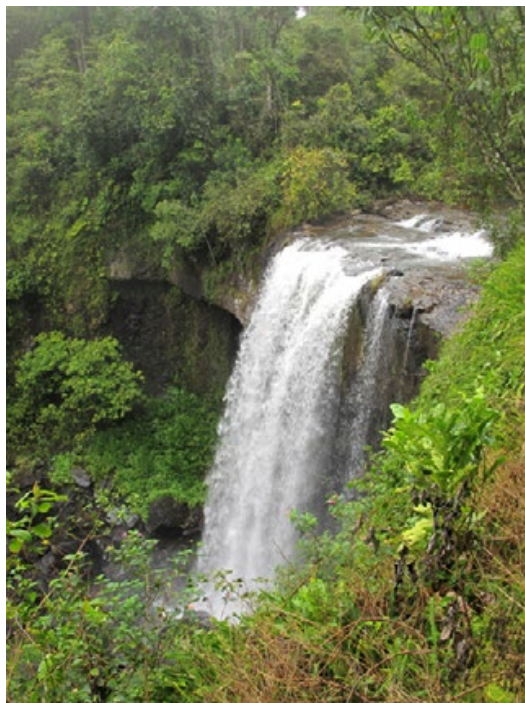
From **Millaa Millaa village** you can choose to go north via **Malanda**, (where the waterfalls are not very impressive), or go west to **Ravenshoe**.

## RAVENSHOE

This little village of only 900 inhabitants has a pub built 920m above sea level – making it the highest village in Queensland. You can visit **Windy Hill Wind Farm** and watch the immense turbines in motion from a platform.

You can also visit **Millstream Falls**, the broadest waterfalls in the whole

*Waterfalls  
Circuit*





*Aecher Creek  
Rest Area  
16km west of  
Ravenshoe*

country, and only 5km west of the town.

To the north, there is **Mt Hypipamee National Park**. Following a short walk from the car park you can reach Dinner Falls, then the crater 140m deep!

Not to be missed either, the **Millaa Millaa Lookout** has a superb view over the region (in clear weather!)

## ATHERTON

Atherton is the biggest town in the Tablelands and is considered to be the capital and business centre in the region. Built on the side of an extinct volcano and surrounded by hills, the town has green and picturesque landscapes. There are also numerous harvest job opportunities thanks to the many plantations (mangos, avocados, potatoes...). The Q.I.T.E agency on the Main Street will be able to help you search (tel: 1800 354 414 or [www.qite.com](http://www.qite.com))



*FRUIT  
PICKING  
Atherton  
Tablelands  
Region*

On the main street you will also find **Crystal Caves** (\$22.50 - open every day from 8am to 5pm). This museum exhibits a private collection of semi-precious stones and you can also visit the caves - a real labyrinth underneath the town.

South west of the town the **Hou Wang Temple** (\$10 - open from 8.30am to 5pm) tells the story of Chinese immigration to the region in the 19th century.

Just next door, at **Platypus Park** if you are lucky you may see platypus splashing around in the sea.

For an impressive view of the town and the surrounding plains, **Halloran's Hill Lookout** is well worth the detour!

If you would like to visit a historic village, looping 30mins to the west of the town will take you to Heberton.

In the main street there are some distinctive historical buildings. Just before you arrive in town, **Heberton**

**Historic Village** is a historical reconstruction including buildings dated 1870 and a large number of period vehicles, - the biggest and most important collection in the whole state, (\$29 - open from 9am to 5pm).

## YUNGABURRA

Located 13km east of Atherton, Yungaburra is a pretty little town with a charming historic pub.

On the road from Atherton, definitely stop off at **Curtain Fig!**

This is an enormous fig tree with roots cascading down 15m forming a curtain.

In town, **Peterson Creek Walking Circuit** offers another opportunity to meet platypus, or the rare Tree Kangaroos.

Every 4th Saturday in the month, the town has an art and food market which is not to be missed if you are nearby.

On Gillies Highway towards Gordonvale, there is **Crater Lakes National Park** formed by Lake Barrine and Lake Eacham 12 000 years ago. You can do a couple of walks around the lakes (3 and 5km) or swim (Eacham Lake swimming pontoon) or go on a cruise (*Barrine Lake for \$17*). A few kilometres from there, **Cathedral Fig** is a HUGE fig tree which is said to be more than 500 years old.

## MAREEBA

This is another town with a large quantity of plantations, attracting casual workers all year round (with the peak season between January and March).

Here you can visit the **Marreba Heritage Museum** retracing the region's history, and telling the story of the lives of the first pioneers who came here to search for gold (*free entry - open from 8am to 4pm*).

On Mason Street, **Coffee Works** has a choice of more than 20 different coffees, chocolate tastings and 5 mini theatres exploring the world of coffee. You can even order home delivery of your favourite flavour! (\$19/person, entrance ticket valid for several days – open 9am to 4pm).

**Useful Tip:** the Coffee Works brochure (which you can find in the region's Visitor Centre) offers a \$5 reduction on each entry ticket to their museum.

The **Mareeba Rodeo** (mid-July) is one of the main attractions in the town. Attracting competitors from all across the country, the town seethes with excitement (event held at Kerribee Park).

6km north of town, **Marreeba Wetlands Reserve** is a 2 000 hectare reserve, where you can see more than 221 species of birds, kangaroos, wallabies, and if you are lucky, freshwater crocodiles.

Budget about \$20 for the Eco Cruise (30min duration) and \$12 for the Conservation Pass to have access to the treks on offer.

12km from Mareeba, **Granite Gorge Nature Park** is a small private park where you can enjoy nature, swimming holes, or a wide range of walks. You will definitely see (and feed) rock wallabies (entrance \$13 - camping \$16/night).

## FAR NORTH QLD

In the far north of Queensland, the landscapes are rainforest, deserted beaches, the wild zone of Cape York and in particular the area closest to the Great Barrier Reef. The main town is Cairns, the hub of tourism in the north, and here you can discover a relaxed atmosphere and one of the most beautiful regions in Australia.

*Curtain Fig Tree*





# T H E G R E A T B

2 300km long, the famous reef stretches from the extreme north-eastern point of the continent down to the open sea at Bundaberg. Longer than the Great Wall of China, visible from the moon, and classed as UNESCO World Heritage since 1981, it is not surprising that the Great Barrier Reef is considered to be the 8th wonder of the world!

The Great Barrier Reef is the biggest coral reef in the world, including 2000 islands (some of them have never been explored), and over 3000 reefs.

The first reefs start 30km from the coast, but to see the most magnificent coral reefs, and incredible fish, you must go out into open sea.

The coral grows quite close to the surface because it needs light to survive, so it rarely exists below a depth of 30m.

The reefs of the Great Barrier can be classed in 3 categories:

**Barrier:** formed by coral skeletons and a living top layer.

**Platform Reefs:** External part created by coral growth towards the water surface. Then formed by a sandbank where plants can settle in.

**Fringing Reef (continental islands):** Closer to the continent, eg. Great Keppel Island, most of the Whitsunday Islands... Previously attached to the continent, and now separated due to a rise in sea level.

## CHARACTERISTICS

Length: 2 300km

Average width: 65km

Maximum width: 80km

Distance from the coast: between 15 and 150km

Age : over 10 000 years old

## FAUNA

Over 400 different types of coral

1 500 types of tropical fish

20 types of reptiles, including sea turtles

200 types of birds

Rays, sharks, tuna, dugongs, dolphins and humpback whales migrating from the Antarctic!

## DANGEROUS SPECIES

**Jelly Fish:** from October to May, less common around islands.

**Stone Fish:** fish with deadly poison in their spines

## THREATS TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Even though its overall size keeps increasing, the Great Barrier Reef is an extremely fragile ecosystem. It is gradually drifting south, where the waters are increasingly warm, and it is threatened by marine pollution, agricultural run-off, intensive fishing, boats dropping anchor, diving, and of course global warming. Some scientists estimate that even as soon as 2050 only 5% of the coral will survive. The Australian government aware of this risk, put in place conservation measures in 2004. However, upon election in 2013 the Tony Hunt government approved massive resource projects (involving the dredging and dumping



# A R R I E R R E E F

of spoil near the reef and a new coal export terminal). The World Heritage Committee will consider in 2014 whether the Great Barrier Reef should be placed on their list of “in danger” world heritage sites.

Species under threat: the Green Sea Turtle, living in our oceans for the past 150 million years. 6 of the 7 sea turtle species live on the Great Barrier, and all 6 of them are endangered. The Dugong is the only completely vegetarian sea mammal. There are around 1 400 dugongs on the Great Barrier.

Humpback whales, visible in the region between May and September. They spend the summer in the Polar Regions where food is abundant, then migrate to warmer waters in winter to breed. Despite their status as protected species in some countries, many species are endangered.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here are some tips so you can minimize your impact on the Great Barrier Reef while you are visiting.

