

# Overseas Adventure Travel<sup>®</sup>

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide<sup>®</sup>



Ultimate Australia

2025

# Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will slip seamlessly into local life as you explore off the beaten path in your small group. Like all our itineraries, this one is designed to give you an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis  
Chair  
Overseas Adventure Travel

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Sydney Opera House, Sydney

## Ultimate Australia Small Group Adventure

**Australia:** Melbourne, Alice Springs, *Uluru* (Ayers Rock), Great Barrier Reef, Palm Cove, Sydney

Small groups of no more than 16 travelers, guaranteed

**18 days starting from \$6,895**

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit [www.oattravel.com/aua2025pricing](http://www.oattravel.com/aua2025pricing)

Explore Australia in an O.A.T. small group and leave the well-trodden path to uncover some of its best-kept secrets. Delve into the ecological wonders of the remote Daintree Rainforest. Take a catamaran to the Great Barrier Reef. Explore Ayers Rock (*Uluru*)—the heart of the red, rugged Outback. And feel the pulse of Australia's cultural centers, from Melbourne to Sydney.

### IT'S INCLUDED

- 15 nights accommodation
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation and 3 internal flights
- 30 meals—15 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 8 dinners
- 17 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure

*Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.*



## ITINERARY SUMMARY

| DAYS  | DESTINATION                                                 |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1-2   | Fly to Melbourne, Australia                                 |
| 3-6   | Melbourne                                                   |
| 7-8   | Fly to Alice Springs                                        |
| 9-10  | Overland to Uluru (Ayers Rock)                              |
| 11-14 | Fly to Palm Cove • Great Barrier Reef • Daintree Rainforest |
| 15-17 | Fly to Sydney                                               |
| 18    | Return to U.S.                                              |

## WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

**Pacing:** 6 locations in 16 days

**Physical requirements:** 1 overland drive 7.5 hours long and 3 internal flights of up to 4 hours each. You must be able to walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 4-6 hours of physical activities each day

**Flight time:** Travel time will be 19-27 hours and will most likely have one or two connections

View all physical requirements at [www.oattravel.com/aua](http://www.oattravel.com/aua)

## AUSTRALIA: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

**Unbeatable Value:** Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

**People-to-People Experiences:** Learn about traditional indigenous smoking ceremonies, where plants are burned to honor the land and ancestors (an Aboriginal Guide will provide a hands-on description of the smoking ceremony but without smoke (removed due to health and safety reasons)); speak with an indigenous man in the Outback about the cultural significance of dramatic Simpsons Gap; and join a family on their farm in the Outback for a barbecue dinner.

**O.A.T. Exclusives:** Learn about the **Grand Circle Foundation**-sponsored site that's working to preserve the Great Barrier Reef, and even see a section of a coral nursery that's dedicated to travelers like you.

## PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

### OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

**Undiscovered Tasmania:** Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston  
**PRE-TRIP:** 7 nights from **\$2,795**

**New Zealand:** Christchurch, Queenstown & Milford Sound Cruise  
**POST-TRIP:** 7 nights from **\$3,295**

### ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Hobart** before your Tasmania pre-trip extension from **\$200** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Melbourne** before your main adventure from **\$200** per room, per night

# Ultimate Australia

## YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

### BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

#### 7 nights in *Undiscovered Tasmania: Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston*

**Day 1** Depart U.S.

**Day 2** Cross International Date Line

**Day 3** Arrive in Hobart, Tasmania

**Day 4** Walking tour of Hobart • Visit Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary • Explore Historic Town of Richmond

**Day 5** Hobart • Optional Port Arthur tour

**Day 6** Hobart • Transfer to Cradle Mountain • Evening “Spotlighting” tour

**Day 7** Cradle Mountain National Park • Overland to Launceston

**Day 8** Explore Launceston • Platypus House Wildlife Center visit

**Day 9** Cataract Gorge Walk • Explore Launceston

**Day 10** Launceston • Fly to Melbourne

#### **Day 1** Depart U.S.

Fly from the U.S. to Melbourne, Australia.

#### **Day 2** Cross International Date Line

You continue your flight from Los Angeles to Melbourne, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line. You regain this day when you fly back to the U.S. at the end of the trip.

#### **Day 3** Arrive in Melbourne, Australia

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Little Collins or similar

**Morning:** You’ll arrive in Melbourne this morning and transfer to your hotel.

**Lunch:** On your own.

**Afternoon:** Enjoy time to rest after the long flight and before we begin exploring the city tomorrow.

Later this afternoon, we’ll gather for a Welcome Briefing with our Trip Experience Leader. Then, we’ll set off on a short orientation walk led by our Trip Experience Leader.

**Dinner:** On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Evening:** Free to rest and relax before our explorations begin tomorrow.



## Day 4 Explore Melbourne • Koorie Heritage Trust visit

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Little Collins or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** At Koorie Heritage Trust, we'll meet a local indigenous guide who will connect us with the history of Aboriginal Victoria during a walking tour of the Birrarung Mar Park and along the Yarra River. We'll discover sites of cultural significance to both the Aboriginal people and the history of Australia as a whole.

Then, it is onto a walking tour of Melbourne led by your Trip Experience Leader. We'll start our walk at Flinders Street Railway Station, Australia's oldest train station, followed by a wander through the city's famous lanes and arcades. These will include: Collins Street, the Block and Royal Arcades, Bourke Street Mall, and Swanston Street before we continue on to the neo-Gothic St. Paul's Cathedral. Next, we'll make our way down Hosier Lane, which is covered in elaborate street murals that reflect the pulse of the city, followed by a visit to the expansive Federation Square where we will conclude our tour in time for lunch.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Following lunch, the remainder of the afternoon is on your own.

**Dinner:** Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Evening:** The remainder of the evening is free for your own discoveries.

## Day 5 Melbourne • Optional Great Ocean Road & Wildlife Wonders Tour

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Little Collins or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Make your own independent discoveries in Melbourne. Or, join an optional Great Ocean Road & Wildlife Wonders Tour. The Great Ocean Road is a national park that winds 150 miles along Australia's stunning coast, and we'll journey along some of that road while stopping along the way to discover the Australian wildlife that calls the coast home.

**Lunch:** On your own or, if you have embarked on the optional tour, lunch is included at a local café.

**Afternoon:** On your own to pursue individual interests. Early this evening, those on the optional tour will return to Melbourne.

**Dinner:** On your own.

**Evening:** The remainder of the evening is free.

## Day 6 Melbourne • Visit wildlife sanctuary • Discover the Mornington Peninsula

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Little Collins or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Visit a wildlife sanctuary on the Mornington Peninsula to learn about local conservation efforts and view native wildlife, including koalas and kangaroos. Then, visit Heronswood Garden, a lovely heirloom garden surrounding a Gothic manor.

**Lunch:** At Heronswood Garden.

**Afternoon:** We'll drive further along the Mornington Peninsula to view the vibrant, rainbow-colored bathing boxes that for locals have become tightly-held inheritances passed down through generations and are still in very high demand. While here, we'll also be able to take in sweeping views of the Australian coast before returning to our hotel.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant.

**Evening:** On your own to make independent discoveries.

### **Day 7 Fly to Alice Springs • Visit Telegraph Station • Visit Anzac Hill**

- Destination: Alice Springs (*Mparntwe*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alice Springs or similar

**Activity Note:** Flight deviations via Sydney are expected if a direct flight is unavailable.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Fly to Alice Springs and dive right into our Outback discoveries with a visit to Alice Springs's old Telegraph Station.

**Lunch:** At a café at the Telegraph Station.

**Afternoon:** Enjoy a tour of the Telegraph Station. The station marks the European settlement of Alice Springs at the inception of the Overland Telegraph Line, which was established in 1872 to relay messages between Adelaide and Darwin. During our visit, we'll learn more about the founding of Alice Springs and about the early telegraphers who settled in this rugged region. Then, visit Anzac Hill, a memorial for all Australians who have fought in wars. Offering panoramic views of Alice Springs, we'll get a bird's-eye view of the small town and rocky, desert landscape.

After our explorations, we'll head to our hotel in Alice Springs.

**Dinner:** On your own—you may wish to try one of the hotel's restaurants.

**Evening:** You'll continue enjoying your free time into the evening.

### **Day 8 Alice Springs • Explore Simpsons Gap & Standley Chasm • Earth Sanctuary Outback Barbecue**

- Destination: Alice Springs (*Mparntwe*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alice Springs or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** During a drive into the deep Australian Outback, we'll stop at Simpsons Gap, one of the most prominent gaps piercing the West MacDonnell Mountain Range. After viewing the towering red cliffs and rust-hued walking paths of this scenic area, we'll head to Standley Chasm—a geological formation that has long been associated with native women's culture. Traditionally, only women were allowed to visit the chasm, where they would collect bush medicines and perform sacred rites.

**Lunch:** On your own in Alice Springs.

**Afternoon:** After some free time, we'll reconvene and make our way to a sustainable living center nestled on 100 acres in the heart of the Outback. Upon arrival, we'll enjoy a cocktail as we watch the sun set over the MacDonnell Ranges. Then, we'll gather around the campfire and learn to make damper, a traditional Australian bread that is typically baked in ashes, and to listen to stories about local ecology and culture.



**Dinner:** We'll enjoy an authentic Australian barbecue around dusk. As we dine, we'll have the opportunity to ask any questions about Aboriginal life and culture, particularly as it relates to the Outback.

**Evening:** Before returning to our hotel, we'll have some time to continue our conversation around the firepit. Be sure to look up—the Outback is one of the best places in the world for stargazing.

