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## 2020 SUMMER AUSTRALIA

Australia Country Book

International Business Seminars  
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# Welcome to Australia!



## Overview & Country Facts:

Travelers should take normal safety precautions in Australia. Be particularly vigilant after dark and in the more popular tourist areas, where thieves target foreigners.

### Security (Terrorism, Conflict, Insurgency, Kidnap)

There is a real and credible threat from terrorism throughout the country and authorities have carried out a number of arrests as a result of investigations into terrorist networks. Australia's current National Terrorism Threat Level is probable, indicating that groups or individuals have the capability and intent to carry out a terror attack within the country. Attacks could be indiscriminate including in places visited by foreigners. Recent arrests in Sydney confirm that individuals or groups continue to possess the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.

The public can report any suspicious incidents to the National Security Hotline by calling 1800 123 400. Life-threatening situations should be reported to the police by calling Triple Zero (000).

### Crime

Violent crime is low, but petty crime such as pick pocketing and bag snatching may occur in larger cities. Vehicle break-ins are common. Exercise caution in the more popular tourist areas.

### Transportation

Sudden storms and strong winds can make driving difficult. Take particular care when driving on unsealed roads, 4WD tracks and desert/beach roads. Northern Territory Police have in the past warned tourists to stay off unsealed tracks in remote areas of Central Australia following reports of stranded motorists.

### Environmental

During times of minimal rainfall, normally between November and April, intense bush fires are likely to occur. Follow the advice of local authorities, and avoid affected or susceptible areas. The cyclone season extends from November to April, along the coastal areas of Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Severe rainstorms can lead to flooding and landslides, which in turn can cause extensive damage to infrastructure as well as loss of life, which at times can hinder the provision of essential services. Monitor weather forecasts closely and follow the advice of authorities if a natural disaster occurs.

### Medical

The standard of healthcare in Australia is very good. If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 000 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

| Country Facts                  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Official Country Name          | The Commonwealth of Australia                          |
| Type of Government             | Constitutional Monarchy                                |
| Leadership                     | Prime Minister Scott Morrison                          |
| Capital                        | Canberra   |
| Official Language              | No official language                                   |
| Population                     | 24.85 million  |
| Ethnic Divisions               | British 67.4%, Irish 8.7%, Chinese 3.6%, Aboriginal 3% |
| Religion                       | Catholic 27%, Protestant 21%, Other 52%                |
| Growth                         | 0.4%   |
| Inflation                      | 1.82%  |
| Unemployment                   | 5.3%   |
| Currency                       | Australian dollar                                      |
| Office Work Week               | Monday – Friday  |
| Time Zone Offset               | Summer (DST) UTC +8 to 11.5                            |
| Country Phone Code             | +61  |
| Nationwide Emergency Number(s) | 000 Police/Fire/Ambulance                              |
| Electricity                    | 220/240 volts AC, 50Hz                                 |
| Plug Styles                    | Type I   |

Health officials have declared a measles outbreak in Australia. The Department of Health is warning that anyone who is not fully vaccinated against measles is at risk of the highly infectious disease when travelling overseas. All cases in Australia have originated from abroad, when people have become infected whilst travelling. The majority of cases have been recorded in New South Wales. Measles is a highly contagious virus that rapidly spreads when an infected person sneezes or coughs. Symptoms include a runny nose, coughing, conjunctivitis and a red rash on the face. Anyone with measles needs to be isolated from the time they become ill until 5 days after the rash has appeared. If falling ill with any symptoms of measles, seek medical attention.

## Health

### Medical Care:

- Excellent medical care is available in Australia.
- Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services.
- Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- We do not pay medical bills.
- Be aware that U.S. Medicare does not apply overseas.
- Medical Insurance: Make sure your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas.
- If your health insurance policy provides coverage outside the United States, remember to carry both your insurance policy identity card as proof of such insurance and a claim form.
- Although many health insurance companies will pay "customary and reasonable" hospital costs abroad, very few will pay for your medical evacuation back to the United States.
- See our webpage for more information on insurance providers for overseas coverage.
- We strongly recommend supplemental insurance to cover medical evacuation.

