

Australia

Discover Australia's destinations, starting with icons such as the Red Centre, Kakadu National Park and the Great Barrier Reef. Numerous natural treasures cover a breathtaking diversity of landscapes, from the mountainous Australian Alps to Fraser Island's sand dunes, rainforest and lakes. Just as distinct are Australia's cities, where our laidback lifestyle and cosmopolitan culture meet. From beach-fringed Sydney to elegant Adelaide, you'll find a melting pot of cultures and a medley of theatre, restaurants, nightlife and events. Australia has so much for you to explore, whether you want nature, wildlife, outback adventure, islands, rainforest or reef. Australia's unique beauty is spread across eight states and territories.

On Arrival in Australia

Unless you are an Australian or New Zealand citizen, you will need a visa to enter Australia. New Zealand passport holders can apply for a visa upon arrival in the country. All other passport holders must apply for a visa before leaving home. You can apply for a range of visas, including tourist visas and working holiday visas, at your nearest Australian Consulate.

Climate

Australia's climate varies across the continent, from hot and tropical in the far north to cool and even snowy in the south. Our seasons are the opposite those in the northern hemisphere.

- Between December and February is summer for most of the country, and the wet season in the tropical north.
- The Australian winter from June to August is generally mild, but offers snow in the southern mountain regions and dry, sunny days in our northern states.

Time Zones

Australia has three time zones:

- Eastern Standard Time (EST) for the eastern states
- Central Standard Time (CST) for the Northern Territory
- South Australia and Western Standard Time (WST) for Western Australia.
- CST is half an hour behind EST and WST is two hours behind EST.

Getting Around

You know Australia is a big country, but you may not know how easy it is to get around. The untouched beaches that stretch for miles and deserts that touch the horizon are all within your reach.

- Australians drive on the left-hand side of the road, with the steering wheel on the right-hand side of the car.
- The maximum speed limit in cities and towns is 60km/h and 50km/h in some suburban areas. On country roads and highways, the maximum speed is usually 110km/h.
- For your safety, drink-driving laws apply, and drivers and passengers must wear seat belts at all times. Motor cyclists and cyclists must wear helmets.
- An international visitor may drive in Australia on a valid overseas driver's licence for the same class of vehicle. You should carry both your home licence and international licence when driving.

Money

- The official currency is the Australian dollar
- All international credit cards are accepted