### **Day 9 Alice Springs • Overland to Uluru (Ayers Rock) • Sunset viewing**

- Destination: *Uluru* (Ayers Rock)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Desert Gardens Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Travel overland to *Uluru* (Ayers Rock), with several stops along the way.

**Lunch:** At a local working cattle station in the Outback.

**Afternoon:** Arrive at our lodgings in the small town of Yulara, just a short drive from *Uluru-Kata Tjuta* National Park. After a guided walk on the trails, we'll pause at a panoramic vista for a traditional sunset toast as the last daylight paints the massive monolith of *Uluru* into a kaleidoscope of colors.

Early European settlers named it Ayers Rock, but it is called *Uluru* by the Anangu indigenous people who serve as its spiritual caretakers. In spite of—perhaps even in defiance of—the negative effects of European settlement, some 50,000 years of Australian indigenous culture and spirit have strongly endured in art, dance, and music. *Uluru* is the most fitting symbol of that endurance.

**Dinner:** On your own.

**Evening:** Your evening is free.

### **Day 10 Uluru (Ayers Rock) sunrise viewing • Visit Kata Tjuta rock formations**

- Destination: *Uluru* (Ayers Rock)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Desert Gardens Hotel or similar

**Early morning:** Rise early this morning to revisit *Uluru* in the light of dawn.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Continue exploring *Uluru-Kata Tjuta* National Park on a walking tour. While *Uluru* is the centerpiece of the park, it also includes the spectacular rock formations called the *Kata Tjuta* which we will witness this morning. Our local guide will give us more insight into the spiritual symbolism of this natural wonder and the history of the indigenous people's rights to the land.

**Lunch:** On your own—you can dine at the hotel's restaurant or seek out traditional bush food at a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** The rest of the day is free for you to explore on your own.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** On your own.

### **Day 11 Fly to Cairns • Transfer overland to Palm Cove**

- Destination: Palm Cove
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Peppers Beach Club or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy the morning free for your own discoveries.

**Lunch:** On your own—you can grab something in town or at the airport while you wait for your flight.

**Afternoon:** Fly to Cairns and transfer to our hotel in Palm Cove.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Evening:** You are free to explore Palm Cove on your own this evening.

## **Day 12 Hartley's Crocodile Adventures**

### **• Palm Cove**

- Destination: Palm Cove
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Peppers Beach Club or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** We'll drive to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Australia's first and oldest facility to breed crocs in captivity. While we're here, we'll board a boat and cruise down Harley's Lagoon to spot a wide variety of native and exotic wildlife. Then, we'll embark on a guided tour to discover the wetlands and more.

After our visit, we'll depart for our hotel in Palm Cove.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Continue your day of leisure this afternoon, free to make whatever discoveries you wish in this charming beachside village.

**Dinner:** Enjoy a barbecue dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

**Evening:** The remainder of the evening is free.

## **Day 13 Cruise to the Great Barrier Reef**

- Destination: Palm Cove
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Peppers Beach Club or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Transfer to Cairns by bus, and then set off for a full-day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef. We'll board our catamaran and set sail to the Moore Reef, where this natural wonder is yours to explore. We linger here for most of the day. Possibly the best description of the Great Barrier Reef comes down to five simple words: "the world's largest living thing." Its nomination for World Heritage status stated, "The Reef supports the most diverse ecosystem known to man ... an ecosystem which has evolved over millions of years."

There's no one "right" way to explore the Reef, so we'll be given a choice. You can swim or snorkel among the fish and wide array of corals. Or, if you wish to observe this spectacular underwater world without submerging yourself, you can view parts of the Reef from our vessel. However you do it, you are in a prime spot to experience the nature of the largest coral reef in the world.

**Lunch:** Onboard the catamaran.

**Afternoon:** We'll continue our exploration of the Reef and return to our hotel in Palm Cove later this afternoon.

**Dinner:** On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations for nearby restaurants.

**Evening:** After a long day on the water, you may choose to use your evening to relax and refresh.

## Day 14 Daintree Rainforest walk

- Destination: Palm Cove
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Peppers Beach Club or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** This morning, we'll drive to another Australian natural wonder—the Daintree Rainforest. The only place on Earth where the forests are much as they were 100 million years ago, the very first species of flowering plants bloomed here while dinosaurs were still alive. After a stop for morning tea at a local café, we'll make our way to Cooper Creek Wilderness, a privately owned, nationally accredited preserve that offers eco-friendly tours of the rainforest's myriad wonders.

We'll begin exploring the rainforest alongside two members of the local family that owns the preserve, who will share a unique perspective that only locals can provide.

Daintree is like a botanical Jurassic Park, hosting plant species so primitive they scarcely differ from their prehistoric ancestors. The lush, dense landscape is but one component of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of Australia. This region comprises just one-thousandth of the continent's land, yet hosts an impressive range of Australia's native species. A full 40% of its plant species can be found here, as well as a quarter of its reptiles, a fifth of its birds, and a third of its marsupials and frogs. An astounding 633 species of plants, mammals, birds, and reptiles are found nowhere else but the Daintree Rainforest, and many are classified as threatened.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** After returning to our hotel, enjoy the remainder of the day on our own.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** The evening is free to continue exploring Palm Cove on your own.

## Day 15 Fly to Sydney

- Destination: Sydney (*Warrane*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Rydges World Square Sydney or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy the morning to relax or pack for our flight to Sydney.

**Lunch:** On your own.

**Afternoon:** Fly to Sydney and arrive at our hotel late this afternoon. visit Spice Alley—a vibrant laneway featuring multiple hawker-style eateries.

**Dinner:** At one of the many hawker-style eateries of Spice Alley, a vibrant laneway of Asian cuisine.

**Evening:** You're free to experience nightlife in Sydney, take a walk around the neighborhood of the hotel, or get a look at the iconic sites after dusk.

## Day 16 Explore Sydney • Sydney Harbour ferry ride • Sydney Opera House

- Destination: Sydney (*Warrane*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Rydges World Square Sydney or similar

**Activity Note:** Depending on Opera House availability, we may reverse the order of today's activities.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy a city tour of Sydney, taking in famous sights like Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, Hyde Park, Rushcutters Bay, Bondi Beach, and the Gap.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant specializing in authentic fish and chips.

**Afternoon:** Join locals on a ferry ride around Sydney Harbour, taking in striking views of the city skyline as we blend into the perpetual bustle of water-borne activity.

After disembarking our ferry at Circular Quay, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Sydney Opera House, whose distinctive architecture has made it the city's signature attraction. This architectural masterpiece was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007, and you'll see firsthand why it deserves this title.

After our tour, we'll catch the tram back from Circular Quay to Town Hall followed by some free time.

**Dinner:** On your own.

**Evening:** You are free this evening to continue exploring on your own.

## **Day 17 Explore Sydney**

- Destination: Sydney (Warrane)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Rydges World Square Sydney or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Conclude your Australia travel experience with more time to explore Sydney on your own. You can relax, visit local shops, or return to the seashore to visit any of the several beaches that are accessible by public transportation.

**Lunch:** On your own whenever you'd like.

**Afternoon:** Continue exploring on your own this afternoon.

**Dinner:** We'll say goodbye to Australia over a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Evening:** You're free to take in some nightlife or retire to your room to pack before your flight home tomorrow.

## **Day 18 Return to U.S. • Begin post-trip extension**

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Fly back to the U.S. or to Auckland to begin your *New Zealand: Christchurch, Queenstown & Milford Sound Cruise* post-trip extension.



## END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

### **7 nights in New Zealand: Christchurch, Queenstown & Milford Sound Cruise**

**Day 1** Fly from Sydney to Christchurch, New Zealand

**Day 2** Explore Christchurch • Waka canoe experience • **Home-Hosted Dinner**

**Day 3** Overland to Canterbury region • Sheepdog demonstration

**Day 4** Overland to Queenstown • View Mount Cook • Wine tasting

**Day 5** Queenstown • Fiordland National Park • Cruise Milford Sound

**Day 6** Queenstown • Optional K-JET Jet-boat Ride

**Day 7** Queenstown to Auckland

**Day 8** Auckland • Fly to U.S.

## OPTIONAL TOURS

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During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

***Please note:*** Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

### **Great Ocean Road & Wildlife Wonders Private Tour with lunch**

(Day 5 \$265 per person)

Join us on an optional “Great Ocean Road & Wildlife Wonders Private Tour” that includes lunch. The Great Ocean Road is a national park that winds 150 miles along Australia’s stunning coast, and we’ll journey along some of that road while stopping along the way to discover the Australian wildlife that calls the coast home.

## PRE-TRIP

### Undiscovered Tasmania: Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » Airfare from Launceston to Melbourne
- » 7 nights accommodation
- » 14 meals—7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners
- » 5 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

#### PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*One hundred and fifty miles off the southeastern coast of mainland Australia sits Tasmania—a land of pristine natural beauty with a history that is equally well-preserved. From charming Hobart to Cradle Mountain National Park, Australia’s only island state abounds with stunning scenery and vibrant culture.*

##### **Day 1 Depart U.S.**

Relax on your overnight flight to Australia as you begin your journey to Tasmania.

##### **Day 2 Cross International Date Line**

Continue your journey to Tasmania. By crossing the International Date Line you lose a day, but you will make it up on the return end of your adventure.