### Prescriptions:

- If traveling with prescription medication, check with the government of Australia to ensure the medication is legal in Australia.
- Always, carry your prescription medication in original packaging with your doctor's prescription.

## Local Laws & Special Circumstances

**Criminal Penalties:** You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, imprisoned or deported.

- It is illegal to take pictures of certain buildings, such as inside certain areas of Australian airports, near prisons, and at military bases.

Some laws are also prosecutable in the United States, regardless of local law. See our website on crimes against minors abroad and the Department of Justice website.

### Alcohol and Drugs:

- Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of drugs are strict. Convicted offenders can expect lengthy sentences and fines.

- Driving under the influence of alcohol can result in jail time.
- Random breath testing of a driver's blood alcohol level is a common occurrence.

### **Arrest Notification:**

If you are arrested or detained, ask police or prison officials to notify the U.S. Consulate in your district immediately.

### **Natural Disasters:**

Australia experiences a range of natural disasters, including bushfires, floods, and severe storms. These events are difficult to predict and can result in loss of life. You should be aware of conditions around you and monitor local weather and safety reports so you can take appropriate action when needed.

See our Natural Disasters pages for information on storm preparedness and response.

### **Safety Concerns:**

#### Outdoor Recreation/Adventure

- Be aware that Australian fauna can be dangerous. From jellyfish off the Great Barrier Reef to crocodiles, sharks, poisonous insects, and snakes, the continent and its waters host wildlife that merit awe and respect in equal doses.
- Visit the Wet Tropics Management Authority visitor information guide for information on Australian wildlife and marine life.
- Take important safety precautions when swimming, such as swimming only between the flags where a lifeguard is present, and never swimming alone.
- Further information on beach safety can be found on the Surf Life Saving website.
- Follow recommended precautions when snorkeling and scuba diving and never dive alone. Over the past few years, there have been numerous deaths related to snorkeling and scuba diving incidents.

## **Safety and Security**

If you decide to travel to Australia:

- Follow the Department of State on Facebook and Twitter.
- Review the Crime and Safety Reports for Australia.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the Traveler's Checklist

Terrorists have targeted, and will likely continue to target, Australia.

- Public information released by the Australian government suggests police and security forces have identified no fewer than fourteen foiled terrorist plots in the past three years. The Australian government is concerned about the potential for future attacks.

- Australia has an alert system for possible terrorist attacks. The threat levels range from “not expected” to “certain.” The Australian National Security website has up-to-date information regarding the current terrorism threat level. You may also contact the Australian National Security Hotline at 61-1-800-123-400.
- U.S. citizens in Australia should remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and exercise caution.
- Australian law protects the right of individuals and groups to engage in peaceful protest and to publicly express their views. Demonstrations and political rallies are generally approved by local authorities and well publicized. However, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. You should avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible and be careful within the vicinity of any demonstrations. You should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

### **Crime:**

- Although U.S. citizens are not specifically targeted for crime, you should be aware that robberies, burglaries, assault, and auto theft are common in Australia’s larger cities.
- Foreign visitors in popular tourist areas are targets for pickpockets, purse-snatchers, and petty thieves. Most petty crime can be avoided if basic security precautions are taken.
- Be careful when visiting bars or clubs in the entertainment areas of major cities, as “bar brawls” and other assaults sometimes occur. Also, watch out for drink spiking when consuming alcohol with unfamiliar people.

## **Vaccinations**

### **All travelers**

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. Some vaccines may also be required for travel.

### **Measles**

- Infants (6 through 11 months old): 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as the first dose in the routine childhood vaccination series.
- People 12 months old or older, with no evidence of immunity or no written documentation of any doses: 2 doses of MMR vaccine before travel. The 2 doses must be given 28 days apart.
- People 12 months old or older who have written documentation of 1 dose and no other evidence of immunity: 1 additional dose before travel, at least 28 days after the previous dose.

### **Routine vaccines**

Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

### **Some travelers**

Ask your doctor what vaccines and medicines you need based on where you are going, how long you are staying, what you will be doing, and if you are traveling from a country other than the US.

