

YOUR ESSENTIAL TRAVEL COMPANION

Your Australia Travel FAQ

Everything you need to know as you plan your once-in-a-lifetime journey to Australia. Have a question that isn't answered here? Just reach out — we're always happy to help.



| Plan with confidence

| Travel with ease

| Make memories that last

BEFORE YOU GO

Planning & Costs

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA?

Fully planned travel packages from the USA typically start at around \$5,000 USD per person for a two-week trip. That generally includes accommodation, international and domestic flights, airport transfers, tours, some meals, and your Australia visa (ETA) issuance. Your final price depends on accommodation class, group size, and travel dates.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET TO AUSTRALIA?

An average non-stop flight from the U.S. West Coast is approximately 14 hours to Australia. The return flight home is usually a little shorter thanks to prevailing easterly winds across the Pacific. Exact flight times vary by departure city and routing. You will cross the international dateline, so you will arrive in Australia 2 days after your departure. You will make up this time on the way home.

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO TRAVEL?

Australia's seasons are the reverse of North America: summer runs December through February and winter runs June through August. For most travelers, the shoulder seasons of September–November and March–May offer comfortable weather, fewer crowds, and better prices.

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD I BOOK?

The earlier the better, especially for peak periods and school holidays, when flights, tours, and accommodation fill quickly. Booking ahead secures the best availability and value, while giving us greater flexibility to design your ideal itinerary.

A thoughtful itinerary is the best value: choosing the right regions and travel dates can make a meaningful difference to your overall trip cost.

DOCUMENTS IN ORDER

Passports & Visas

DO I NEED MY PASSPORT TO BOOK MY TRIP?

If you are booking more than two months before departure, you can begin without your passport in hand, but you will need to apply promptly. We need your name exactly as it appears on your passport. For nearer departures, expedite your application and confirm current U.S. Department of State processing times.

HOW DO I GET A PASSPORT?

In the United States, apply through the U.S. Department of State website, travel.state.gov, which has everything you need to apply for or renew a passport. In Canada, apply through the Government of Canada website, canada.ca/passport, where you'll find all the information and forms to apply for or renew your passport. In both cases, be sure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates.

DO I NEED A VISA TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA?

Most Americans and Candians just need an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) or eVisitor visa before departure. Requirements vary by nationality, and we will guide you through exactly what you need for your trip.

IN THE AIR

Flights & Baggage

WHAT AIRLINE WIL I BE FLYING WITH?

It depends on the best routing for your specific trip. We select the airline and route that offer the strongest combination of schedule, value, and convenience for your itinerary.

CAN I USE MY FREQUENT FLYER POINTS FOR FLIGHTS?

Points flights must be booked directly by you through your frequent flyer program, but we can design an itinerary around them. Plan with us before booking: an open-jaw itinerary, arriving into one city and departing from another, can often save time and money.

CAN I EARN FREQUENT FLYER POINTS ON MY TRIP?

Yes, as long as your booking meets the rules of your frequent flyer program and operating airline. Give us your program name and membership number and we can add it to eligible flight bookings.

ON THE GROUND

Money & Payments

WHAT IS THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE?

Exchange rates fluctuate constantly. For the most accurate, up-to-date Australian Dollar rate, check a currency site such as [xe.com](https://www.xe.com). The exchange rate usually favors USD and CAD, so you can expect your dollar to go further.

CAN I USE MY CREDIT CARDS WHILE TRAVELING?

Yes. All major credit cards are widely accepted throughout Australia. Let your bank know your travel dates in advance and carry a small amount of local currency for smaller purchases.

IS TIPPING EXPECTED?

Tipping culture in Australia is minimal compared with the U.S. and is generally not expected, though it is always appreciated for great service.

AT YOUR OWN PACE

Getting Around & Self-Drive

ARE SELF-DRIVE PACKAGES AVAILABLE?

Yes. Self-drive packages including a rental vehicle can be tailored to suit your trip. Remember that Australia drives on the left-hand side of the road, distances are in kilometers, and seat belts are required for all passengers.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DRIVE IN AUSTRALIA?

Carry your license at all times. You need either a current home-country license in English or an International Driving Permit. If your license is not in English, bring an official translation or obtain an IDP from your local automobile club before travel.

WILL MY RIDE SHARE APPS WORK IN AUSTRALIA?

Australia has a well-established rideshare market featuring major apps Uber and DiDi, alongside specialized services and traditional taxi booking apps that operate across major metropolitan cities and regional centers

The golden rule for Australian road trips: drive left, plan generously, and let the scenery set the pace.

HELPFUL DETAILS

Accommodation, Phones & Safety

WHAT IS “TWIN SHARE” ACCOMMODATION?