##### **Day 3 Arrive in Hobart, Tasmania**

- Destination: Hobart
- Accommodations: Mantra Collins Hotel or similar

**Activity Note:** International flights from the U.S. will enter Australia in Sydney, Melbourne, or Brisbane with a connecting domestic to Hobart on the same day. If you are arranging

your own international airfare to Australia, you will need to arrange your own flight to Hobart, Tasmania where you will join your group.

**Morning:** Upon arrival on the Australian mainland, transfer to your flight to Hobart, Tasmania. When you arrive, an O.A.T. representative will assist with your transfer to the hotel.

**Lunch:** On your own.

**Afternoon:** Spend the afternoon relaxing at the hotel, or start exploring Hobart on your own. Later, gather for a Welcome Briefing and an orientation walk of the neighborhood.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Evening:** Due to the time difference and long travel times, you may want to retire to your room to get some sleep before we start exploring tomorrow.

#### **Day 4 Walking tour of Hobart • Visit Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary • Explore Historic Town of Richmond**

- Destination: Hobart
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Mantra Collins Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Set off on a walking tour of historic Hobart with a local guide. Learn about Hobart's rich history while touring the city center, Salamanca Place, and its surrounding areas. This rather small city is the capital of the Australian State of Tasmania, the largest offshore island in the country. It is a seaport where you are never far from the water, while on its landward side Mount Wellington rises more than 4,100 feet above the ocean's edge.

After our walking tour, drive out to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, Tasmania's most popular wildlife park and a haven for injured and orphaned animals. Here, we may see species that are extinct everywhere but Tasmania, such as the eastern quoll, the Tasmanian pademelon, the shy Tasmanian bettong, and the famous Tasmanian devil. Then, drive to the historic town of Richmond, a picturesque locale that was once a military post and convict station (it's also home to Australia's oldest *gaol*, or jail), taking in the wealth of its 19th-century buildings.

**Lunch:** At a local café on our way back to Hobart.

**Afternoon:** Your afternoon is free for independent exploration in Hobart.

**Dinner:** Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Evening:** You're free to discover Hobart's nightlife or retire to your room.

#### **Day 5 Hobart • Optional Port Arthur tour**

- Destination: Hobart
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Mantra Collins Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** The day is yours to continue exploring Hobart on your own. Or, you may join us for an optional tour of Port Arthur, one of Australia's most historic sites.

**Lunch:** On your own—travelers staying in Hobart may choose to venture out to find a local restaurant. Those joining our optional tour can ask our Trip Experience Leader to provide you with restaurant recommendations in Port Arthur for lunch.

**Afternoon:** Travelers who choose to stay in Hobart continue to make their own discoveries this afternoon.

Travelers on the Port Arthur optional tour will visit some of the restored buildings and ruins that were part of the prison system on a walking tour, followed by a harbor cruise around the Isle of the Dead, a cemetery for all who passed inside the prison camps, before returning to Hobart.

**Dinner:** On your own.

**Evening:** Enjoy free time this evening to make your own discoveries.



## **Day 6 Hobart • Transfer to Cradle Mountain • Evening “Spotlighting” tour**

- Destination: Cradle Mountain
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Cradle Mountain Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** On the way to Cradle Mountain, stop in the colonial town of Ross, where four storied corners of temptation, recreation, salvation, and damnation mark its downtown.

**Lunch:** At a local café.

**Afternoon:** Upon arrival at Cradle Mountain, enjoy the rest of the afternoon free to make your own discoveries.

**Dinner:** At the hotel’s restaurant.

**Evening:** Enjoy an animal spotting tour this evening. Our local driver guide will help us spot animals like wombats and wallabies in the wild.

## **Day 7 Cradle Mountain National Park • Overland to Launceston**

- Destination: Launceston
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Best Western Plus Launceston or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Spend the morning in Cradle Mountain National Park, part of Tasmania’s World Heritage area. Cradle Mountain is Tasmania’s best-known national park, and you will quickly see why. This is an area of sweeping natural vistas—high mountains towering over gorges and lakes, and with unusual wild moorlands that stretch for miles beyond the park. There are several excellent walking and hiking trails to choose from that will bring you close to the sights and sounds of the park.

Then, travel to Launceston, via Sheffield. Located near Mount Roland, Sheffield is known as the “Town of Murals” for the detailed and expansive paintings that the town’s history and landscape inspire.

**Lunch:** At a local café in Sheffield.

**Afternoon:** Arrive in Launceston late this afternoon.

**Dinner:** On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

**Evening:** Free for you to explore Launceston as you’d like.

## **Day 8 Explore Launceston • Platypus House Wildlife Center visit**

- Destination: Launceston
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Best Western Plus Launceston or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** This morning we’ll drive out to Platypus House for a guided tour of its platypus ponds. We’ll have an opportunity to observe its duck-billed occupants playing and feeding and also visit the echidna (or spiny anteater) room. During our visit we’ll learn how thousands of years of isolation have made Tasmanian varieties of the platypus biologically distinct from those on the mainland, making them among the most unique animals on Earth.

**Lunch:** At a local winery, accompanied by a taste of its locally-produced vintages.

**Afternoon:** The remainder of the day is free to make your own discoveries.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Evening:** Perhaps you'll spend your final evening in Tasmania exploring more of Launceston on your own.

### **Day 9 Cataract Gorge Walk • Explore Launceston**

- Destination: Launceston
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Best Western Plus Launceston

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Set off to explore Cataract Gorge in-depth. The Cataract Gorge was created by the flowing waters of the South Esk River, which over millennia have carved the rock. This is a slice of wilderness close to the heart of this Tasmanian city, giving travelers a unique opportunity to explore nature close by. We'll set out on foot into the gorge reserve, visiting King's Park and the King's Bridge, exploring the First Basin and its suspension bridge, viewing the decommissioned Duck Reach Power Station, and more.

**Lunch:** On your own in Cataract Gorge.

**Afternoon:** Our discoveries continue this afternoon as we drive back to Launceston and meander through the city itself, where 19th-century houses and Victorian-era warehouses still stand. We pass by Princes Square and City Park, where a diverse collection of exotic trees, gardens, and fountains enliven the landscape.

**Dinner:** Sit down for an included Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant in Launceston, where you can toast to your Tasmanian discoveries.

**Evening:** Tonight you are free to explore the charms of one of Tasmania's oldest cities at your own pace.

### **Day 10 Launceston • Fly to Melbourne**

- Destination: Melbourne
- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** Breakfast boxes are available for you to take to the airport.

**Morning:** Fly to Melbourne and begin your *Ultimate Australia* adventure.

## **OPTIONAL TOUR**

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### **Port Arthur**

(Day 5 \$195 per person)

Spend the day exploring one of Australia's most historic sites. Port Arthur served as a prison colony for Australia between 1830 and 1877 when some 12,000 convicts were confined here; in fact, a whole network of prisons once dominated the island. Our tour starts at the Visitor Center, where an interactive gallery will help explain much of the history of this former penal colony. Then a guided walking tour will bring us to some of the restored buildings and ruins that were used as part of the prison

system. Afterward, we'll drive through the charming and well-maintained grounds, which offer great views of Pirates Bay and Eaglehawk Neck.

## POST-TRIP

### New Zealand: Christchurch, Queenstown & Milford Sound Cruise

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » Air transportation from Sydney to Christchurch
- » 7 nights accommodation
- » 15 meals—7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 5 dinners
- » 5 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

#### POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Discover New Zealand's stunning South Island—a wonderland of alpine peaks, verdant farms, Victorian garden towns, ancient Maori culture, and good-natured Kiwi hospitality. It would be a shame to come all the way “Down Under” and miss Australia's beautiful neighbor, New Zealand.*

##### **Day 1 Fly from Sydney to Christchurch, New Zealand**

- Destination: Christchurch
- Accommodations: Hotel in Christchurch or similar

**Morning:** Fly to Christchurch. The largest city in New Zealand's South Island, this English-influenced beauty has been on a rebuilding boom that has revitalized the heart of the city and yielded plenty to see and do.

**Lunch:** On your own—you may want to grab something at the airport that you can enjoy during the flight.

**Afternoon:** Upon arrival in Christchurch, the balance of the afternoon and evening is free for independent exploration.

**Dinner:** On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can provide suggestions for dinner this evening.

**Evening:** Perhaps you'll grab a drink at a nearby pub with some fellow travelers to toast to the discoveries ahead.

##### **Day 2 Explore Christchurch • Waka canoe experience • Home-Hosted Dinner**

- Destination: Christchurch
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Christchurch or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Set off today on a walk along the Banks of the Ōtākaro Avon River, running through the center of Christchurch and opposite to Victoria Square. As a prominent

recreational waterway for the locals, we'll experience a local form of recreation as we paddle hand-crafted waka (canoes) down the Avon. We'll also learn how the waka has served the Maori culture for centuries.

Then, we'll head out to discover Christchurch on foot with our Trip Experience Leader. Christchurch is a city in transition as it is still recovering from two deadly earthquakes—one in 2011 and an even more severe 7.8 magnitude quake in 2016. Undeterred, the citizens here rose to the challenge of coping with these two epic disasters, rebuilding and re-imagining their city center, as well as maintaining their welcoming Kiwi spirit. Our Trip Experience Leader will share stories of Christchurch's revival as you walk around and see the city renewed—many buildings and structures have been created with the help of Matapopore, a charitable trust that has ensured the city retains its English heritage while incorporating more Maori representation as well.

We'll end our walking tour at Riverside Market, central Christchurch's new essential destination for both local and visiting foodies alike. After the earthquakes, many local families lost their businesses. Undaunted, these creative business owners switched gears and many of Christchurch's most popular food trucks are now represented at the market as permanent food stalls.

**Lunch:** On your own.

**Afternoon:** The remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries.

**Dinner:** Tonight, we'll break up into smaller groups and wait at our hotel to be greeted by local families who will drive us to their Christchurch residences for a **Home-Hosted Dinner**.

Together we'll share a traditional three-course meal, composed of typical Kiwi cuisine that local families would enjoy in their day-to-day lives. Our hosts will choose the menu, but we're likely to enjoy local favorites such as roast lamb, seasonal vegetables like kumara (sweet potato), and perhaps a taste of sweet pavlova for dessert—New Zealand's iconic meringue confection.

As we dine, we'll also enjoy lively conversation about life in New Zealand, an intimate opportunity for cultural exchange made possible only by O.A.T.'s small group size. As our hosts are likely to be fellow world travelers, we're sure to have much to talk about, whether we're sharing our favorite travel stories, or discussing issues that affect life in Christchurch.

**Evening:** Enjoy a free evening.

### **Day 3 Overland to Canterbury region • Sheepdog demonstration**

- Destination: Canterbury region
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: MacKenzie Country Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** We'll drive to the Canterbury region this morning, a thriving farming area.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Visit a local sheep farm and witness the impressive work of sheepdogs as they rally the sheep in the paddock and shuffle them from pen to pen. We may even get an opportunity to see the sheep being shorn in the shearing shed (weather dependent).

On our way to our hotel in the town of Twizel, we'll stop along the shores of Lake Tekapo to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd,



an iconic landmark of the region. The stone façade sits among the towering mountains of the Mackenzie region. Then, we'll admire the bronze sheepdog statue close to the church, which commemorates their vital part in the region's economy.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** Free to spend as you wish.

#### **Day 4 Overland to Queenstown • View Mount Cook • Wine tasting**

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Queenstown or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** On our way to Queenstown, we'll travel alongside the Southern Alps to take in views (weather permitting) of New Zealand's highest peak, 12,346-foot Mount Cook. Called *Aoraki* by the Maori, this world-renowned mountain wears a permanent mantle of snow and ice. It towers above turquoise glacier-fed lakes and grassy foothills where snow gentians and the white buttercups called Mount Cook Lilies bloom.

We'll also stop at a local vineyard to enjoy a wine-tasting and a conversation with one of the members of the wine cellar team about the Otago region's wine, particularly Pinot Noir.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** We'll arrive at our hotel in Queenstown by mid-afternoon. The rest of the day is on your own. You will be provided with a round-trip water taxi ticket so you may head into town as you please.

**Dinner:** On your own—you may choose to dine in the hotel's restaurant this evening, or your Trip Experience Leader can provide you with restaurant recommendations.

**Evening:** Spend the rest of the evening as you wish.

#### **Day 5 Queenstown • Fiordland National Park • Cruise Milford Sound**

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Queenstown or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** This morning, we'll travel to Milford Sound—dubbed the “Eighth Wonder of the World” by Rudyard Kipling—situated in the heart of Fiordland National Park. At the wharf in Milford Sound, we'll board our ship and begin a 2-hour cruise, where we'll marvel at towering cliffs and lofty peaks, see thundering waterfalls, lush beech forests, and unique flora and fauna.

**Lunch:** A picnic lunch is included onboard our cruise.

**Afternoon:** As we continue to cruise, we'll pass dense forests, shimmering Lake Te Anau, and a pass known as “The Avenue of Disappearing Mountains.” After our cruise, we'll return to Queenstown.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** Perhaps you'll grab a cocktail at the hotel's bar, or you may retire to your room to get some sleep.

## Day 6 Queenstown • Optional K-JET Jet-boat Ride

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Queenstown or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Today is free for you to make your own discoveries. Or, you can take the optional excursion in a K-JET jet-boat. The jet-boat, which takes in water and ejects it from the stern under great pressure to create propulsion, was invented in New Zealand. It's designed to run in water that is only inches deep, and the boat needs very little room to maneuver, making it capable of handling the twisting channels between rocky outcrops with ease. You'll jet across Lake Wakatipu and journey down two nearby rivers.

**Lunch:** On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can provide you with restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** You have more free time this afternoon to continue exploring on your own. Those travelers on the optional tour will return to Queenstown later this afternoon.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant.

**Evening:** On your own.

## Day 7 Queenstown to Auckland

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Travelodge Hotel Auckland Wynyard Quarter or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Fly to Auckland where we will spend the day before departing for Los Angeles. We'll arrive late this morning and transfer into town.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Set off on a tour of Auckland with your Trip Experience Leader. Highlights include the Viaduct Harbour and Harbour Bridge, Newmarket, and the Mission Bay beachfront neighborhood. The Polynesian diversity is reflected in the unique cultural, culinary, and shopping experiences that we'll find here. Known as the "City of Sails" for its coastal locale and the America's Cup Village situated here, Auckland is noted for its scenery, love of rugby, and food and wine.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant.

**Evening:** You may want to retire to your room to pack before your flight home tomorrow.

## Day 8 Auckland • Fly to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Today you are free to explore Auckland independently. New Zealand's largest and most culturally diverse city, Auckland is a melting pot of European, South Pacific, Asian, and indigenous Maori cultures.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

**Afternoon:** Continue to explore on your own. For real insights into Kiwi culture, perhaps you'll check out the All Blacks Experience, where you can learn the story of New Zealand's legendary rugby team, test your skills against the mighty players, and experience the passion of the haka, the Maori ceremonial dance used to challenge opponents.

Late this afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight back to the U.S.

**Dinner:** On your own at the airport.

**Evening:** Fly back to the U.S. via Los Angeles, arriving the next morning. Here, you will transfer to your connecting flight home.

## OPTIONAL TOUR

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### **K-JET Jet-boat Ride**

(Day 6 \$85 per person)

The jet-boat was invented in New Zealand. It takes in water and ejects it from the stern under great pressure to create the propulsion. It's designed to run in water that is only inches deep, and the boat needs very little room to maneuver, making it capable of handling the twisting channels between rocky outcrops with ease. You'll experience this exciting mode of transport on the beautiful Lake Wakatipu and journey down two nearby rivers, navigating scenic spots that regular boats can't get to.

# TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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## Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

## Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

## Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 2 blank passport pages
- **Tasmania pre-trip extension:** No additional pages needed.
- **New Zealand post-trip extension:** You will need 2 additional blank passport pages, for a total of 4.

## Visas Required

**We’ll be sending you a detailed Visa Packet with instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure.** In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. *This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.*

- **Australia (base and pre-trip extensions): An Australian Electronic Authority (ETA) is required.** You must obtain the ETA via the Australian government’s app, Australian ETA. This app is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Note that this is a digital process only and you will not receive a label or sticker in your passport.



- **New Zealand (post-trip extension): A New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) is required.** Note that this is a digital process only—you must apply online or via an app (we will send instructions), and you will not receive a visa sticker in your passport. In addition, all travelers should bring an extra copy of their air itinerary on the trip in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.

### Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **[www.pvsinternational.org](http://www.pvsinternational.org)**.

### Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

### Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

### Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.

## Flight Itinerary for Entry to New Zealand

You will need to bring an extra copy of your flight itinerary for New Zealand in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.

- **If you purchased airfare as part of your trip**, we will give you an extra copy of your flight itinerary in your Final Documents booklet for this purpose.
- **If you made your own international air arrangements**, you'll need to bring your own copy of your air itinerary and ticket numbers with you on the trip.

## RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

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### Is This Adventure Right for You?

**Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure.** We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

#### PACING

- 6 locations in 16 days; 3 internal flights of 1-4 hours each; 1 drive of 7.5 hours
- International flights from Los Angeles to Melbourne depart around midnight; you'll lose one day en route as you cross the International Date Line, and regain it on the return trip; internal flights that require early wake-ups
- Airport transfers in Melbourne and Sydney may take more than 1 hour

#### PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 4-6 hours of physical activities each day
- Some walks will be in areas with high heat or humidity
- Agility and balance are required for embarking catamaran and cruise boats
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

#### CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-100°F
- The tropical regions in northern Australia are warm and humid; with humidity reaching up to 80% in December-March
- In the desert Outback, temperatures can exceed 100°F during the day, and drop dramatically at night

## **TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION**

- Travel by 21-passenger minibus (no toilet onboard) and 20–350 passenger boats, including a catamaran
- 1 overland drive 7.5 hours long and 3 internal flights of up to 4 hours each; potential flight deviations due to lack of daily direct flights may necessitate a stopover in a different city, or result in an extra-long travel day
- 1 full-day cruise to the Great Barrier Reef

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES**

- Hotel rooms are smaller than U.S. and offer simple amenities
- All accommodations feature private bathrooms

## **Steps to Take Before Your Trip**

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

## **No Vaccines Required**

### **Recommended Vaccines**

Please note, New Zealand's Ministry of Health is currently advising those with travel plans to Auckland to make sure they have been vaccinated against measles prior to commencing travel (although this is not a requirement for entry). You very likely have already had this vaccine in the past, but we recommend confirming this with your doctor. Should your doctor recommend you get the vaccine, please be aware that it takes two weeks to become effective.

### **Medication Suggestions**

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- Prescription pain medication in the unlikely event of an injury in a remote location

### **Traveling with Medications**

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.

- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

## Staying Healthy on Your Trip

### Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don’t push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

### Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

### Water

- Australia and New Zealand are healthy places, but it still pays to take care in what you eat and drink.
- Tap water is safe to drink but always beware of natural stream water.
- Take a bottle of water with you on outdoor excursions to stay hydrated.