### **Hepatitis A**

Hepatitis A outbreaks occur throughout the world and sometimes in countries with a low risk for hepatitis A (including the US). You can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Australia, so talk to your doctor to see if the hepatitis A vaccine is right for you.

### **Hepatitis B**

You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

### **Japanese Encephalitis**

Depending on what time of year you are traveling, you may need this vaccine if you are visiting certain remote areas of Australia for more than a month, or if you will be spending a lot of time outdoors in those areas during a shorter trip. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans. See more in-depth information on Japanese encephalitis in Australia.

### **Rabies**

Rabies is present in bats in Australia. However, it is not a major risk to most travelers. CDC recommends rabies vaccine for only these groups: Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities in remote areas that put them at risk for bat bites (such as adventure travel and caving). People who will be working with or around bats (such as wildlife professionals and researchers).

### **Yellow Fever**

Required if traveling from a country with risk of YF virus transmission and  $\geq 1$  year of age, including transit  $>12$  hours in an airport located in a country with risk of YF virus transmission. This requirement excludes Galápagos Islands in Ecuador.

## **Culture and Society**

Australians prefer modesty, parity and mutual respect and generally avoid drawing too much attention to their academic qualifications. They are generally literal and to the point with their conversations and value directness. They also value privacy and the segregation between public and private life.

The culture of Australia is a Western culture, derived primarily from Britain but also influenced by the unique geography of the Australian continent, the diverse input of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other Oceanian people.

The British colonization of Australia began in 1788, and waves of multi-ethnic migration followed. Evidence of a significant Anglo-Celtic heritage includes the predominance of the English language, the existence of a democratic system of government drawing upon the British traditions of Westminster Government, Parliamentaryism and constitutional monarchy, American constitutionalist and federalist traditions, Christianity as the dominant religion, and the popularity of sports originating in (or influenced by) the British Isles. Australian

## Currency:

Australia's national currency is the **Australian dollar (AUD)** which comes in polymer (plastic) notes of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coins are in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent denominations as well as \$1 and \$2 denominations.



**MasterCard** and **Visa** are both commonly accepted in Australia followed by **Diners Club** cards, accepted in many places, as well as limited acceptance of **American Express**. Discover credit card is generally **NOT** accepted in Australia. Credit card issuers commonly charge anywhere from 1% to 3% for purchases made in other countries. Before traveling, contact the bank that issued your credit card or debit card and ask about their fees. Debit cards normally have lower fees, but be sure to check all your options. You'll rarely get charged extra by a store in Australia for using a credit card to make a purchase; however you can look for signs or ask the cashier before using your card just to be safe. ATMs are available throughout Australia. When you contact your bank before traveling, ask if they partner with any banks in Australia that will allow you to use their ATMs without a charge.

**Before traveling to Australia, be sure to contact your bank and inform them that you will be traveling and using your credit card overseas. If you fail to inform your bank of your travel plans, your card may be put on hold and you will not have immediate access to your account!**

## **Business Etiquette, Customs and Protocol**

Australians are very matter of fact when it comes to business so they do not need long-standing personal relationships before they do business with people. Australians are very direct in the way they communicate, there is often an element of humor, often self-deprecating, in their speech.

Appointments are necessary and relatively easy to schedule, they should be made with as much lead time as possible. Punctuality is important in business situations. It is better to arrive a few minutes early than to keep someone waiting. If you make a presentation, avoid hype, making exaggerated claims, or bells and whistles, present your business case with facts and figures. Emotions and feelings are not important in the Australian business climate.

Business dress is conservative in Melbourne and Sydney. Men should wear a dark colored, conservative business suit, and women should wear a smart dress or a business suit.

Business cards are exchanged at the initial introduction without formal ritual. If you are not given a business card, it is not an insult; the person simply may not have one.

## **Social Etiquette, Customs and Protocol**

Australians are not very formal so greetings are casual and relaxed. A handshake and smile suffices. They often prefer to use first names, even at the initial meeting.

If invited to someone's home for dinner, it is polite to bring a box of chocolates or flowers to the host. A good quality bottle of wine is always appreciated. Gifts are opened when received. Arrive on time if invited to dinner; no more than 15 minutes late if invited to a barbeque or a large party. Contact the host ahead of time to see if she would like you to bring a dish. Offer to help the hostess with the preparation or clearing up after a meal is served.