Twin share simply means double occupancy: two people traveling together and sharing the same room.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DOUBLE AND A TWIN ROOM?

Both are for two people. A double room means two people in one bed, usually queen or king. A twin room means two people in two separate beds.

DO I NEED A POWER ADAPTER?

Yes. Australia uses Type I plugs and 240V power. Most modern phones and laptops are compatible, but check your charger. Bring a plug adapter, and use a voltage converter for any device that is not 240V-compatible.

CAN I USE MY CELL PHONE WHILE TRAVELING?

Yes. You can use an international plan from your provider, a local SIM, or an eSIM. One fun note: Australians call it a mobile phone, not a cell phone.

WHAT IS AUSTRALIA’S COUNTRY CODE?

Australia’s country code is +61. To dial another country from within Australia, use 0011.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?

No vaccinations are required for travel to Australia. As always, check with your doctor for personal health advice before you travel.

WHAT DO I DIAL IN AN EMERGENCY?

In Australia, dial 000 for Police, Fire, or Ambulance. It is not 911.

WHAT IS THE TIME DIFFERENCE?

Australia is well ahead of North American time zones and across the International Date Line. You will lose a day flying over and gain it back on the way home. Your itinerary will account for this.

CAN I USE MAPS ON MY PHONE OFFLINE?

Yes. Download maps to your phone before you travel so you can navigate without using mobile data — a handy trick for exploring independently.

PEACE OF MIND

Travel Insurance

DO I NEED TRAVEL INSURANCE?

We strongly recommend it. Given the distance and investment involved, travel insurance offers valuable peace of mind for unexpected cancellations, interruptions, medical emergencies, lost baggage, and delays.

WHAT SHOULD MY TRAVEL INSURANCE COVER?

At a minimum, look for trip cancellation and interruption, emergency medical and evacuation, and baggage loss or delay. If you plan activities such as scuba diving, hiking, or snorkeling, check that they are included. Purchase soon after booking for time-sensitive benefits. We can provide a travel insurance quote from a trusted provider

EVERYDAY IN AUSTRALIA

Food, Water & Practicalities

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE, CAN DIETARY NEEDS BE ACCOMMODATED?

You will eat well. Australia has an excellent, diverse food scene with fresh seafood, world-class produce, multicultural cuisine, and outstanding coffee. Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and allergy-conscious options are widely understood; let us know your needs in advance.

IS THE TAP WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Yes. Tap water is clean, safe, and high quality throughout Australia, so you can fill your reusable bottle with confidence.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK, AND IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

Pack for the season and planned activities. Layers, comfortable walking shoes, sun protection, high-SPF sunscreen, and a light rain jacket are smart additions. Dress is generally casual, although some upscale restaurants prefer smart-casual attire. Do not forget swimwear.

WILL I HAVE WI-FI AND STAY CONNECTED?

Yes. Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, cafés, and many public spaces. For reliable connectivity on the go, use an international plan, local SIM, or eSIM. Coverage can be limited in very remote outback areas.

IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL IN AUSTRALIA?

Australia is consistently ranked among the safest and most welcoming destinations in the world.

THE WILD SIDE

Wildlife & Nature

WILL I SEE KANGAROOS, KOALAS, AND OTHER WILDLIFE?

Very likely. Kangaroos and wallabies are often seen in the wild, while koalas, wombats, Tasmanian devils, and colorful birds can be found in wildlife parks, sanctuaries, and nature tours. We can build encounters into your itinerary.

IS IT SAFE TO SWIM AND EXPLORE THE REEF?

Yes. Millions safely swim, snorkel, and dive every year. At beaches, swim between flags at patrolled beaches. On the Great Barrier Reef, operators provide safety briefings and seasonal protective gear. Follow guides' advice and respect the marine environment.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO SEE WILDLIFE OR NATURAL EVENTS?

It depends on your wish list. Whale watching is typically best from May to November, while the Great Barrier Reef is spectacular year-round. Different regions have their own seasonal highlights, so share what you would love to see.

FOR EVERY TRAVELER

Family & Accessibility

IS AUSTRALIA A GOOD DESTINATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN?

Absolutely. From beaches and wildlife parks to interactive museums, gentle outdoor adventures, and family-friendly resorts, Australia offers something for every generation. Accommodation and tours can be tailored around your children's ages and interests.

CAN ACCESSIBILITY OR MOBILITY NEEDS BE ACCOMMODATED?

Yes. Australia offers a good range of accessible accommodation, transport, and experiences. Let us know your requirements early, whether you need step-free access, mobility assistance, or other accommodations.



Wildlife encounters can be woven naturally into your journey.



The reef is extraordinary in every season.



THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

Ready to start planning your dream trip to
Australia?

Get in touch and let's turn your once-in-a-lifetime journey
into reality.