While you are in the region : use toilets as often as possible, carry your rubbish until you can dispose of it responsibly in a serviced rubbish bin, check you do not have any insects (or any other living species) in your vehicle/things before visiting.

During your excursion: check you are not overweighted before you dive, don't stand on the reef; don't hold onto or touch or brush past the coral; do not scare or feed the fish – take your time!

When camping: carry your rubbish back to the continent, pay for your permit with the

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, camp only in designated sites, don't light fires in the national parks, don't use soap or cleaning products close to water courses, use only sand to clean your pots and pans.

## DEPARTURE POINTS FOR EXCURSIONS

Cairns: the most popular

Port Douglas: good access to Agincourt Reef

Cape Tribulation: fewer people

Airlie Beach: Departure point for the Whitsunday Islands

## THE BEST SEASONS TO VISIT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef has a tropical climate with pleasant temperatures all year round. There are two seasons: a hot, humid summer from December to April, and a dry, cooler winter between June and November.

The rainy season lasts from December to March, but be assured that the Great Barrier Reef islands get a lot less rainfall than the continent. However, the jelly fish can be dangerous... but you should not have any problems with a thick, full length wetsuit!

Another solution is to choose an island very far south, or very far out to sea (Brampton, Heron and Lady Elliot islands for example). These islands are never affected by jelly fish.

Water temperatures vary from 21° on average in winter, to 27° in the summer. Temperatures increase the further north you go. The best season for diving is between April and November



## Cairns

Cairns is the second largest town in QLD, and is currently the main tourist centre to access the Great Barrier Reef. Thanks to a tropical climate, the town enjoys pleasant temperatures all year round (25° in winter!). Very popular with tourists, Cairns has an international airport, shopping centres, and hotels and restaurants for every budget.

### SIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### THE ESPLANADE & THE LAGOON

The Esplanade is the living heart of the island. Cairns Foreshore Promenade runs 2.5kms along the mangroves and offers BBQs and other facilities to enjoy the space. Given that there is no real beach, the town has created a superb artificial lagoon (with sea water) so you can swim, and avoid both jelly fish and crocodiles!

Cairns  
Esplanade



#### RUSTY'S MARKET (Grafton St.)

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, throughout the day, this is the biggest fruit and veg market in town. In a colourful atmosphere you can find good quality products at bargain prices!

#### NIGHT MARKET

*Accessible from the Esplanade or Abbott Street.* This big night market is open every day from 4.30pm to 11pm, selling craft products, fruit and vegetables, clothes....

#### BOTANICAL GARDEN

Located on Collins Avenue in the north west of town, there are pleasant walks on offer, surrounded by tropical plants and the Centenary Lakes. Every month, the garden is livened up with a local craft market.

#### MANGROVE BOARDWALK

*Airport Avenue, to the north of the town.* You can discover the weird and wonderful world of mangroves thanks to 2 short walks (insect repellent is essential!).

#### MONT WHITFIELD CONSERVATION PARK

Beautiful walks and a splendid look-out over Cairns and the bay.

#### CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY

Located on the corner of Abbott and Shields Street (*open from 10am to 5pm*). This gallery is housed in a period building, and presents a variety of temporary exhibitions mainly focussed on aboriginal and modern art.

#### CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Located at 96 Abbott Street (*free – open 10am to 5pm*)  
Presents the work of local artists (from Queensland). The shop has some very original handmade products!

#### REEF TEACH

Located at 85 Lake Street (\$23 - *Tuesday to Saturday, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm*)

A presentation about the Great Barrier Reef to teach you how to identify different species of coral, fish, with lots of information!

There are several cruises to see **crocodiles**, for example

**CROCODILE EXPLORER** (1 Spence Street, Cairns - \$46 for a half day with a tour of a crocodile farm included)

### SHOPPING

In the town centre, Cairns Central (Grafton and Lake Street) is a large shopping centre where you can find supermarkets and all kinds of other shops.

DFO located at Westcourt on Mulgrave Road hosts more than 100 ready-to-wear clothes shops with bargain prices!

### WHERE TO GO OUT?

Most of the trendy bars and restaurants are on the Esplanade.

### WHERE TO SLEEP?

#### BACKPACKERS HOSTELS

Many hotels offer low prices for backpackers. You can easily find a dorm bed from \$15 a night. Most backpacker hostels are on the Esplanade. The biggest is **Gilligans** on Grafton Street, 5 minutes' walk from the town centre.

#### NEAREST FREE CAMPING SPOT

**Babinda Rest Area** 60km to the south

#### NEAREST CARAVAN PARK

**Cairns Holiday Park**, 2km from the town centre on Little Street.

Powered site : \$33 in low season, \$44 in high season.

### CRUISES FROM CAIRNS

#### GREEN ISLAND

Without doubt the most popular of the islands, Green Island has a small forest, white sand beaches and a big resort, which attracts tourists who

*Cairns  
Esplanade*





want to meet sea turtles.

**Marineland Malanesia** is a tropical aquarium tropical where you can see sea turtles, rays and crocodiles (\$19/ person).

Some operators offer a ferry crossing from \$70 return for a full or half-day.

### FITZROY ISLAND

Classed as a national park, Fitzroy Island is covered by 500 hectares of forest. There are 4 walks to explore.

Summit Circuit (4.2km, around 3 hours) leaves from the resort, and takes you to the island's lighthouse, the perfect place to observe whales from June – August.

If you want to snorkel, Nudey Beach (yes it is a nudist beach) is considered the best place on the island.

*Return transfer from \$69, or you can purchase a pass which includes additional activities.*

*Diving on the Great Barrier Reef*

### FRANKLAND ISLANDS

This group of islands are uninhabited and do not have any resorts. They are all included in a national park managed by the Australian government. If you are looking for a wilder, better conserved place to visit, Frankland Island is the place for you. With a maximum of 100 people authorised at any given time on the island, only one operator can take you there: Frankland Islands (1 Abbott Street, Cairns).

You can camp on the island at Russel campsite (*obtain a permit from QPWS, \$5*)

For an all-inclusive day of snorkelling with a river cruise and lunch, count \$140/person.

### CRUISES ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Snorkelling and diving equipment is always included for all excursions, so you only need to bring: beach towel, swimming costume, sun cream and sun hat.



Lunch, morning and afternoon tea are usually included.

Also on offer (at additional charge): a transfer to your hotel, 1 or more dives (*approx \$70 for the first dive, and \$45 for each additional dive*), diving helmet rental (so you can dive for 10min without getting your hair wet!), or a “glass bottom boat” or semi-submersible ride to see the sea bottom.

There are so many excursions on offer for the Great Barrier Reef that it can be difficult to choose.

We recommend you go to Cairns Visitor Centre because sometimes there are special offers on certain excursions.

Your main choice criteria will be: price, boat size and speed, whether or not you also want to dive, distance from the coast, level of service.

A \$6,50 tax which goes to Barrier Reef conservation, is applied to each excursion.

In addition, bear in mind that if you only want to snorkel, the best sites are towards the outer reefs, whereas the best dive sites start at the first islands.

Here are some examples of what's on offer:

### REEF EXPERIENCE

Around 100 people on the boat. Two spots of snorkeling and one free dive (if you want to). From \$209/ person.

### SILVERSWIFT - QUICKSILVER

(Recommended) - Three spots of snorkeling (possible dive). Wifi, coffees, teas and lunch included. From \$233/person.

### SCENIC FLIGHT - GSL AVIATION

60 minutes flight over the Great Barrier Reef and tropical forest! Magical! From \$265/ pers.

### SKYDIVE

Jump from 15,000 feet above the

Great Barrier Reef! From \$309/ pers.

## On Cook Highway

From Cairns to Port Douglas, the road snakes through the hills offering spectacular views of the ocean, pretty beaches, and amazing spots to stop off and enjoy this beautiful environment.

## THE BEACHES NORTH OF CAIRNS

Famous for palm trees and golden sand, the beaches north of Cairns stretch for over 25km for the length of the Coral Sea. The all have anti jelly fish nets to protect swimmers.

**Machans Beach**, located only 10 minutes from Cairns, is considered to be a good fishing spot.

Next there is **Holloways Beach**, more laid back.

*Star Eyed Pufferfish*





*Palm Cove  
Campground  
at Palm Cove  
\$\$\$*

*Hartley's  
Crocodile  
Adventures*

**Yorkey Knobb** is the largest (3km long), flattest beach, so ideal for wind surfing or kite surfing.

**Trinity Beach**, is the most popular and family-oriented, fringed with tropical forest.

**Kewarra Beach** is loved by locals, and there are a few bars and restaurants along the beach.

**Palm Cove** is much more developed, with many shops, bars, resorts, and also a campsite and a good beach with lifeguards.