## Food & Beverage:

Australian cuisine in the 21st century reflects the influence of globalization, with many fast-food restaurants and international trends becoming influential. Organic and biodynamic foods have also become widely available alongside a revival of interest in bushfood.

### Common Australian Dishes:

*Meat Pies* - a traditional Australian pie should be hand-sized, filled with mincemeat and gravy, and topped with tomato sauce. A gourmet version with mashed potato and mushy peas is also popular, but any other variant surely falls under a different category.

*Pavlova* – created in honour of the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova’s visit to Australasia in the 1920s. As a truly Australian after-dinner sweet, the Pavlova’s crispy meringue crust, light fruit filling and whipped cream topping ensure it’s a family hit.

*Barramundi* - Forget about fish and chips, feast on fresh Australian barramundi, a name which means ‘large-scaled river fish’ in the Aboriginal language in the Rockhampton area. Grilled, fried or seared skin-side first, it’s a much healthier alternative to battered fish, and a true Aussie meal.

*Vegemite on Toast* - Similar to British Marmite, Vegemite is a vegetarian alternative made from yeast extract, and actually not vegetables.

*Kangaroo* – served in a variety of ways, most commonly grilled.

*Fairy Bread* – essentially white bread covered in butter and sprinkles

### Common Australian Beverages:

*Ginger Beer* - The drink is brewed in the most traditional ways. First, they grind up dried ginger, which is locally grown and able to retain the flavor. This ginger is then mixed with sugarcane and water and heated until the spice from the ginger is released, which is then fermented with a special kind of yeast. Once fermented, the beer is passed through craft filters, leaving only traces of minute ginger particles.

*Flat White* - Flat white is a coffee variety that couples a double shot of freshly brewed espresso and milk, which is usually steamed to create a light, silky microfoam. A perfect flat white should have an intense coffee flavor, and milk should only be a complement, not a predominant element, while the froth on top should be less airy and bubbly than in the classic cappuccino or caffè latte.

*Lemon, Lime & Bitters* - Concocted with the aromatic spices and herbs found in bitters and blended with lemon and lime juice.

# Introduction to Sydney:

## City Overview:

Sydney is the capital of New South Wales, Australia. It is Australia's oldest and largest city with a population of around 4 million. Sydney is built around a huge harbor and hosts many tourist attractions as well as a number of beaches, bays and a couple of national parks.

| City Facts: |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Population: | 5.23 million |

Sydney was first visited by the British in 1770 when Captain James Cook and Joseph Banks sailed the Endeavor into Botany Bay. The First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay in 1788 under the command of Governor Arthur Phillip.

Phillip but found Botany Bay unsatisfactory and sailed north and landed at Sydney Cove on Sydney Harbor. Phillip originally named the colony 'New Albion', but then the colony acquired the name 'Sydney', after the British Home Secretary, Thomas Townshend, Lord Sydney.

Sydney has many influences upon its style. Aboriginal sites and engravings can still be seen from the original occupiers, the Eora tribe. The city also has an anglo-mediterranean style and a growing Chinese and Asian influence.

The city is divided into North and South by the Sydney Harbor, with both Sydney Harbor Bridge and Tunnel connecting them. Most of the tourist attractions are in the South part of the city, with a large business and residential area in the North.

The South part of the city consists of The Rocks and Circular Quay to the North, with the Central Station marking the South. Darling Harbor marks the West and there are a number of parks to the East.

## Transportation:

An efficient network of transport options makes travelling to attractions in Sydney and regional NSW affordable and enjoyable. The Sydney public transport system, provided by Transport for NSW, consists of trains, buses, ferries and light rail.

The Opal card is an easy, convenient way of paying for your travel on public transport in Sydney. It can be used on all public transport including trains, ferries, buses and light rail. There are daily and weekly caps on the Opal network, meaning you can travel as much as you like on metro, train, bus, ferry and light rail services within the Opal network and you never pay more than the capped fare.