### Food

- Food in Australia and New Zealand should not really cause any health problems—salads, fruit, and dairy products are fine.

- Be careful with food that has been cooked and left to go cold, which might happen in some self-service places.

### **Sun Exposure & Insects**

The sun is stronger in Australia and New Zealand than it is in most of the U.S., so the effect of intense sunlight is an important health consideration. Be prepared with sunblock (SPF 50 or higher), sunglasses, a hat or other head covering, and lightweight loose-fitting clothing for covering up even when it is warm.

Using insect repellent is advisable while you are out in the bush during the warmer months (November through April), especially in tropical northern Australia, or in southern New Zealand. Also, a head net is advisable for Ayers Rock in the summer due to the number of flies; this can be purchased in Australia or brought from home.



# MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

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## Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and are rarely accepted in shops and restaurants.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need local currency.

## Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like [www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter), your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

**Australia:** Australian Dollar (AUD)

**New Zealand:** New Zealand Dollar (NZD)

## How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

## ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

**Australia:** ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in Australia.

**New Zealand:** ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in New Zealand.

## Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

**Australia:** Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Australia. Some establishments may charge additional fees for credit card payments. Australian shops and banks use PIN-based and Tap and Go credit card systems. You may be able to authorize a payment by signature if your card was issued by an overseas provider, but this is becoming rare. A PIN is usually required so keeping varied payment options available makes sense.

**New Zealand:** Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout New Zealand, though American Express and Diners Club may be more limited than some of the other majors credit card providers (such as MasterCard or Visa). Some hotels may charge additional fees for credit card payments on supplementary charges (such as bar bills, room service, etc.). New Zealand shops and banks use a PIN-based credit card systems. Depending on your credit card provider, you may or may not need a PIN to use your card. Please consult your credit card provider for more details.

## Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

## Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Waiters:** Restaurants do not generally add a service charge. It is common practice in Australia to tip approximately 10% of the bill for good service. However, this is at your discretion, and not expected by the staff. In New Zealand, it is not customary to tip but you may choose to leave a 10% tip if you have outstanding service.
- **Taxi drivers:** If you are taking a taxi by yourself, keep in mind tipping is not common practice, but many people simply let the driver keep the change by rounding up the fare to the next whole number.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

*Please note: For your convenience, tips to O.A.T. staff can be paid in U.S. dollars or local currency (Australian dollars or New Zealand dollars). Tips to non-O.A.T. staff—waiters, taxi drivers, etc.—should be in local currency. Please do not use personal or traveler’s checks for tips.*

## AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

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### Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

#### Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner) under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

### Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

### **Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased**

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: [www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com)

### **Optional Tours**

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

### **What You Need to Know**

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)



- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as “OPT Boston”.
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you’re on the trip. But if you’d like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner)).

## **Communicating with Home from Abroad**

### **Cell Phones**

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

### **Calling Apps**

We recommend you use WhatsApp while abroad to communicate home and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan’s data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

### **Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers**

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

### **Internet**

Many hotels in Australia will offer some sort of complimentary WiFi, while others will charge approx \$20–25 AUD for 24 hours. Keep in mind that many places limit the amount of usage, even if you pay extra for internet access, so you may not be able to stream videos or other high-usage content. In New Zealand, Internet speeds are comparable to the U.S. but hotels may charge for a high-speed connection. Generally travelers report that they have enough WiFi to keep in touch with folks back at home without having to buy an expensive package from their service provider.

## How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

**Australia:** +61

**New Zealand:** +64

## PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

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### Luggage Limits

| MAIN TRIP LIMITS         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pieces per person        | One checked bag and one carry-on per person.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Weight restrictions      | Varies by airline. The current standard is <b>50 lbs for checked bags</b> and <b>15 lbs for carry-ons</b> .                                                                                                                              |
| Size Restrictions        | Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches ( <i>length+width+depth</i> ). Generally, <b>62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches</b> . <i>These sizes are OK if the weight limit is followed.</i> |
| Luggage Type             | A hard-sided suitcase is preferred.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Same as main trip.       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS

**Luggage rules:** Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.

**Size restriction:** Some of Australia's domestic airlines have size restrictions on suitcases as well as weight limits. For example, both Qantas Airlines and Virgin Australia state that your suitcase should not be more 54 linear inches total. This is a bit smaller than the largest suitcase most U.S. airlines allow (62 linear inches). In practice, this size restriction is rarely enforced as long as you do not go over the weight limit. Therefore, you can bring a U.S.-sized suitcase on this adventure, but if you do so, we strongly recommend that you stay within the weight limit.

**TIP from our regional office:** Our staff in the South Pacific have found that the airlines in New Zealand and Australia can be surprisingly strict about enforcing weight limits. There have been incidences of travelers being asked to re-pack their suitcase at the airport. While you might be able "to get away with" more, we encourage you to stay within the limit whenever possible.

**Luggage handling:** On arrival, you must pass through immigration/passport control and then take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a complimentary cart, which you then move through customs. When you exit customs, your driver will load your luggage onto your coach. You will need to handle your own luggage at all airports, but your Trip Experience Leader will pay for a baggage cart. Porterage at all hotels is provided for one bag per person.

### Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.
- The luggage limits above are based on your regional flights, which may be less than your international flights. Even if your international airline offers a larger weight limit, you will need to pack according to the lower restrictions.

### Your Luggage

#### Checked Luggage

One hard-sided suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to loading procedures, we prefer soft-sided suitcases.

## Carry-on Bag

You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.

## Locks

For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

## Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

As you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, we suggest several layers of clothing. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.

- **Laundry:** You will have access to laundry service at most hotels during your trip. (As hotels are subject to change, the facilities are not listed here; please refer to your Trip Experience Leader for details.)
- **Footwear:** You'll be on your feet a lot during the trip, and walking over some rough and slippery surfaces. Look for shoes with excellent ventilation as well as arch and ankle support. Sport sandals, boating shoes, or beach footwear are useful in some locations like Sydney beaches.
- **New Zealand extension: Warm clothes for the year-round volatile weather in the South Island.** "Be prepared" is the best maxim for travel to the South Island, where every kind of weather imaginable is possible—all within one day! Cold, wet weather is more likely to occur near the island's Southern Alps, where there may even be some snow. Winter lasts from May through September, but all the elements of that season—ice, hail, snow, sleet—can happen any time of year. An insulated jacket with hood (preferably waterproof), fleece pullover or wool sweater, gloves, and waterproof shoes are recommended for your comfort. Your outer jacket should be roomy enough to comfortably fit over your sweater or fleece top. Since spurts of very warm weather are equally common, dress in layers so you can easily adjust to any sudden temperature shifts.

## Style Hints

- Australia and New Zealand are essentially sportswear countries, with dress on our trip being functional and casual.
- Don't forget a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses for protection against the sun. Good walking shoes are a must.
- Smart casual clothing is accepted wear for Sydney Opera House performances.



## Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

**And don’t forget a reusable water bottle**—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

## Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts in a breathable fabric, like cotton or cotton-blend. Polo shirts are more versatile than T-shirts.
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting is best.
- ☐ Include one or two changes of smart casual clothing for restaurant dining
- ☐ Walking shorts for summer (summer in the Southern hemisphere is winter in the U.S)
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Comfortable walking/ running shoes or low-cut hiking shoes, with arch support.
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Warm rain jacket or lined windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Light cotton or wool sweater, as motor coach air conditioning can be cold
- ☐ Warm clothing for the New Zealand extension – see “Functional Tips” for details
- ☐ Underwear and sleepwear
- ☐ Swimsuit

## Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels will provide the basics like soap and shampoo, but if you are sensitive to fragrances or new products, you may wish to bring your preferred brands.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF 50 or stronger

- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET (35% strength) – can also be purchased in Australia or New Zealand
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Moisturizer and sun-blocking lip balm
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial hand cleanser
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger

### Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, antibiotic cream, or allergy medication.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- ☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes

**TIP:** *If you forget something, or run out of space, many of the basics listed above—daily toiletries, insect repellent, moisturizer, lip balm, moist towelettes—can be purchased in Australia or New Zealand. So can many of the over-the counter medicines that follow.*

### Home-Hosted Visits

Many of our adventures feature a visit with a local family, often as part of the *A Day in the Life* experience. It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all O.A.T. adventures include a Home-Hosted Visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

## Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

### Voltage

Electricity at hotels in Australia and New Zealand is 230–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. Plugging a 110V U.S. appliance into 220/240V 50/60Hz service will ruin the motor. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

### Plugs

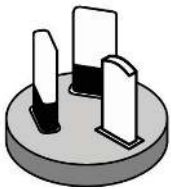
The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Although you will only need one type of plug on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

**Australia:** I (some may not have a grounding pin)

**New Zealand:** I (some may not have a grounding pin)

## Type I



### Availability

Barring the occasional and unpredictable power outage, electricity is as readily available on this adventure as it is in the U.S.

## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

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**Tasmania, Australia:** Overall, Tasmania's climate is similar to the Atlantic Seaboard in the U.S.—mild in spring and fall, warm and humid in the summer, and cold in winter. Snowfall is mostly in the mountains, although towns like Hobart and Launceston might get a dusting every now and then.

**Melbourne, Australia:** These cities are in the temperate zone. As a result, temperatures are generally in the 50s–70s throughout the year, although highs in the 80s are common in summer and lows in the 40s are normal in the winter. Occasionally, heat waves will spike the highs up even more—to as much as 100 degrees—but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Rainfall can occur at any time of year. Snow is fairly rare, but can happen in Melbourne. Melbourne is also subject to a “bay effect” which causes sudden temperature drops and rainstorms, especially in spring and summer.