**Ellis Beach**, located half-way between Cairns and Port Douglas, is the wildest, and in our opinion, the most beautiful! A little further north on Cook Highway, small recesses along the edge of the road give you access to even more deserted sites (you could even stay the night there).

**Hartley's Crocodile Adventures**, located 40km north of Cairns, or 25km south of Port Douglas, is unmissable! Mainly focused on crocodiles, you

can go on a boat ride on Hartley's Lagoon to see enormous crocodiles jump out of the water to take the bait! There are several shows each day, including the particularly impressive "Crocodile Attack Show", so you will not be disappointed. The pass costs \$39, and is valid for 3 days.

Just after the park, stop off at **ReX Lookout** for the wonderful view. You may even be tempted by a delta plane flight over the bay (The Cairns Hang Gliding Club).

## KURANDA

This little village, which has become a real tourist hub, has been famous since the creation of **Kuranda Scenic Railway**. It links Cairns with Kuranda thanks to a 34km-long railway which goes through 15 tunnels. Departures from Cairns at 8.30am and 9.30am. Departures from Kuranda at 2pm and 3.30pm. The journey time is 1 hour 45 minutes. *One-way ticket: \$50, Return: \$76.*

The **Sky Rail** is also a key attraction in the town. It is the longest and most ecological cable car in the world, skimming the forest for 7.5km with 2 stops at Red Peak and **Barron Falls**. The journey time is 1 and a half hours one-way, or 2 and a half hours return. Cars leave every 15 minutes from Kuranda or Caravonica. *One-way ticket: \$50, return: \$75.*

**Bat Reach**, which can be found at the jungle walk in Kuranda is a small refuge for bats, welcoming visitors every day except Monday and Friday.

## PORT DOUGLAS

A short detour from the Highway (5km) takes you to a small town called Port Douglas (population: 5,000). Port Douglas was founded in 1877 when gold was discovered in "Hodgkinson River". Now this small community has an impressive number of chic resorts and restaurants along the side of the road.



The town's beach, **Four Mile Beach**, is perfect for swimming, or sunset walks.

For a great view over the town and the ocean, **Flagstaff Hill lookout** is THE place to go.

Port Douglas is also one of the closest towns to the Barrier Reef, and is a good place to access the reef. Several excursions leave from the Marina.

## EXCURSIONS LEAVING FROM PORT DOUGLAS

### PORT DOUGLAS ISLANDS

Several companies offer tours to the Low Isles, a sandbank with coral, a lagoon, and a lighthouse for superb views of the surroundings.

There is a tax of \$6,50/person added to each excursion.

### EXCURSIONS ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Again many companies offer

excursions, usually including the reef tax (\$6,50), a buffet lunch, morning and afternoon tea, as well as snorkelling and diving equipment. The excursions leave around 8am, returning to port around 4.30pm.

The best snorkelling sites are on the outer reefs of the Great Barrier. Budget around \$200 extra for an introductory dive.

We recommend :

#### SILVERSWIFT - QUICKSILVER

The Silver Sonic takes you to Agincourt Ribbon Reef to visit 3 exceptional diving and snorkelling sites. *\$245 for the day* - recommended.

#### CALYPSO REEF CRUISE

Several spots of snorkeling/ dive with stops on the great barrier reef. From \$255/ pers.

*A deserted beach, north of Ellis Beach*





## North of Port Douglas

### MOSSMAN

Not far from Port Douglas, **Mossman** is home to the Kuku Yalnji community, the traditional owners of this land. Tours taking you through forests and gorges (dreamtime walks) are an opportunity to learn more about their culture. 5 minutes from the centre, **Mossman Gorge** is a wonderful place where you can go on short walks in the forest (the longest is 2km). You can see a huge fig tree, and take a refreshing dip in a waterhole.

### FROM DAINTREE TO COOKTOWN

This small agricultural village is the doorway to Daintree National Park. You can take a river cruise for around

\$30 to see birds and crocodiles on Daintree River (more than 70 species of crocodiles).

To gain access to **Daintree National Park**, you will need to cross Daintree River on board a small cable ferry (\$26 with a vehicle), departures every 15 minutes, and a crossing which lasts only 2 minutes. The national park covers 56,000 hectares and has more than 3,000 types of plants, of which some are very ancient and very rare. Registered as UNESCO World Heritage, it is famous for its tropical forest and mountains (Thornton Peak 1,375m and Mount Sorrow 750m). One lone 34km-long road will take you through this magnificent park to Cape Tribulation.

10km to the north after the ferry the **Discovery Centre** (purchase a pass for \$35/person, valid for 7 days) gives you an insight into the natural riches of the region. A tower 23m high is accessible via an aerial walkway, with a series of observation platforms.

*Agincourt  
Ribbon Reef*



A guide book is included and will definitely be useful for you during your stay in the park.

The **Alexandre Range lookout** has a fantastic view over the river, winding its way through the forest to the sea.

**Jindalba Boardwalk**, 1km after the Discovery Centre has 2 walks and a picnic area.

**Cape Kimberley**, located 8km after the ferry arrivals is a beautiful beach where Mount Alexander collides with the sea, with a wonderful view over Snapper Island. There are boats to take you there, unless you have your own canoe. It is possible to camp on the island but only with a permit (*available from QPWS, \$5/person*).

**Cape Tribulation**, is the place where the forest meets the sea. Historically, this is where Captain Cook's ship ran aground and a quote from Cook explains his choice of name for this place: *"I named the North point Cape Tribulation because here began all our troubles"*, *Lieutenant James Cook*.

The region has an average rainfall of 4.5m per year.

You can surf through the jungle with **Jungle Surfing Canopy**. These 5 routes and 6 platforms scattered across the forest offer an exciting experience with magnificent views. Reserve in advance at the Visitor Centre or at [www.junglesurfing.com.au](http://www.junglesurfing.com.au) (*excursion duration: 2 hours, \$105/person*)

**Bat House**, is a bat nursery. Open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10.30am to 3.30pm. *Entrance fee \$5/person*.

## Cooktown and Cape York Peninsula

### COOKTOWN

Cooktown has a population of 2,000, and is the closest town to the Great Barrier Reef.

There are 2 ways to get there: With a conventional vehicle you can only take Mulligan Highway, inland, (330km from Cairns). When you have crossed the mountains, the landscapes change to tropical savannah with beautiful views, especially **Bob's Lookout**, after Mt Cabine.

With a 4WD you can follow the coastline from Cape Tribulation. This track is a real adventure crossing **Daintree National Park**, reserved for experienced drivers. Along the track you will come across Bloomfield Falls, communities of aborigines and little villages. Remember that the track is often closed during the wet season.

Cooktown was named after Captain Cook who ran his ship aground nearby. Nowadays the town is



*Rifle Creek Rest Area  
33km south  
of Mossman*

*Mossman Gorge*





proud of its history and each year celebrates the arrival of Cook in their June festival.

You can also visit the **James Cook Museum** (\$10 - open from 9.30am to 4pm) which retraces the navigator's adventures, exhibits pieces of the ship, and tells the story of the town and the region.

**Nature's Powerhouse** in the botanical garden showcases the region's fauna and flora (\$3.50).

The Visitor Centre is also here, and you can obtain the very useful brochure "**Cooktown Scenic Rim Walking Trail**" explaining the region's treks. Cherry Tree Bay and Finch Bay are incredible walks leading to Captain Cook's favourite beaches (25min to 1 hour).

For a panoramic view of the town, the Endeavour River and the Coral Sea, **Grassy Hill** is a must-do. It is here that Captain Cook came several times to observe the Great Barrier Reef, and choose his route to leave after repairing his vessel. The lighthouse was built in England and transported to Australia in 1885.

The region also has several Aboriginal rock painting sites which you can take in.

You can venture to the **Black Mountain National Park**, a black mountain full of mysteries and aboriginal legends from the Kuku Yalanji people.

**Mount Cook National Park** is ideal for those looking for some exercise. A steep 2km climb takes you up to a superb lookout, then 2km further to the mountain's summit (431m). You can see waterfalls in the area Isabella Falls, accessible only by 4WD.

If you would prefer to explore the region in a risk-free way, you can always choose one of the many tours leaving from Cooktown:

**4WD Tour** of the region and the gulf from \$165/day.

**Boating on the River Endeavour** with boat hire (no permit needed) from \$30/hour.

**Guided walks with an aboriginal guide**, budget around \$85/person.

## CAPE YORK

This vast peninsula still has unexplored areas, and is even considered by some people to be the wildest region in Australia, with landscapes resembling Papua New Guinea (not far from the coast).

North of the peninsula, the Torres Strait is circled by 70 small islands of which only 17 are inhabited. Some of these islands have not yet been officially named, and have hardly been explored. Unfortunately the peninsula is only accessible by a lonely 600km track and so is reserved only for those who have a 4WD vehicle.