# Map of Sydney Rail Network:



## City Attractions & Sightseeing:

**Sydney Opera House** - One of the world's great icons, the Sydney Opera House is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the star attraction on the glittering harbor. This graceful building, shaped like shells or billowing sails, perches on a finger of land surrounded by water.

**Sydney Harbor Bridge** - The Sydney Harbour Bridge or "Coathanger," as locals call it, was the city's best-known landmark prior to construction of the Sydney Opera House.



**The Rocks** - On a tongue of land protruding into Sydney Harbour, the Rocks historic area was once home to the Gadigal aboriginal people and later became the country's first site of European settlement. The name of the Rocks comes from the rocky coast on the west side of Sydney Cove, where the convicts pitched their tents. Today, more than 100 heritage sites and buildings jostle along the narrow streets, including Sydney's oldest surviving house, **Cadman's cottage**, built in 1816.

**The Sydney Tower Eye** - Soaring above the city skyline, the 309-meter-high Sydney Tower Eye is the city's tallest building and one of its great landmarks (other than the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, of course). This golden spire-topped turret rises from the busy Centrepoint shopping mall.

**Hyde Park** - a sanctuary of sprawling lawns, shady picnic spots, flowers, fountains, and fig trees. Like a mini Central Park, this welcome patch of green, named after Hyde Park in London, offers prime people-watching - especially at lunch when city workers come here to kick off their shoes.



**Kings Cross** - "The Cross," as locals call it, is Sydney's multi-faceted red light district with an intriguing, Bohemian past.

The area was an artistic quarter around 1920, until it evolved into a popular haunt for beatniks during the 1950s and, later, hippies.

# Introduction to Cairns:

## City Overview:

Cairns is the capital city of Far North Queensland. The 16th largest city in Australia, with a population of over 140,000 people, Cairns is continuing to be a favored destination - for its rare mixture of ecological environments and its cosmopolitan, colorful coastal character.

| City Facts: |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Population: | 150,041 |

Cairns' location is absolutely magnificent. Located 400km from the most northern part of the State of Queensland, it lies on the warm waters of Trinity Bay.

## Transportation:

TransLink's public bus service, Sunbus, operates throughout the city, running from the northern beaches to the southern suburbs via the CBD. TransLink is a division of the Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads with responsibility for buses in Cairns.

## City Attractions & Sightseeing:

**Great Barrier Reef** - The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world, and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The colorful coral is stunning, as is the abundant marine life, making it perfect for swimmer, snorkeling and scuba. If you prefer to keep dry, there are still lots of activities to enjoy at the Reef, such as the underwater observatory and the semi-sub, and you can even send a postcard from the only Australia Post postbox on the Reef!



**Cairns Botanical Gardens** - The Botanical Gardens are considered to have one of Australia's best exhibitions of tropical plants, and the plant life here is strikingly different from what you may have seen in botanic gardens at cooler climates.

**Kuranda Scenic Railway** - The Scenic Railway runs from Cairns to the nearby town of Kuranda, passing by incredible scenery such as World Heritage-listed forest. The railway was originally built over 120 years ago as a commuter railway, and is now used as a tourist railway. The trip takes just under 2 hours one-way, and the astonishing scenery makes it a must on your Cairns itinerary.

**Palm Cove** - Palm Cove is a charming seaside village, and the home of a beach that's considered to be Cairns' best. The village is named for the paperback palms that line the Esplanade to gorgeous effect. It's a great spot for a relaxing day of sun, sand and surf, and it's also popular for kayaking, snorkeling and scuba. If you're a golfer, there's also a 9-hole golf course only a 1km walk from the beach.

**Crystal Cascades** - The Crystal Cascades are a hidden gem of Tropical North Queensland: a freshwater swimming hole nestled in a tropical rainforest, with several small waterfalls flowing into large pools. There are BBQ and picnic facilities in the area, and it's a very magical experience of Australian nature to be able to swim surrounded by peaceful, serene rainforest.

**Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park** - This award-winning cultural park is operated by the original custodians of the land, and tells their creation myth using a combination of actors and hi-tech holograms. You can also ride a canoe, take part in a fireside corroboree, and much more. It's a very educational and entertaining experience.



# World Map:

