

ONE WAY AMERICA

Your Guide to Australia

TELEPHONE: Country code (+61). Area codes are generally 2 digits for landlines, depending on the state or territory. When calling Australia from the United States, dial 011 + 61 + the Australian number.

STANDARD TIME: Australia spans several time zones. Eastern Australia is generally UTC/GMT +10, Central Australia UTC/GMT +9.5, and Western Australia UTC/GMT +8. Daylight saving time applies in some states and territories, generally moving the clock forward by one hour.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Metric.

ELECTRICITY: 230v AC, 50Hz. Australia uses Type I electrical outlets. U.S. appliances designed for 110–120v will generally require a suitable voltage converter unless they are dual-voltage.

INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS: No special vaccinations are generally required for travellers arriving directly from the United States. Routine vaccinations should be up to date. Additional vaccinations may be recommended depending on travel history, activities, destination and length of stay.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: New Year's Day, Australia Day January 26th, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day April 25th, King's Birthday (date varies by state or territory), Labour Day or equivalent state holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, together with additional state and territory holidays. Public holidays vary between Australian states and territories.

OFFICE HOURS: Traditionally 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, although working hours vary by employer and industry. Flexible working arrangements are increasingly common.

BANK HOURS: Generally Monday to Friday during standard business hours, although opening times vary between banks and branches. Some branches may offer extended or Saturday opening hours.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 000 – Police, Ambulance and Fire. For non-emergency police assistance, call 131 444 where available.

U.S. EMBASSY IN AUSTRALIA:

U.S. Embassy Canberra Moonah Place Yarralumla, ACT 2600 Australia Telephone: +61 2 6214 5600
Website: U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Australia Location: Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

The U.S. Embassy provides consular services and assistance to U.S. citizens in Australia. Additional U.S. Consulates General operate in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES:

Embassy of Australia 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington, DC 20036USA Telephone: +1 202 797 3000 Website: Australian Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Australia also maintains Consulates General in a number of U.S. cities, including New York, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

PART 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIA

Background

Australia is a large, highly developed country with a strong economy, extensive natural resources and a multicultural population. Its major population centres are concentrated along the eastern, southeastern and southwestern coasts.

Australia has a federal system in which the Commonwealth government operates alongside six states and two main territories. This is important for new residents because healthcare, education, driving, property, tenancy and other rules can differ between states and territories.

For U.S. citizens relocating to Australia, the country offers established international communities, high-quality infrastructure, universities, healthcare and professional opportunities. The distance from the United States should nevertheless be considered carefully when planning family visits, shipping and travel.

Geography

Australia is the world's sixth-largest country by area. It is surrounded by the Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans and includes Tasmania and numerous smaller islands.

Major cities include:

Sydney

Melbourne

Brisbane

Perth

Adelaide

Canberra

Gold Coast

Hobart

Darwin

Most Australians live in urban and coastal areas. The interior contains extensive desert and semi-arid regions.

Climate

Australia has a wide range of climates.

Sydney and Melbourne experience temperate conditions, Brisbane has a warmer subtropical climate, Perth has Mediterranean characteristics, Darwin has a tropical climate, and central Australia can experience very hot and dry conditions.

Bushfires, floods, cyclones, heatwaves and severe storms can affect different parts of the country. New residents should consider local environmental risks when selecting a home.

PART 2 – DAILY LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Economy

Australia has a developed economy based on services, finance, mining, energy, agriculture, construction, healthcare, education, technology and professional services.

Major employment centres include Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

Population

Australia's population is concentrated heavily in major metropolitan areas. Population growth has increased pressure on housing, transport, schools and infrastructure in several cities.

Language

English is the main language used in government, education and business. Australia is highly multicultural and many other languages are spoken.

Religion and Culture

Australia is culturally diverse and generally secular. Religious and cultural practices vary significantly between communities.

New residents should become familiar with Australian workplace culture, public holidays, local environmental conditions and state-specific laws.

Currency

The official currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD).

Cash is accepted, but electronic payments and contactless cards are extremely common.

U.S. Tax Considerations

Moving to Australia does not automatically end U.S. tax obligations for U.S. citizens.

U.S. citizens generally continue to have U.S. federal reporting obligations concerning worldwide income. Australian tax residence may create additional Australian filing and reporting requirements.

Professional cross-border tax advice is strongly recommended.

Time Zone

Australia uses several time zones.

Depending on the location, standard time ranges from UTC+8 to UTC+10:30. Some states observe daylight saving time while others do not.

Telephone

International country code: +61

Australian mobile numbers generally begin with 04 domestically.

Weights and Measures

Australia uses the metric system:

Kilometres

Kilograms

Celsius

Litres

Electricity

Australia uses approximately 230V AC, 50Hz.

Type I plugs are standard.

U.S. appliances designed only for 110–120V generally require appropriate voltage conversion or replacement.

PART 3 – HEALTHCARE

Australia has a public healthcare system known as Medicare, but eligibility depends on citizenship, residence and immigration status.

Temporary residents and visitors should not assume that they are automatically covered.

Before relocating, determine:

Whether you qualify for Medicare

Whether your visa requires private health insurance

Whether your employer provides coverage

Whether prescriptions are covered

Whether dental care is covered

Whether ambulance services are covered

Whether evacuation or repatriation is covered

Private health insurance can provide additional access to private hospitals and services.

Vaccinations

Travellers should be up to date with routine vaccinations. Additional recommendations depend on itinerary, activities, age and medical circumstances.

Health recommendations should be checked with a doctor or travel-health clinic before departure.

PART 4 – EDUCATION

Australia has public and private education systems.

Families can consider:

Government schools

Independent schools

Catholic schools

International schools

Universities

Vocational education

School admission is generally administered at state or territory level.

When choosing a school, consider:

School zone

Curriculum

Tuition

Transportation

Academic calendar

Language

Class size

Extracurricular activities

PART 5 – VISAS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

U.S. citizens require the appropriate Australian immigration status for their purpose of travel.

Visitor authorization does not automatically provide permission to work or live permanently in Australia.

Possible pathways include visitor, student, employer-sponsored, skilled and family-related visas.

Visa conditions can determine:

Whether you can work

Where you can work

How long you can remain

Whether family members can accompany you

Whether you can apply for permanent residence

Requirements should be confirmed directly with the Australian Department of Home Affairs before departure.

PART 6 – DRIVING

Australia drives on the left.

Driving licences are administered by states and territories.

A U.S. licence may be accepted temporarily depending on the state or territory and immigration status, but long-term residents should check local conversion requirements.

Driving conditions can include:

Heavy urban traffic

Long rural distances

Wildlife hazards

Extreme heat

Flooding

Bushfire-related road closures

PART 7 – BANKING

Australia has a sophisticated banking system.

Before leaving the United States, check:

International transaction fees

ATM fees

Foreign exchange

Card usage

Fraud alerts

Two-factor authentication

International transfers

U.S. mailing address requirements

Australian banks generally require identification and appropriate immigration/residence documentation.

PART 8 – IMPORTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Australia has particularly strict biosecurity controls.

Special attention should be given to:

Food

Plants

Seeds

Animal products

Wooden items

Outdoor equipment

Soil-contaminated equipment

Medicines

Commercial quantities

Prepare a detailed inventory.

Do not assume that an item legally owned in the United States can automatically be imported into Australia.

PART 9 – VEHICLES

Importing a U.S. vehicle can involve significant costs and regulatory requirements.

Before shipping a vehicle, confirm:

Import eligibility

Approval requirements

Customs duties

Taxes

Compliance requirements

Registration

Insurance

Shipping costs

Obtain a written cost estimate before shipping.

PART 10 – PETS

Pet relocation requires advance planning.

Dogs and cats may require:

Microchip

Vaccinations

Veterinary certificates

Import permits

Testing

Treatment

Quarantine arrangements

Airline requirements may differ from Australian government requirements.

PART 11 – HOUSING

Major expatriate destinations include:

Sydney

Melbourne

Brisbane

Perth

Adelaide

Canberra

Gold Coast

When selecting accommodation, consider:

Rent

Commute

School zones

Public transport

Climate

Air conditioning/heating

Insurance

Parking

Flood/fire risk

Internet

PART 12 – COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERNET

Internet access is widely available.

Before moving, check whether your U.S. mobile phone is unlocked and compatible with Australian networks.

A local SIM or eSIM can be useful.

Keep U.S. service active if required for banking and authentication.

PART 13 – WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

Foreign nationals need immigration status that permits employment.

Before accepting a position, confirm:

Salary

Currency

Visa sponsorship

Tax treatment

Health insurance

Retirement/superannuation arrangements

Relocation benefits

Housing

Schooling

Travel

U.S. tax implications

PRACTICAL CHECKLIST

Before leaving the United States:

Confirm visa.

Check work rights.

Arrange health insurance.

Confirm school places.

Organize movers.

Prepare inventory.

Review biosecurity requirements.

Check pet requirements.

Review vehicle import requirements.

Notify banks.

Review U.S./Australian taxes.

Make copies of documents.

After arrival:

Complete immigration requirements.

Arrange banking.

Obtain local mobile service.

Confirm healthcare.

Register children for school.

Arrange utilities.

Confirm driving requirements.

Locate emergency services.

Review local state/territory regulations.

Emergency telephone number: 000 – Police, Fire and Ambulance.

Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to provide useful and accurate information, this guide is intended for general relocation purposes only and should not be regarded as legal, immigration, tax, medical or customs advice.

Immigration rules, visa requirements, customs regulations, taxation, healthcare recommendations, public holidays, import restrictions and other government requirements can change without notice.

Prospective residents should verify current requirements with the appropriate Egyptian and U.S. government authorities and obtain professional advice where appropriate before making relocation, shipping, employment, tax, healthcare or immigration decisions.

Information relating to customs and importation is particularly subject to change. A professional international moving company should be consulted before shipping household goods, vehicles, pets or restricted items.

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More info on our website: <https://onewayamerica.com>.