**Peninsula Development Road** is the peninsula's main artery, in relatively good state at the end of the wet season, but getting worse and worse during the dry season. Therefore the best season to go there is between July and November.

We strongly recommend you go to the Visitor Centre in Cairns to plan your stay in this region, as well as the QPWS centre (Cairns or Cooktown): to check the state of the track, obtain permits which may also be necessary to cross over into aboriginal territory, or to gain access to camping spots etc... Be aware that the region also has very poor network coverage (many car hire companies offer satellite phones too), and that there are restrictions on alcohol.

South of the peninsula, **Lakefield National Park** is accessible via Laura and Peninsula Development Road or via Cooktown and Battle Camp Road. It is common to see many crocodile-inhabited rivers, marshes, lagoons, water holes...

On **Nifold Plain** the landscape is barren and peppered with impressive termite mounds. A QPWS centre is located at New Laura (25km north of Old Laura).

Further north (135km along the main track), you will come across **Weipa** and its bauxite mines. The mining companies in the area try to minimize their impact to some extent, and after each operation plant new trees.

The surrounding areas are mostly closed to the public, but a permit can be obtained from the Mapoon, Aurukun and Napranom communities.

**Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) National Park** is located 135km east of the main track. This park is jointly managed by the aborigines and the Queensland local government. There are long beaches, superb views from high points, and the biggest rain forest located on a plain in Australia.

You can camp on **Chilli Beach**.

**Branwell Junction Roadhouse** is the last petrol stop before Banaga.

You have 2 options to access the tip of the peninsula. The most direct but difficult route is the **Old Telegraph Track**. The longest but safest path runs to the east and then to the west of the Telegraph Track, thereby avoiding most of coves and rivers.

At the end you will need to cross **Tardine River** by ferry (\$88/vehicle).

On the way, **Twin Falls** and **Eliot Falls** (7km north of where to 2 tracks cross) have beautiful swimming holes.

**Banaga**, at the very tip, is a big community coming from the Torres Strait Islands. There is a small shopping centre, a service station.

When you follow the track further to the north, The TIP track crosses the most northern rainforest in Australia leading to Cape York. From there, you can access certain islands such as **Thursday Island** and **Torres Strait Island** by ferry (from \$55).

## THE OUTBACK

The Outback, Australia's immense interior is a huge territory of endless desert, unending landscapes and adventure. For many, it is the heart of Australia, and a unique experience.

The extreme climate and burning sun make agriculture impossible.

In the most isolated zones, rarely visited, towns are increasingly rare, and the locals make efforts to be especially welcoming.

Even though there are 2 main motorways, Flinders and Landsborough highways, once you leave the main roads, the isolation is striking, and tracks are often in poor repair.



Kennedy  
River Rest  
Area  
33km north of  
Laura

## Flinders Highway

### Townsville -> Northern Territory

Called Overlander's Way, this highway, 1550km long, (750km of which is in QLD), crosses Queensland's Outback and eventually reaches Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

There are several points of interest along the way to break up the long journey, not least of which is Mt Isa, the main town in this part of the Outback.

## FROM CHARTERS TOWERS TO MT ISA

From Charters Towers, old mining town, you will pass by a few "villages" before arriving at **Hughenden**, in the heart of dinosaur country. The town is located on the border of a prehistoric interior lake, where terrestrial dinosaurs and sea reptiles lived. You can visit **Flinders Discovery Centre** to meet "Hughie", the skeleton of a 7m long Muttaborrasaurus, as well as a large collection of fossils.

70km north of town, **Porcupine Gorge National Park** is a canyon





Macrossan  
Park  
22km east  
of Charters  
Towers

formed by gorges with walls reaching 120m in height!

You can camp at Pyramid Lookout and enjoy the treks in the area (*permits available on [www.qld.gov.au/camping](http://www.qld.gov.au/camping)*).

After **Richmond** and **Julia Creek**, 400km further on you will come to **Cloncurry** (population of 6 000). This town is the birthplace of the **Royal Flying Doctors Service** in 1928, which still brings medical care to the most isolated communities in the country. **John Flynn Place**, close to the town centre, honours these services to the public, and you can read the story of this incredible undertaking.

You can also visit **Mary Kathleen Memorial Park and Museum**, where there is a small exhibition retracing the steps of the Burke and Wills expedition in 1860.

## MT ISA

Main Outback town in Queensland and an essential stop on Flinders Highway, Mt Isa is one of the most important mining centres in the world. The mines are still fully active, and the town stretches over 41 000km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of around 25 000.

In the 1920s, mineral deposits were discovered in the region. A massive influx of immigrants came to seek their fortune, which enabled the town to develop rapidly.

Located in a cattle farming area, rodeos are two a penny here. The most important one is the **Rotary Rodeo**, which takes place in August and attracts competitors and fans from all over the world.

The town also has other attractions on offer to entertain you as you pass through. You can buy a pass (\$55) covering galleries, tours and other draws for tourists.

**Outback at Isa** is one of the town's flagship attractions. **Hard Times Mine** gives you the opportunity to experience the world of mining, through 1.2km of underground tunnels (\$76/person – *make sure you reserve a tour in advance*).

You can also visit an underground hospital, built during the Second World War, in fear of Japanese bombing (\$10 – *open from April to September from 10am to 2pm*).

For an unforgettable view over this surprising landscape, don't miss sunset at **City Lookout** (Hilary Street).

To relax and refresh yourself, **Lake Moondarra National Park** is located only a few minutes from the town. You can enjoy the facilities at this artificial lake surrounded by picnic tables and BBQs.

After Mt Isa, **Camooweal** is the last town before the Northern Territory. Still part of the town of Mt Isa this makes the highway the longest road in the town, stretching across 188km! 20km from Camooweal, amazing caves are open to experienced potholers.

## Matilda Way Karumba -> NSW

This highway, more than 1 700km in length, leaves from Karumba, at the Gulf of Carpentaria and crosses the entire state of Queensland before arriving in the little town of Bourke in NSW. From the turquoise waters of the Gulf, the track enters Queensland's deepest Outback, following the first crossing of the continent by the explorers, Burke and Wills in 1860. This journey through the Outback is certainly the most famous.

On the way, the track crosses typical Australian villages, and a few national parks, before finally reaching the desert plains of Central West Queensland.

## FROM KARUMBA TO LONGREACH

Starting from **Karumba** the Burke Development Road leads to Normanton, the region's main business centre. From there on, the only surprise when crossing the plains is an isolated hill, **Bang Bang Jump up!**

After 370km of road with endless landscapes, you will finally arrive at Cloncurry, birthplace of the **Royal Flying Doctor Service**.

From there, you can get to Mount Isa via Flinders Highway or continue on to NSW on Landsborough Highway.

Driving towards the south, you will come across the little village of **Mc Kinlay** which everyone knows without even realising! This is where some of the scenes in the famous 1986 film, **Crocodile Dundee**, were filmed! Nowadays, you can quietly sip a beer at **Walkabout Creek Hotel**

to get a feel for the atmosphere, and even stay the night (caravan park and units available).

**Kynuna** is the next stop along the road. Established in 1860, this tiny town has an old pub with walls covered in messages from customers.

A few km south, **Combo Conservation Park** has some peaceful waterholes ideal for a dip. This place is said to have inspired Banjo Paterson, an Australian author, who wrote the famous folk song, *Waltzing Matilda*.

At **Winton**, 150km further on, **Waltzing Matilda Centre** is an original museum dedicated to this song (*\$21 - from 9am to 5pm*). In the town centre, behind the main hotel, you can admire the work of **Arno Grotjahn**, a 70m wall covered in all kinds of objects.

Almost 110km south of this town, **Australian Age of Dinosaurs** has



*Fountain Springs Rest Area  
61km east of Mt Isa*

*Masters of the Outback*





Rery Smith  
Lookout  
80km north of  
Cloncurry

a collection of fossils and dinosaur bones dating back more than 65 million years! **Lark Quarry Trackways (Lark Quarry Conservation Park)**, is the only place in the world where you can see dinosaur footprints.

In this place, approximately 95 million years ago, two herbivores were drinking at the edge of the river. A carnivore arrived, and panicking, the dinosaurs fled across the mud, leaving behind them more than 3 000 footprints. They were discovered in 1962 and have since been protected so they have remained in good condition.

## FROM LONGREACH TO NSW

**Longreach** is famous for the **Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame** but also for its history with **Qantas**. This small community, due to its isolated but central location, was the first destination for commercial flights of this international airline.

At **Qantas Founders' Museum** you can look round a Jumbo Jet (including the sections that are usually prohibited for passengers!) (\$30 - from 9am to 5pm)

**Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame & Outback Heritage Centre** tells the story of these men and women who opened up Australia's Outback. There are 5 galleries, where you can learn about life at the time of these pioneers, work on the farms, and lots of other interesting information (\$32 - from 9am to 5pm).

On Landsborough Hwy, the next town the road meets is **Barcaldine**. This is where there was a significant shearers' strike in 1891. For 4 months, strikers gathered in the shade of the "**Tree of Knowledge**", of which you can see a replica at the **Australian Workers Heritage Centre** (\$18 - from 9am to 5pm).

**Charleville**, accessible from Brisbane along the Warrego highway, is a famous town in the Outback. Located on Warrego River, the town was a stopping off point for many explorers. 16km from there, a tree bears witness to the passage of **William Landsborough** in 1862.

Above all, when you come through Charleville, don't miss the **Cosmos Centre and Observatory** (from \$10 - from 10am to 6pm). During the day, you can observe the sun with one of the centre's telescopes, and discover astronomy thanks to the different exhibitions and activities on offer.

In the evening, you can see magnificent views of the starry night sky!

In the town centre, **Hotel Corones** is one of the best hotels in Central Queensland. Feel free to ask the owner to show you the bedrooms on the first floor.

From Charleville, driving towards the west (750km of which 270km are on a sandy track), you can get to **Birdsville**. Built on the edge of the Simpson Desert, this community (120 inhabitants!) is the most remote and isolated in Queensland. At the beginning of September each year there are impressive horse races, attracting a crowd of visitors over the 3 day event. From Birdsville, you can access the Simpson Desert National Park (4WD is compulsory!) and Birdsville Track (as far as Maree SA).

## Great Inland Way

### Cairns -> Sydney

Joining Cairns and Sydney through the back-country, the Great Inland Way is a good way to reach NSW quickly. You can avoid the traffic along the coasts, and discover the beauty of the state's interior.

The landscapes slowly pass by for over 2 800km but there are a few specific points of interest to break up the journey, and deepen your appreciation of the Australian Outback.

## FROM CAIRNS TO EMERALD

Leaving Cairns to the south, you will cross the Atherton Tablelands, a large agricultural plateau with volcanic soil (see Atherton Tablelands).

### CHARTERS TOWERS

This small town full of history and character was founded in 1871, but the town really took off when a young aborigine discovered gold. Even though nowadays mining activity has almost completely wound down, you can still learn about it thanks to the **Ghost of Gold Heritage Trail**. The town has conserved its historical architecture which you can appreciate as you wander round the historical town

centre (mainly on **Mosman St.**).

We recommend you take a look at **Stock Exchange Arcade**, the **Royal Private Hotel** and **Towers Hill Lookout** where you can watch the film *Ghost of Gold outdoors!* (reserve at the Visitor Centre).

### EMERALD & GEMFIELDS

**Emerald**, located 270km west of Rockhampton, owes its name to the green green pastures that previously surrounded the town, even though it is also a region of precious stones. Explored by Ludwig Leichardt, Emerald was established in 1879 as a railway network base. Unfortunately the historic remains in the town were ravaged by violent fires in 1936, 1940, 1954 and 1968, so the town no longer has much to see of interest, but the region, rich in rubies, sapphires, topazes etc, offers endless opportunities for ambitious tourists!

The small communities of **Anakie**,



*Lloyd Jones  
Weir  
15km south  
of Barcardine*

*Outback*







Theresa  
Creek Dam  
22km south  
of Clermont  
\$\$\$



FRUIT  
PICKING  
Emerald  
Region

Charters  
Towers

**Sapphire, Rubyvale and Willows** offer visitors the chance to look for precious stones in their mineral deposits (*obtain a licence from Emerald Courthouse, or from the post office and general stores of the towns concerned - around \$6*). You can also buy a bucket of rocks extracted directly from one of the deposits.

The Emerald region also produces almost 25% of the cotton that comes from Queensland, so this is a good place to look for a job in the harvests.

## FROM EMERALD TO NSW

### CARNARVON NATIONAL PARK

This park offers beautiful walks through the rainforest. You can admire the splendid gorges, inlets and cliffs. There are also Aboriginal rock painting sites which you can visit.

**Carnarvon Gorge**, located further south, is a true oasis over 300km long. The 4 sites in the national park

are: **Salvator Rosa**, **Ka Ka Mundi**, **Mont Moffat** and **Carnarvon Gorge**. Accessible by unsealed roads (15km for the gorges) it is recommended to find out about the state of the roads at the Visitor Centre. **Salvator Rosa** and **Mont Moffat** are accessible by 4WD only.

### ROMA

The main community in south-west Queensland, **Roma** owes its creation to the (accidental) discovery of the first gas and petrol identified in the country. **The Big Rig Complex** recreates the story around this discovery, with the **Night Show**, a sound and light show (*entrance \$15.50, including the night show*).

At the end of **Edwards Street**, you can see the **Bottle Tree**, the biggest in the town, with a circumference of 9m!

Last but not least, every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** there are cattle sales at **Bungil Saleyards** – the biggest in the southern hemisphere !





Rest Area at  
Spring Hill  
18km south  
of Springsure

# GULF SAVANNAH

Covering an immense part of north west Queensland, this region is very remote with very few inhabitants. There are old mining towns, isolated cattle stations, aboriginal communities and astonishing rock formations! Bordered by the Gulf of Carpentaria, there are sharks and fatal jelly fish in the surrounding waters, so bathing is dangerous all year round.

There are two seasons (wet and dry), and the best time to visit this part of Australia is during the dry season from May to end of October.

**Savannah Way** (3700km) is the most northern road which you can use to cross Queensland, from the Northern Territory, to Western Australia. Leaving from Cairns this highway (sealed road until Karumba) crosses more than 5 national parks, zones classed as UNESCO World Heritage, and has superb landscapes.

Starting from Cairns and driving towards the west, you will come across **Undara Volcanic National Park**, accessible via an organized tour (*from \$57 for a 2 hour tour*). This park is made up of a network of tunnels formed by lava over 160km, over 190 000 years ago!

There is a campground in the park with unpowered sites for \$20 per night.

A few kilometres further on, the town of **Mt Surprise** is the turning where you should go off for **Cobbold Gorge**. This unique gorge is extremely narrow, with 30m high cliffs on either side. The only way to visit is by organized tour, departing from **Cobbold Village**. After a transfer by 4WD to the gorge, there is a 3 hour cruise on an electric boat, to see birds and crocodiles (*\$75/person – cruise possible between April and October*).

On the way to Karumba, you can

also try your hand at **fossicking** (searching for precious stones by hand using a sieve) in particular at **O'Brien Creek** (a site known for topazes) or **Agate Creek** (we guess this place is known for agates).

Next up is **Georgetown** where gold was discovered in 1870 and **Croydon**, also a mining town popular with Asian immigrants, as illustrated by the town's Chinese Temple.

**Normanton**, the region's main town, has a wide range of historic sites to visit, especially the old buildings in the centre of town.

North of the town, you can visit **Muttonhole Wetlands**, ideal for bird watching.

**Karumba** is the last town accessible from the sealed road part of Savannah Way. This small town with a population of only 700 is a fishing port, best known for barramundi and prawns.

If you want to continue down the Savannah Way, you will need a 4WD vehicle. Then you can reach **Burketown**, taking its name from the famous explorer, and then other small communities where petrol and food are available.

For those who want to, and who can adventure as far as this part of the coastline, find out about the state of the tracks and in particular the places where you can stock up on food, water and petrol along the way.



**DRIVE  
ON LEFT  
IN AUSTRALIA**

USEFUL  
INFORMATION

« PLEASE HELP ME!  
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL HERE... »



# PLEASE HELP ME!

## DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL HERE

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### Post

Individuals of any nationality have access to a FREE poste restante/general delivery service in Australian post offices. Poste restante or general delivery service means that the post office will store your post/mail until you call in to collect it.

You can use the address of an Australian post office branch to have post sent to you. The post office will keep it for 1 month before returning it by post to the sender.

**Useful tips:** *record carefully addresses which you have given when filling in forms, because you may need to use several during your time in Australia, and you will need to refer to them again.*

Post offices are usually open every day of the week except Sundays. In larger towns, try and avoid queuing at peak times.

### Telephone

#### LOCAL CALLS

Most **public telephones** are managed by an Australian national company called Telstra. Some take phone cards or bank cards, and there are still quite a lot of coin telephones.

#### INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Several companies offer **international cards** to call abroad more cheaply. The cheapest start at around \$10 which gives you approximately 1 hour of call time to European landlines (less if you are calling to a mobile).

Some also offer SIM cards, with attractive prices calling to your country.

To call from Australia to the UK, dial country code 0033 + your telephone number (without the first "0").

To call from the UK to Australia, dial country code 0061 + the UK number you want to call (without the first "0").

#### TELEPHONE CODES BY STATE

02 : NSW & ACT  
03 : TAS & VIC  
04 : Mobiles  
08 : NT, SA & WA  
07 : QLD

#### IN AN EMERGENCY

Call 000 (from a landline)  
Call 112 (from a mobile).

### Internet

You have several options to stay connected during your trip:

1. Purchase a pre-pay 3G or 4G thumb drive which you can recharge as and when you need it. (If you are planning on travelling throughout Australia and outside of cities, choose Telstra, the company with the best coverage). Budget approximately \$70 for this purchase (with 3 to 5GB depending on whatever promotion is on!) and then you have to recharge (prices vary depending on the operators).
2. Pay for time on the internet on computers made available to the public, for example in shopping centres or libraries. Prices are quite high : usually \$2-5 for 30min of connection time.
3. Use Cyber cafés and youth hostels, available across Australia. Prices depend on the level of isolation (the more isolated the area, the higher the charges for

internet), and are usually \$3-5 for 30min of connection time.

4. Spend the night in a campsite with wifi can also be an option. You usually still have to pay for it though, and prices vary widely from one caravan park to another. (You can ask for details over the phone in advance).
5. Go to McDonalds ! This is the only FREE option, used by many backpackers. Most fast food restaurants, and some shopping centres or main city centre areas offer free wifi. Beware that in shopping centres there is often a limit on connection time, and that in fast food restaurants the wifi is often switched off, or "not working", so boot up your computer and check you can connect before buying your meal.

Overall, if you are planning to travel quite a lot, especially if you are outside of cities, we recommend you purchase the thumb drive so you can reliably get online, even if you reduce the amount you use it as far as possible by using the other options!

## Electricity

Australia has 220-240V. The plugs have 3 flat prongs, and so if you come from any European country you will definitely need an adapter. You can buy these in most stereo/electronics shops or at the Post Office, and sometimes even in pharmacies or news agencies. Think about purchasing an adapter which takes several plugs so you do not need to purchase separate adapters for each of your electronic appliances.

## Stock your photos

Either you can keep your photos on the hard drive of your computer, or burn CDs as you go along. Or you can stock them and share them online. For example:

- Create a Facebook page (you can even send the link to your photo albums to people who are not on Facebook)
- Flickr
- Dropbox.com

- Sendspace.com to send photos (you need to zip the file before uploading it)
- Picasa,
- Google+...

## Applications for Smartphones & tablets

### APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVELLING IN AUSTRALIA

#### GOOGLE MAPS - FREE

Click on « directions » and put in the start and end locations, and Google maps can be used as a GPS.

#### CAMPS AUSTRALIA WIDE - 7 AUD

This application comes from the editor who publishes the Camps book, and it shows all the camp spots found in the book, where you can spend the night in your vehicle. This guide is essential for Road Trips in Australia! The application is a little less expensive than the paper version and is updated regularly.

#### WIKICAMPS - 4.99 AUD

If you don't want to buy the Camps Australia Wide guide application, this application is a good alternative option. Much cheaper, and also containing plenty of camping spots where you can stay the night (both free, and with charges). Also listed are the facilities available at each camping spot (drinking water, shower, electricity, beautiful view, barbecues, shade....). You can leave comments.

#### SHOW THE LOO - FREE



## USEFUL INFORMATION

Shows you on the map where the nearest public toilets are. In the description you can also see if there are showers – very useful on a road trip!

### FIELD GUIDE – FREE

There is an application for each Australia state, introducing you to wildlife in the region. The different species are listed, with photos, and a description of their characteristics. Very practical if you are interested in nature.

## APPLICATIONS TO FIND ACCOMMODATION IN AUSTRALIA

### GUMTREE - FREE

Gumtree is THE website for ads in Australia. Extremely popular with backpackers because you can consult ads for the whole country (jobs, buying/selling vehicles, all kinds of services...). The application is very convenient to consult and post ads as you travel around Australia.

### HOSTELWORLD & HOSTELBOOKERS - FREE

These 2 applications can be used to search for and reserve youth hostels across Australia. You can read comments from other

Hostelbookers

Back hostelbookers.com GBP

### Results for Melbourne, Australia

Showing 36 properties

Change Dates  
Check-in: 7/9/2012 | Nights: 1

-- Please Select --

- Space Hotel**  
380 Russell St  
Hostel | Rating 91.1%  
From **20.91 GBP**
- Nomads All Nations Backpackers**  
2 Spencer St (cnr Flinders)  
Hostel | Rating 74.9%  
From **14.37 GBP**
- Hotel Discovery**  
167 Franklin Street  
Hostel | Rating 83.3%  
From **14.37 GBP**
- Nomads Melbourne**  
196-198 A'Beckett St  
Hostel | Rating 81.3%  
From **19.60 GBP**

users to get an idea of what the place is like before reserving. Not much difference between the 2 applications, so you can use whichever you prefer!

### AIRBNB - FREE

An excellent website listing B&Bs so you can chose a host and stay at their houses. This can be a great way to discover a town and surrounding area, and a good alternative to staying in a backpacking hostel in a dormitory with 10 other people. In Sydney you can sometimes find a room for less than 30 Euros.

### TRIPADVISOR - FREE

A great way to find out the views of other travellers for hostels, cafes, restaurants...

## APPLICATIONS TO FIND WORK IN AUSTRALIA

### SEEK - FREE

The N°1 website to look for a job in Australia. You can consult job ads with this application, including selecting your criteria and adding filters....

## APPLICATIONS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Search

Category: Cars, Vans & Utes

49 / 7591

2012 Holden Ute VE Series II SV6 Thunder

I am offering **\$26,000.00 Negotiable**

Date Listed: 08/08/13 12:16 PM

Address: Ihornton NSW 2322

Map

## IN AUSTRALIA

### SKYPE - FREE

Essential app to chat live with your friends and family!

### WHATSAPP - FREE

Totally free instant messaging. The only condition is that both you and the person you are contacting are online. When you find your friends, add them to your list of contacts, and you are all set!

### VIBER - FREE

Just like WhatsApp, this application can be used to chat with your friends. But with Viber, you can also make free calls !

## OTHER USEFUL APPLICATIONS

### WOOLWORTH - FREE

If you have an Everyday Reward Card, you can consult your coupons and get some additional reductions here.

### WESTPAC - FREE

If you have a Westpac account, you will find this application very useful. Consult your accounts, bank transfers etc – very simple but effective!

### BURGER KING – FREE

Every time you go near a Burger King, check your phone to see what you win – and you always win (a Coke, free chips, or some other promotion...)

### CONVERTISSEUR- FREE

Offers all sorts of conversions (currencies, volumes, weight, distance etc...)

### WI-FI FINDER - FREE

With lists of over 550 000 Wifi spots (free & with charges) in over 144 countries, you will always be able to find a connection!

# PUBLIC & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## Public Holidays

It is important to be aware of Australian public holidays, because on these days, everything is closed ! No shopping possible, no garages open if you break down! You will find an occasional service station open (not all!) for emergencies.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN ALL STATES

- New Year's Day 1st January
- Australia Day (national festival) 26th January
- Easter in April: Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Monday. The whole weekend is a holiday including the Friday and Monday.
- Anzac Day 25th April
- Queen's Birthday (not celebrated in WA) the 2nd Monday in June
- Christmas Day 25th December
- Boxing Day 26th December

### LABOUR DAY

This holiday is celebrated on different dates in each State :

- NSW : 1st Monday in October
- ACT : 1st Monday in October
- QLD : 1st Monday in May
- WA : 1st Monday in March
- SA : 1st Monday in October
- VIC : 2nd Monday in March

## School Holidays

School holidays vary from one state to another:

- AUTUMN HOLIDAYS - 2 weeks at the start of April.
- WINTER HOLIDAYS - End of June – early July, depending on the year.
- SPRING HOLIDAYS - End of September to early October (2 weeks)
- SUMMER HOLIDAYS (MAIN HOLIDAY PERIOD) - From mid-December to end of January or early February.



# PREPARE YOUR RETURN

## Sending a package

You can only carry a limited weight back on your return flight (20-30kg depending on the airline company). If you want to send belongings back to your home country, over and above what you can carry home yourself in your weight limit, you can either take it on as excess baggage on your flight back (prices are high – about 50 AUD/kg depending on the company), or you can send a parcel back by post.

## BY POST

The least expensive option is often sending a parcel by post (maximum 20kg). You can obtain an estimation of cost on their website, entering in information about the package you want to send. It will take between 3 and 10 days for your package to reach Europe from Australia by plane, or 2-3 months by boat. Prices vary depending on delivery method (air or sea), and whether you want tracking, signature on delivery, or insurance cover for your package.

Online price estimate: [www.auspost.com.au/apps/postage-calculator.html](http://www.auspost.com.au/apps/postage-calculator.html)

## BY PRIVATE COURRIER COMPANY

You can also obtain a cost estimate online on the websites of private companies specialised in international deliveries. The main companies are:

- Fedex
- UPS
- DHL

## Admin stuff

When you are about to leave the country, some admin paperwork should be done.

## BANK

Some of you do not want to close their bank account when leaving Australia. It can be because you are planning to come back, you or you intend to claim your superannuation and want it to get paid on this bank account etc.

In this case, remember to notify your bank before leaving the country.

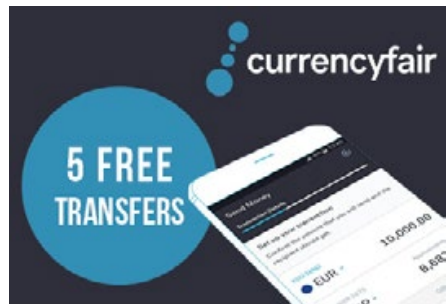
Indeed, if you want to transfer money from your Australian bank account to your UK/Irish bank account, you will need to add a beneficiary.

With most of the banks you will need to receive a code on your mobile phone for security purposes. As such, if you do not deactivate this option before leaving Australia, you may have some issues transferring money abroad. You can either deactivate the option or provide the bank with a phone number in your hometown country (parents, friends etc).

*Good to know: with some banks you also have the possibility to request a 'token'. This device will allow you to receive a code from wherever you are. Remember to check with your bank if they offer this service.*

## TRANSFER YOUR MONEY OVERSEAS

If you want to transfer money from Australia, CurrencyFair, TransferWise and TransferMate are definitely the best option to save money on your transfers. All companies are accredited and secured online platforms specialised in international money transfers. They are able to offer you good exchange rates (very close to the actual market rate) and only charge you a small transfer fee per transfer.



## Get your tax back on your recent purchases in Australia

You can get your tax back on purchases you have made in Australia (not necessarily electronics) as long as you can meet the following conditions:

- You must personally have purchased the goods in Australia, maximum 60 days before you leave
- The goods (which can be several items purchased at the same shop in the same transaction) must have cost at least \$300
- You must show the receipt, and also the goods (so you must have both on you when you go to claim back the tax).

You can ask for tax reimbursement at the airport, after going through customs. Make sure you have at least half an hour to queue for it. You can be reimbursed in cash or the money can be put back on your bank card.

For more information:

[www.border.gov.au/Busi/Duty/Indi/Travellers](http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Duty/Indi/Travellers)

## Claim your superannuation after leaving Australia

When you are working in Australia, you are entitled to receive super contributions from your employer on top of your salary. Superannuation is a long-term savings plan, which will provide workers with an income when they retire. Those contributions are paid by your employer during your employment. As a temporary resident in Australia, you are entitled to claim your super once you have left the country and after your visa has expired. Here is all you need to know about Superannuation and how to claim it.

### WHAT IS THE SUPERANNUATION?

Superannuation is a way to save for retirement. When you are working in Australia, your employer must pay contributions into your

super fund. You are entitled to receive super contributions from an employer if you are at least 18 years old, and receive a salary of \$450 or more (before tax) per month.

Since July 2014, the super contributions paid by your employer must be 9.5% of your ordinary earnings. This money must be paid into an elected super fund.

You can choose to open an account with a superfund directly or ask your employer to open one for you. Most banks, such as Westpac, Commonwealth, offer the possibility to open a Super Account for you when you open your bank account with them.

Whether you are working full time, part time or casual, or if you're a temporary resident of Australia, you are still entitled to receive super contributions.

### WHEN CAN I CLAIM MY SUPERANNUATION BACK?

If you are a temporary resident working in Australia, your employer has to pay super guarantee contributions for you.

Usually people cannot have access to their super until retirement. However, as a temporary resident, you can claim your super when:

- You have left Australia AND
- Your visa has ceased to be in effect or has been cancelled.

The payment is called a departing Australia superannuation payment (DASP).

If you leave the country while your visa still active, you can either decide to wait until your visa expires or cancel your visa. Indeed you can request the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to cancel your visa so that you can claim a DASP.

Cancelling your visa is a free process. You will need to complete the Form 1194 and lodge it directly with DIBP, either by mail to the address provided on the form, or by email to [super.hobart@border.gov.au](mailto:super.hobart@border.gov.au)

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### HOW TO CLAIM MY SUPER?

If you have opened your superfund through your bank, you should contact your superfund directly. They will tell you what document need to be provided for them to release the funds. Most of the time you will need to provide them with a copy of your expired visa together with a certified copy of your passport. You should do this claim as soon as possible. Indeed, if there is no activity on your super account for 6 months, your funds will be transferred to the ATO. Therefore you will need to claim your super through the ATO website.

Claiming your super is free.

### THE PROCESS

To claim your super, you will need to visit the ATO website.

You will need to complete an online form on the ATO website.

When completing the form, you will need to provide:

- your name, date of birth and other personal details
- email address
- your passport number
- Australian tax file number (TFN)
- your super account details – including your super fund's Australian business number (ABN) and your member number.

Most of the time you will need to attach a certified copy of your visa, or any evidence showing that your visa has ceased to be in effect, together with a certified copy of your passport.

You can also choose how to receive payment of your super. It can be either by cheque or via an International money transfer to your financial institution overseas. Note here that if you require a money transfer to your bank overseas, you will be charge additional fees (transfer fees). Once completed just lodge the form online.

The service standard for processing a DASP claim is 28 days from the date you lodged your complete application.

### CLAIMING THROUGH A COMPANY

If you are unsure about the process or do not want to do something wrong, you can always choose to use the services of a specialised company. They can also help you to do your tax return before the end of the financial year. For example if you are leaving the country in December, you won't have to wait until July to claim your tax back, you can lodge an early application.









# ANNEXES

« A FEW MORE THINGS  
YOU MIGHT NEED »

## ANNEX 1 - EXAMPLE LETTER OF RESILIATION FOR PHONE CONTRACT

*Note: When you send your termination letter, make sure that the acknowledgement of receipt is included for the company to deal with your letter in time. Even if you decide to cancel over the phone, send a letter with the acknowledgement of receipt to formalize the process.*

*Please make sure that you read the contract in detail and that you comply with all the conditions (by giving the required notice of termination, for example). You may also reference conditions in your letter.*

Date and city

Your name, address, and contact details

Mobile phone number:

Contract number:

Account number:

The address of your company's termination service department  
(NB - not the shop you bought the phone from but the company you have a monthly contract with)

Reference : Contract termination as of (Date)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am sending you this written notice to request termination of (name contract of subscription) effective (date of cancellation), including the associated services.

The rest of the letter will depend on your operator and situation.

For example, to request an early termination:

My early termination request without any charges is based on the clause No (fill in), which provide for this possibility and in the case of moving to a foreign country AND/OR in an area not covered by your services (both cases apply to me).

Please find attached relevant documents to this letter (general sales condition's extract, copy of the visa) as well as a document proving my departure.

For a committed period coming to an end or complying with the minimum duration agreed in the contract:

My mobile subscription expires on (date), and in accordance with what is stipulated in the "Termination Clause" of the contract, the termination will be concrete in the late notice. Therefore, based on my rights under the Consumer Contract, my termination notice shall not take effect more than ten days from the reception of my request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving a written acknowledgement of this request, and a confirmation that the contract has been terminated and that no payment will be claimed by you.

Yours faithfully,

Your full name

Signature

## ANNEX 2 - CHECK LIST BEFORE YOU LEAVE

### PAPERS/ PLANNING

- Passport
- Printout of visa confirmation email
- Photocopies of ID (passport etc, in case of loss or theft)
- Plane ticket
- Driving Licence, and IDP (International driving permit)
- Check with your doctor that your vaccinations are up to date
- Purchase travel insurance (including health in case of illness or accident)
- Cancel all your contracts/ subscriptions (phone, internet, rented accomodation, magazines.....)
- Organize a proxy (parent/friend) who can sign for you at the bank, post office, vote in elections.... while you are away.
- Unlock your mobile phone
- Change some money so you have Australian dollars for when you arrive.
- Reserve a few nights in a hostel for when you arrive.
- Put your papers in an easy to find place in your cabin baggage, and never let them out of your sight!

### BACKPACK

#### 1) Clothes

##### TOPS

- 5 short sleeve T-shirts/vest tops
- + 1 or 2 long sleeved tops
- A waterproof jacket / poncho
- 2 warm tops, eg fleece hooded top

##### BOTTOMS

- 1 pair of jeans
- 1 worn / baggy pair of trousers

- 2 or 3 pairs of shorts
- 1 smart pair of trousers / skirt
- 1 set of clothes to sleep in

##### UNDERWEAR

- 6 pair of socks
- 7 pairs of underwear
- 2 swimsuits

##### TOILET BAG / FIRST AID

- Toothbrush + toothpaste
- Small mirror
- Tweezers + nail scissors/clippers
- Deodorant
- (Shower gel/shampoo etc - purchase on arrival)
- Disinfectant
- Aspirin/Paracetamol/Ibuprofen
- Anti diarrhea tablets
- My personal medication (if needed)
- Contraception.
- 1 tube of suncream.

##### SHOES

- 1 pair of flip flops
- 1 or 2 pairs of worn trainers
- 1 pair of smarter shoes (optional)

#### 2) Accessories

- 1 pair of sunglasses
- 1 belt
- 1 sunhat or cap
- 1 or 2 padlocks
- Camera + memory cards.
- Computer/tablet... to take or not to take?
- My (unblocked) telephone + charger
- Un adaptateur (facilement trouvable sur place).
- Petit sac à dos pour les excursions.



## ANNEX 3 - CHECK LIST - INSPECTING A VEHICLE

### OUTSIDE

Check whether the paint has been renewed on some parts of the car. This could mean that the car was previously involved in an accident.

Check the state of the windscreen – a crack could easily spread requiring a new windscreen which is expensive. Check wing mirrors also.

Check tyre condition. Wear should be evenly distributed across the surface of the tyres. Otherwise this could indicate that the wheels are poorly aligned and that the pressure is spread unevenly. Wear should not go past the acceptable level indicated on the tyre.

Check for rust (look out for attempts to hide it! Check everywhere including underneath and inside the vehicle. Look out for peeling paint.)

### INSIDE

Check that all the indicators on the dashboard work.

Check that the seat belts all fasten safely. Check for fraying on the belts (this will be noted as something to be fixed on a pink slip if you try to sell the car at the Sydney car market).

Look underneath the floor mats and inside the doors to check for rust.

Check the vehicle's paperwork (in particular the date the rego runs out)

Always ask to look at the vehicle's service history (MOTs, repairs, maintenance...). Ask questions about the vehicle's past: who were the previous owners? What problems have you had with the vehicle?

Note down the registration and chassis numbers so you can check online whether the owner has any unpaid fines.

Check there is a spare wheel

Check that the vehicle has a good quality jack

### MOTOR

Let the motor warm up for several minutes, then press down the accelerator pedal. Check there is no blue smoke coming out of the exhaust pipe.

Check the colour of the water in the radiator. It should be clean (without any oil in it).

Check the oil and water levels. If there is a white, creamy substance in the oil reservoir, this could mean that water from the car's cooling system has got in through a crack.

Leave the motor running and then check underneath. Check for leaks or damp zones around the motor, gearbox, rear axle or wheels (leaking brake liquid). If the car is TOO clean, this can also be suspect.

### TEST DRIVE

Before test driving the vehicle, check that the insurance papers (green slip) match the vehicle.

Check the lights (indicators, hazard lights, headlights etc.), adjust the seats, check the glove box, etc...

Check whether the motor is powerful enough for the type of vehicle.

Check the indicator for over-heating – if the needle is not in the centre, there could be a problem.

Check the vehicle drives straight, and does not veer to one side when you brake. Check the hand brake.

Check that you can easily change between all the gears.

*(adapt the parts in italics)*

Dear M. Smith,

I am a *(British/Canadian/American...)* backpacker looking for a fruit picking job in the area.

We are hard workers, and we are willing to stay for the whole season.

*(If applicable, write down your experience).*

We have already picked *(apples...)* in *(New South Wales...)* for *(2 months...)*....

*(If applicable)*

We have a campervan so have our own transport and accommodation if needed / We have our own transport to drive to your farm...

When you need workers, please contact us on *(give all contact details, mobile phone, email etc...)*.

We hope very much to be able to work for you,

Thanks in adance

Name 1 & Name 2  
Tel: 04 66 324 XXX  
Email: xxxxxxxx

## ANNEX 5 - REGIONS ELIGIBLE FOR A 2ND WHV

### ACT

The Australian Capital Territory is not classified as part of regional Australia.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

2311 to 2312  
2328 to 2411  
2420 to 2490  
2536 to 2551  
2575 to 2594  
2618 to 2739  
2787 to 2898

Note: Excludes Sydney, Newcastle, the Central Coast and Wollongong.

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

All of Northern Territory is classified as part of regional Australia.

### QUEENSLAND

4124 to 4125  
4133  
4211  
4270 to 4272  
4275  
4280  
4285  
4287  
4307 to 4499  
4510  
4512  
4515 to 4519  
4522 to 4899

Note: Excludes the Greater Brisbane area and the Gold Coast

source : [www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/417/postcodes.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/417/postcodes.htm)

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

All of South Australia is classified as part of regional Australia.

### TASMANIA

All of Tasmania is classified as part of regional Australia.

### VICTORIA

3139  
3211 to 3334  
3340 to 3424  
3430 to 3649  
3658 to 3749  
3753  
3756  
3758  
3762  
3764  
3778 to 3781  
3783  
3797  
3799  
3810 to 3909  
3921 to 3925  
3945 to 3974  
3979  
3981 to 3996

Note: Excludes Melbourne metropolitan area.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

6041 to 6044  
6083 to 6084  
6121 to 6126  
6200 to 6799

Note: Excludes Perth and surrounding areas.











# SOURCES

« EXPERIENCE IS  
ALWAYS THE BEST »



## **PUBLISHED SOURCES**

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- The First Australians, documentary by Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale - Australia 2008
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- Discover Western Australia - Red Earth Published 1999
- Western Australia - Short stay guide - Little Hills Press
- Work Around Australia - David Sheehan - Global Exchange Editions
- Harvest Guide - Work your way around Australia - Government Edition 2012
- Drive Safe - Government of Western Australia - Department of Transport
- The Little Aussie Fact Book by Margaret Nicholson (Penguin Books)

## **INTERNET SOURCES**

[www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au)  
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[www.wwoof.com.au](http://www.wwoof.com.au)  
[www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)

## **OTHER SOURCES**

Our personal experience  
Our friends' experience  
Backpackers on the road  
Backpackers' blogs  
Emails received from the community  
etc.







A vertical image featuring a sunset sky. The top portion is a dark, greyish band. Below it, the sky transitions from a pale yellow to a soft orange, with wispy clouds. The bottom portion shows the dark silhouettes of various trees against the bright, low sun.

# THANKS

« YOU'RE ALL  
PART OF IT »



## THE PEOPLE WE MET

Thanks to all those we met over these 2 years on the road! You helped to make our journey exceptional, and to fill our heads with incredible memories!

A big thank you to all the backpackers we met on the road Audrey & Alex / Nadège & Romain / Sandra & François / Sandra & Gauthier / Chris / Ryan / Ampere / Audrey / Yann & Lea / Amandine & Mathieu / Noëlle and everyone else...

## CONTRIBUTORS - BLOGGERS

Thanks to all the backpackers who helped to improve and enrich this guide. Thank you to all the bloggers who shared their experiences via our website.

### THANK YOU TO

Jerôme, Pauline, Charlie, Tressie, Manu, Djay on the road, Laurent, Sébastien, Mala, Alicia, Ludovic, Roxane, Soso, Florence, Herewegoz, Victoria, Samuel, Walid, Lucie, Simon, Sandrine, Nicolas, Fabien, Angus, Gaelle, Raphaëlle, Seb, Benjamin, Florian, BlogTrotteuses, Bastien and to all future contributors!

*Written by Isabelle Dufour & Philippe Atlan*

*Translation and adaptation of English-language version by Catherine Deleplace & Colin Boyd*

# **TAKE PART: THE AUSTRALIA BACKPACKERS GUIDE PROJECT**

## **REPORTERS**

If you like the concept of our guide (a guide written BY travellers FOR travellers), and you would also like to give advice and recommendations to the backpacking community, then CONTACT US!

No need to be a professional journalist, as long as you are interested, succinct, and passionate about travelling and working in Australia.

## **BLOGGERS**

Whether it is a one-off, or you become a regular contributor, you can write articles for our blog.

The only qualification necessary is to have a story to tell, and to send a few photos to illustrate your article.

Your choice what you write about, but if you would like some ideas, take a look at the articles on our BLOG written BY backpackers FOR backpackers.

Contact : *contact@australia-backpackersguide.com*



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*Dear Readers,*

*Despite our care and checking over and over, some information may have changed since we last updated this guidebook.*

*We apologize in advance.*

*If you would like to let us know of any updates or corrections we need to make, or if you have any new ideas for what we should include in our next version, we would be happy to hear from you.*

*Please contact us at:*

*[contact@australia-backpackersguide.com](mailto:contact@australia-backpackersguide.com)*

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THE END