**Alice Springs, Australia:** Located in the desert outback, Alice Springs is generally hot and dry. Daytime highs will be roughly 10 degrees higher than other cities we visit—so if it is a pleasant 80 degrees in Melbourne or Sydney, expect 90 degrees in Alice Springs. Nighttime lows can also be more severe compared to other cities. The desert doesn't retain heat well, so lows in the 50s are common, even if it was very hot earlier that day. In winter, lows can dip down into the 30s and 40s. Heat waves are more common here than other parts of the country—and more extreme—with temperatures of 110 degrees or even more. On the plus side, there is very little rainfall.

**Sydney, Australia:** Sydney is in the temperate zone. As a result, temperatures are generally in the 50s–70s throughout the year, although highs in the 80s are common in summer and lows in the 40s are normal in the winter. Occasionally, heat waves will spike the highs up even more—to as much as 100 degrees—but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Compared to other cities in this climate zone Sydney gets the more rainfall, meaning that rain can happen at any time of year.

**New Zealand:** The winter season runs from May to September, but since weather in New Zealand is changeable throughout the year, especially in the South Island, all types of weather conditions can occur during any season. All months are at least moderately wet; though extended periods of settled, sunny weather can occur at any time of the year. Overall, the country has more sunshine than might be expected in such a variable climate. Weather conditions on the milder North Island differ from those on the tempestuous South Island.

- **North Island:** The northern region of New Zealand and its eastern coast tend to be sunnier and drier than the southern half of the country. While snow can occur almost anywhere at sea level in New Zealand, it is very rare in the extreme north of the North Island. Here the climate is almost subtropical with gentle winters and warm, humid summers. Rain is quite frequent in the northern part of the North Island and you should come prepared with adequate rain gear. Temperatures become cooler as you move south toward New Zealand's second major island.



- **South Island:** Known as the South Pacific’s “Gateway to Antarctica,” the South Island is equally famous for its unpredictable weather shifts. At any time of year, it’s not unusual for a day to start with bright sunlight, turn to wind-driven rain, intensify to snow and sleet, and then miraculously go back to dazzling sunshine. Temperatures may soar into the 80s and 90s, then plummet into the 40s and 30s, all within a few hours.

## Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

## Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

| MONTH | HOBART, AUSTRALIA |                           |                           | MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA |                          |                           |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|       | Temp. High-Low    | % Relative Humidity (avg) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) | Temp. High-Low       | % Relative Humidity (pm) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) |
| JAN   | 71 to 53          | 56                        | 1.9                       | 79 to 56             | 52                       | 1.8                       |
| FEB   | 71 to 53          | 59                        | 1.5                       | 80 to 57             | 49                       | 1.6                       |
| MAR   | 68 to 51          | 61                        | 1.8                       | 75 to 55             | 48                       | 1.4                       |
| APR   | 63 to 48          | 66                        | 1.9                       | 68 to 51             | 54                       | 1.9                       |
| MAY   | 58 to 44          | 70                        | 1.8                       | 62 to 47             | 62                       | 1.9                       |
| JUN   | 53 to 41          | 75                        | 2.2                       | 56 to 43             | 69                       | 1.6                       |
| JUL   | 52 to 40          | 75                        | 2.1                       | 55 to 41             | 69                       | 1.5                       |
| AUG   | 55 to 41          | 68                        | 1.9                       | 57 to 42             | 62                       | 2.0                       |
| SEP   | 59 to 43          | 63                        | 2.1                       | 61 to 44             | 58                       | 1.8                       |
| OCT   | 63 to 46          | 60                        | 2.3                       | 66 to 47             | 55                       | 2.3                       |
| NOV   | 66 to 48          | 57                        | 2.4                       | 71 to 50             | 56                       | 2.4                       |
| DEC   | 69 to 51          | 56                        | 2.1                       | 76 to 53             | 49                       | 1.9                       |

| MONTH | ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA |                           |                           | SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA |                           |                           |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|       | Temp. High-Low           | % Relative Humidity (avg) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) | Temp. High-Low    | % Relative Humidity (avg) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) |
| JAN   | 97 to 70                 | 35                        | 1.4                       | 79 to 65          | 83 to 62                  | 4.0                       |
| FEB   | 95 to 69                 | 40                        | 1.6                       | 79 to 66          | 85 to 64                  | 4.5                       |
| MAR   | 90 to 63                 | 35                        | 1.5                       | 77 to 63          | 85 to 61                  | 5.2                       |
| APR   | 82 to 55                 | 40                        | 0.5                       | 73 to 57          | 84 to 59                  | 4.2                       |
| MAY   | 73 to 47                 | 50                        | 0.7                       | 68 to 51          | 83 to 57                  | 3.9                       |
| JUN   | 68 to 41                 | 55                        | 0.6                       | 63 to 47          | 83 to 58                  | 5.2                       |
| JUL   | 67 to 39                 | 50                        | 0.6                       | 62 to 44          | 80 to 52                  | 2.5                       |
| AUG   | 72 to 43                 | 40                        | 0.4                       | 64 to 46          | 79 to 50                  | 3.2                       |
| SEP   | 80 to 50                 | 30                        | 0.3                       | 68 to 50          | 79 to 52                  | 2.2                       |
| OCT   | 87 to 59                 | 30                        | 0.8                       | 72 to 55          | 79 to 55                  | 3.1                       |
| NOV   | 92 to 64                 | 35                        | 1.0                       | 75 to 59          | 78 to 56                  | 3.4                       |
| DEC   | 96 to 68                 | 35                        | 1.4                       | 78 to 63          | 82 to 61                  | 3.1                       |

| MONTH | AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND |                             |                           | QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND |                           |                           |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|       | Temp. High-Low        | % Relative Humidity (am-pm) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) | Temp. High-Low          | % Relative Humidity (avg) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) |
| JAN   | 75 to 61              | 77 to 62                    | 2.8                       | 71 to 49                | 66                        | 3.2                       |
| FEB   | 75 to 62              | 80 to 63                    | 3.4                       | 70 to 48                | 70                        | 2.9                       |
| MAR   | 73 to 59              | 81 to 66                    | 3.1                       | 67 to 46                | 72                        | 3.0                       |
| APR   | 68 to 55              | 83 to 69                    | 3.8                       | 59 to 40                | 77                        | 2.9                       |
| MAY   | 63 to 51              | 86 to 73                    | 4.5                       | 52 to 35                | 80                        | 2.6                       |
| JUN   | 59 to 47              | 88 to 76                    | 5.0                       | 46 to 30                | 81                        | 2.2                       |
| JUL   | 58 to 46              | 88 to 76                    | 5.2                       | 46 to 29                | 82                        | 2.2                       |
| AUG   | 59 to 47              | 86 to 74                    | 4.4                       | 50 to 32                | 77                        | 2.5                       |
| SEP   | 62 to 50              | 82 to 72                    | 3.7                       | 55 to 36                | 70                        | 2.6                       |
| OCT   | 64 to 52              | 79 to 71                    | 3.7                       | 59 to 40                | 68                        | 3.0                       |
| NOV   | 67 to 55              | 77 to 67                    | 3.2                       | 64 to 43                | 66                        | 2.5                       |
| DEC   | 71 to 59              | 77 to 65                    | 3.1                       | 68 to 47                | 65                        | 2.4                       |

## ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

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### O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

### Australian Culture

Due to Australia's natural isolation as an island continent, the indigenous peoples developed their own culture and community over about 40,000 years—in which they had little contact with other societies. This remoteness is what attracted British settlers to New South Wales where they established a penal colony in 1788. Until about the mid-20th century, Australian culture was almost exclusively Anglo-Celtic. Efforts by the government over the previous two centuries helped to maintain the island's prominent homogeneity, including persecution of the indigenous population and the 1901 White Australia policy, which halted all non-European immigration into the country. In the latter half of the 20th century, immigration laws became more relaxed, and the country saw a large influx of immigrants and refugees from eastern Asia, the Middle East, and other parts of Europe. At the same time, the Australian government began addressing past wrongs against the indigenous peoples. In 1967, following the example of the American Civil Rights Movement, the indigenous peoples of Australia began fighting for equal rights. As a result, a referendum was passed to allow indigenous Australians the right to vote, officially recognizing them as citizens of Australia. While indigenous people are still fighting for full equality today, these progressive measures allowed the indigenous people to claim their identity and culture again. The influx of multiculturalism in the late 19th century has left a lasting imprint on the cultural fabric of Australia.

Egalitarianism strongly underpins interpersonal values in Australia—commonly referred to as a “fair go” among locals. Australians typically show disdain for pretentious behavior and are often described as being informal or laid back—an impression cultivated through their iconic greeting “g'day mate” or “g'day sheilas.” Adding to their laid-back demeanor, Australia celebrates a large number of public holidays, making long weekends a frequent custom.

Despite the stereotypical image of Crocodile Dundee roaming the remote Outback, the majority of Australia's population is concentrated in urban areas. Around 85% of Australia's 25 million people live within about 30 miles of the coast and 10 million live in the two biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne. While about 52% of Australians identify as Christian, there is no official state religion in Australia. In fact, the fastest growing religious affiliation is “no religion,” as 30% of

the population nominated this category in the 2016 census. This nomination comprises many subcategories like agnostic, atheist, and other spiritual beliefs. Among young Australians aged 18–34, this was the most common choice.

## Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

## Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

## Australian Cuisine

Two of the most popular cooking styles in sunny Australia are Mediterranean and Southeast Asian, though every type of cuisine can be found in its plethora of fine city restaurants, including Indian, Japanese, American, and French. The fresh local seafood is especially good, and the colorful regional vegetables are cooked up a hundred tasty ways to accompany traditional game dishes made with duck, beef, lamb, or kangaroo. Other items to be on the lookout for include:

- **Meat pies:** A relic from their English heritage, Aussies love a good meat pie, which is a savory pie with meat, vegetables, and gravy inside (similar to a chicken pot pie, but usually made with beef or lamb)
- **Mushy peas:** Peas that have been boiled and then lightly mashed—goes great with a meat pie

- **Sausage roll:** Think an oversized “pig in a blanket”, and you’re not far off
- **Chicken Parmigiana:** Yes, this dish has Italian roots, but it is well-loved throughout Australia (as is other Italian-Aussie cooking) and you’ll find it in many pubs
- **Fish and chips:** Fried fish with a side of French fries
- **Barramundi:** A type of sea bass that is often served grilled or pan-seared; a healthy alternative to fish and chips
- **Beetroot:** A popular vegetable that is often put in sandwiches and burgers
- **Vegemite:** This one’s an acquired taste, but while you’re in Australia you may wish to try this savory spread made from yeast extract, which is typically spread as a thin layer on toast
- **Pavlova:** A much-loved dessert made with layers of meringue, fruit, and whipped cream.
- **Lamingtons:** Quite possibly Australia’s national dessert, a lamington is a square of cake dipped in chocolate and then rolled in coconut flakes
- **Cherry ripe:** A candy bar only sold in Australia—cherry and coconuts in dark chocolate
- **Drinks:** Australia has both a vibrant wine industry and a plethora of brew houses. Local beers to look for are Coopers, Carlton Draught, Victoria Bitter, and Tooheys; while Shiraz (red), Cabernet Sauvignon (red), and Chardonnay (white) are popular wines.

## New Zealander Cuisine

Major cities in New Zealand offer cosmopolitan dining and a wide range of restaurants that serve every choice of international cuisine and are renowned for their excellent quality. In rural areas, menus often still reflect the traditional English-style of cooking—a meat and two vegetables.

New Zealand specialties include:

- **Lamb:** This is one of the country’s major exports and not to be missed if you like red meat
- **Venison:** New Zealand claims to be the first country to farm deer, and as a result, you’ll find venison on the menu at both high-end restaurants and burger joints (often humorously referred to as a “Bambi burger”)
- **Hangi:** A traditional cooking style with meat and vegetables slow-cooked in an underground oven or fire pit (a bit like a luau). Some restaurants recreate the dish by cooking the same ingredients in a clay pot.
- **Kumara:** A type of sweet potato that is often used in *hangi*
- **Green-lipped mussels:** Served European-style as steamed mussels in broth, these larger-than-average mussels are native to New Zealand’s waters
- **Oysters:** Pacific oysters served on the half shell are a popular starter, especially the succulent, white-shelled Bluff oysters, available from March to about July

- **“Lobster”:** Actually crayfish, but just as tasty! You may see this on the menu as crayfish, rock lobster, or spiny lobster.
- **Whitebait fritters:** Deep-fried patties or balls of batter made with small whitebait fish
- **Hokey Pokey:** A flavor of ice cream in New Zealand, consisting of plain vanilla ice cream with small, solid lumps of honeycomb toffee.
- **Manuka honey:** A product on NZ that is renowned for its medical properties. It can be eaten or used in skincare products.
- **Lemon & Paeroa:** A lemon soda similar to—but stronger than—Sprite
- **Wines:** New Zealand produces some excellent wines, and is particularly known for its citrusy Sauvignon Blanc (white), dense Pinot Noir (red), and some light and refreshing rosés

## Manners

Kiwis and Aussies are famous for their friendliness. You won’t have to work hard to strike up conversations.

The etiquette of photographing most people in Australia and New Zealand is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. For cultural reasons, some Maori and Aboriginal people usually do not want their photographs taken, even from a distance. You should not assume that it is OK to photograph them. Ask your intended subject first or ask your Trip Experience Leader for advice.

## Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor’s terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

## Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop’s contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don’t assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

## Crafts & Souvenirs

### Australia

You can find craft items and screen-printed garments made by Aboriginal craft cooperatives throughout Australia—especially around Alice Springs and Ayers Rock (Uluru). The opal is Australia’s national gem, and is used in many different types of jewelry. Items with typically



Australian symbols like koala bears, kangaroos, boomerangs, etc. can make fun gifts, while items made out of eucalyptus leaf are lightweight and durable. In addition, both Australia and New Zealand produce distinctive wines that make fine gifts or souvenirs.

## **New Zealand**

New Zealand has a strong sheep herding industry, so quality woolens shouldn't be hard to find—possum fur and merino wool blend garments can be found in most places. Jewelry made from greenstone (a type of jade found on the South Island), pearls, or paua shells are popular buys. Traditional Maori crafts include carvings in wood, stone, or bone; and flax weaving. Less obvious—but still typically New Zealand—souvenirs include t-shirts for the national rugby team or beauty products like the Evolu or Living Nature lines.

## **U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges**

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov) has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

## **Australian Customs Regulations**

Before you arrive in Australia, you will receive an Australian Arrival Card. Please keep in mind that Australian Customs Regulations apply when you enter Australia and that all regulations are subject to change without notice. In general, travelers are allowed to bring \$A900 (approximately \$818 U.S.) worth of goods into Australia free of duty and sales tax, not including alcohol or tobacco, when the goods accompany the passenger. The limit is \$A450 (approximately \$409 U.S.) for travelers under 18 years of age. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed per person is 2.25 liters. The maximum amount of tobacco allowed per person is 25 cigarettes or 25 grams of cigars. Food items of any kind—even ones that are allowed into the country—must be declared. For more information, you may want to contact the Australian Customs Service.

**Security:** In addition to their customs restrictions, the Australian government has security measures to limit the amount of liquids, aerosols, and gels that can be taken through the screening point for people flying to and from Australia. All containers with drinks, creams, perfumes, sprays, gels, toothpaste and similar substances should not exceed 100ml (3.3 ounces) each and will have to be carried in a re-sealable clear plastic bag, no larger than 20cm x 20cm, and be inspected separately. There is a limit of one bag per person. Any sharp items (i.e. nail scissors) should be in your checked luggage.

Telephone from the United States: **011-612-9313-3010** or on the web: **www.customs.gov.au**.

**TIP:** *Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into Australia. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

**Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS):** The TRS enables you to claim a refund, subject to certain conditions, of the goods and services tax (GST) and wine equalization tax (WET) that you pay on goods you buy in Australia. To claim a refund you must:

- Spend AUD\$300 (GST inclusive) or more in the one store and get a single tax invoice. (You can submit paperwork from more than one store provided that you spent AUD\$300 at each store.)
- Buy goods no more than 60 days before departure
- Wear or carry the goods on board the aircraft and present them along with your original tax invoice, passport and international boarding pass to a Customs Officer at a TRS facility
- Claims at airports are available up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure of your flight

The refund only applies to goods that you take with you as hand luggage or wear onto the aircraft when you leave Australia. It does not apply to services or goods consumed or partly consumed in Australia, such as wine, chocolate or perfume. However, unlike other tourist shopping schemes, most of the goods, such as clothing and cameras, can be used in Australia before departure.

You can collect your refund through one of the following methods:

- Check
- Credit to an Australian bank account
- Payment to a credit card

Customs will aim to post check refunds within 15 business days. Bank and credit card refunds will be issued by Customs within 5 business days, however, payment will be subject to processing by your bank or card issuer.

## New Zealand Customs Regulations

The following regulations were taken from New Zealand's government customs website: **www.customs.govt.nz**

*All regulations are subject to change without notice.*

Before you arrive in New Zealand, you will receive a New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card. You must tick (check) “Yes” in the Customs section of your arrival card if you are bringing any of the following into New Zealand:

- Goods that may be prohibited or restricted, such as weapons, hookah/shisha pipes, other ornamental pipes, objectionable (indecent) materials, wildlife products or illicit drugs.
- Goods in excess of the \$700 allowance and the tobacco and alcoholic beverages allowance. At time of writing, \$700 NZD was roughly \$500 U.S. The duty-free allowance for tobacco was 25 cigarettes, or 25 grams of tobacco, or 25 cigars, or a mixture of all three weighing not more than 25 grams. You could also bring up to 4.5 liters of wine, or 4.5 liters of beer, or three bottles each containing not more than 1,125ml of spirits, liqueur, or other spirituous beverages duty-free.
- Goods carried on behalf of another person
- NZ \$10,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currency (please have purchase receipts available)
- **Food items of any sort, whether restricted or not. This includes food given to you during your flight.**
- You will be fined on the spot (around NZD400) for anything that you do not declare on this form.

**TIP:** *Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into New Zealand. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

You do not have to declare your clothing, footwear, jewelry, or toiletries. These are regarded as personal effects if they are intended solely for your own use. **Important Note: If you have recently worn your shoes in rural or natural areas, please wash your footwear prior to entering New Zealand.**

Unlike other Customs administrations, there is no provision for travelers to obtain a refund of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their purchases when they leave the country. In order to purchase goods without payment of GST, travelers are required to purchase from a duty-free shop.

## DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

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### Australia

#### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 2,988,902 square miles
- **Capital:** Canberra
- **Language:** English is the official language.
- **Ethnicity:** Australian: 25.4%, English: 25.9%, Irish: 7.5%, Scottish: 6.4%, Italian: 3.3%, German: 3.2%, Chinese: 3.1% Greek: 1.4%, Dutch 1.2%, other 15.8%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** Australia is bordered by three oceans and four seas.
- **Geography:** Situated in the Southern Hemisphere and south of Asia, Australia is an island continent surrounded by three oceans and four seas. It is about 7,700 miles from Los Angeles. Australia is roughly the same size as the continental United States, measuring 2,500 miles from east to west, and 2,000 miles from north to south. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef, lies a short distance off the northeast coast and extends for over 1,240 miles. Australia is Earth's flattest continent. Eastern Australia is marked by the Great Dividing Range, although the name is not strictly accurate, since parts of the range consists of low hills. The western half of Australia consists of the Western Plateau, which rises to mountain heights near the west coast and falls to lower elevations near the continental center. This is the arid landscape commonly known as the Outback.
- **Population:** 22,751,014 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Protestant 30.1%, Catholic 25.3%, Orthodox 2.8%, other Christian 2.9%, Buddhist 2.5%, Muslim 2.2%, Hindu 1.3%, other 1.3%, unspecified 9.3%, none 22.3%
- **Time Zone:** Australia has three primary time zones, four when Daylight Savings Time is in effect. Time in Canberra is 14 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 8pm in Canberra.

## National Holidays: Australia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Australia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. Each state in Australia also has a certain latitude in setting its own holidays. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

01/26 Australia Day

04/25 Anzac Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

## Australia: A Brief History

Australia's indigenous peoples believe that their tribes have lived here since the dawn of time—the Dreamtime—when their spiritual ancestors brought the land into being with song. Anthropologists believe that indigenous peoples have lived in Australia for at least 40,000 years, developing their culture largely free from outside influence. During this immense span of time, the ancestors of many groups now lumped together under the term “Australia's First Peoples” developed over 200 different languages and many local traditions. The Wathaurong, Arrente, Walpiri, and Anangu cultural groups, which are roughly like tribes or clans, are among those still present today. In addition to passing along spiritual practices that are still observed, ancient Aborigines mastered the challenges of living in a harsh environment. There is evidence that they planted crops, diverted streams, and maintained grasslands by deliberate burning in order to attract game for food. During the last several thousand years, the population increased, and different groups of indigenous people traded with each other across the continent. After thousands of years of independence from outside influence, indigenous life changed dramatically with the arrival of Europeans.

Although people in Europe imagined the existence of a Terra Australis in late medieval times, they knew nothing of the real Australia until the 17th century. The first European to actually set foot on Australian soil was probably the Dutch sailor Dirk Hartog in 1616. In 1642, Abel Tasman of Holland explored the southern coast, which is why the Tasman Sea and Tasmania now bear his name. English Captain James Cook landed at Botany Bay on Australia's eastern coast in 1770, establishing an English claim that eventually led to colonization. Another Englishman, Matthew Flinders, circumnavigated the continent at the beginning of the 19th century. These early explorations revealed the coast, but Australia's inland geography remained a mystery. When England could no longer send colonists or exiled convicts to America, Australia became a new destination for them. On January 26—the date now celebrated as Australia Day—in 1788, English Captain Arthur Phillip founded Sydney as a penal colony. From its inception, Sydney has been the capital of New South Wales, then a colony and now the most populous of Australia's six states.

Before England ended the practice in 1853, more than 150,000 convicts were sent to New South Wales and Tasmania; one-fifth of them were women. From the 1820s to the 1880s, increasing numbers of free colonists also settled in Australia. First in New South Wales, and later in the

other colonies, governance became more democratic with power increasingly vested in legislative councils. Indigenous people were not included, and it was not until the 1960s that they were granted full citizenship in the group of British colonies that had come to occupy their native land.

In 1851 Edward Hargraves struck gold in New South Wales, an event that led to the tripling of Australia's population during the next 11 years. Australia remained a collection of distinct colonies until the dawn of the 20th century. In some ways, each colony's ties to Great Britain were closer than they were with the other Australian colonies.

After some earlier attempts at establishing greater unity had failed, the Commonwealth of Australia became a reality on January 1, 1901. A true national identity was forged only in the aftermath of World War I. Anzac Day, celebrated on April 25, commemorates the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' landing at Gallipoli in the First World War, a milestone in the growth of national consciousness. World War II compelled Australians to look beyond their traditional ties to Great Britain, forge the new ANZUS alliance with the U.S., and see themselves anew as a Pacific Rim nation. Australia celebrated its bicentennial in 1988, and Aussies took great pride in having Sydney selected as the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Recently Australia has been on the forefront of environmental activism, especially in regards to the question of water management, which came under scrutiny during a severe drought in 2005–2006. On the other end of the spectrum, Queensland had too much water a few years later, resulting in dramatic flash floods at the end of 2010. Another recent struggle has been the question of how to handle asylum seekers; this issue has been in the forefront of public debate and generated some controversial policies.

## **Events that Shaped Australia in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

### **Australia's Fight at Home and Abroad During World War II**

When Great Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939, Australia entered the war on the same day. Australian troops would go on to fight against Germans and Italians in campaigns across Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, and then the Japanese in Southeast Asia. But Australia was under no direct threat from Germany, so why did they enter the war at such an early stage? One reason, of course, is that they were still a Commonwealth of the British Empire, and Australians felt a strong loyalty to England. Another was assurances from the British that any Japanese advance toward Australia would be stopped in its tracks by Britain's warships stationed in Singapore, the largest Royal Navy base in Asia. Unfortunately, this position of power would eventually crumble as the war progressed.

As Britain continuously failed to defend their Navy base in Singapore, Australia experienced more attacks from the Imperial Japanese Army and the Australian government became discouraged with their allies, who, one by one, were falling in Europe against the combined Axis forces. Robert Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, was determined to speak with his allies about the threat of Japan in the Pacific and the lack of British reinforcements in Singapore. He flew to London during the Blitz and met with Winston Churchill regarding the war in the Pacific. Upon his return to Australia in August 1941, when he was unable to gather support from his party to establish a War Cabinet, Menzies resigned as Prime Minister. John Curtin was sworn in a month later.



With the majority of Australia's forces focused in Europe and North Africa backing up the Allied Forces, Japan took the opportunity to take control of the Pacific and attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after, the British ships sent to reinforce Singapore were sunk. Australia, left with little support from Britain and facing off against Japan with most of their forces still assisting abroad, turned to the United States as their ally in the Pacific on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

The reinforcements from the U.S. came too slow, as British Malaysia, including Singapore, fell to Japanese occupation mere weeks after Pearl Harbor, with 15,000 Australian soldiers being taken as prisoners of war. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1942, Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory of Australia, was attacked by 188 Japanese warplanes, the first attack made against the Australian mainland. It was not the last. Over the course of 19 months, mainland Australia suffered through over 100 air raids.

After the attack on Darwin, Curtin called two Australian divisions back home, refusing Churchill's plans to have the divisions back-up forces in Burma. President Franklin Roosevelt ordered General Douglas MacArthur, his commander in the Philippines, to cooperate with Curtin to establish a plan of attack in the Pacific. With Curtin's support, General MacArthur became the "Supreme Commander of the South West Pacific" and moved the American forces to his new base in Melbourne.

In response, Japanese forces moved to isolate Australia, attacking Sydney Harbour and invading Port Moresby, a territory of Australia in New Guinea. The U.S. Navy repelled the Japanese forces from Port Moresby following their victories during the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. Defeated by sea, the Japanese Navy retreated and Port Moresby was instead attacked by the Japanese army on land.

The Australian army spend the next five months pushing the Japanese army out of Port Moresby, with their victory during the Battle of Milne Bay in August 1942 being the first noted instance of Allied forces defeating Japanese land forces. The Australian forces continued to battle against Japan in Papua New Guinea, steadily pushing their enemies out of the Australian territories. Due to the dense jungle, oppressive heat, and fierce Japanese resistance, the fight for New Guinea was said to be the most arduous campaign fought by the Allied forces during World War II.

As MacArthur pushed into the Philippines and towards Japan in mid-1944, Australian forces remained in the South Pacific, focused on the Japanese presence in Borneo and Indonesia. While the Borneo Campaign was heavily criticized as a waste of forces, the three goals of the campaign were achieved: the isolation of key Japanese forces, the capture of oil supplies, and the release of Allied prisoners of war.

When Allied forces prepared to invade Japan during the last couple months of the war, Australia served as a base of operations for the British Pacific Fleet and planned to participate in the invasion with land forces in Honshu and air forces in Okinawa. All plans were ceased when Japan surrendered after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By the time the war ended on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945, almost one million Australian men and women had served in one of the branches of military during the war. Of that total, an estimated 31,700 were killed in battle, and 8,000 as Japanese prisoners of war.

# New Zealand

## Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 103,363 square miles
- **Capital:** Wellington
- **Language:** English
- **Ethnicity:** European 71.2%, Maori 14.1%, Asian 11.3%, Pacific islander 7.6%, other 2.7%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** New Zealand, consisting of two main islands (the North Island and South Island, plus some smaller offshore isles), is situated about 1,250 miles southeast of Australia and surrounded by the South Pacific Ocean, the Tasman Sea, and the Southern Ocean.
- **Geography:** The Cook Strait, a rather turbulent waterway, separates the North Island from the South Island. From tip to tip, the whole country measures about 1,000 miles. Despite its generous length, its widest point is only 174 miles across. The South Island is divided along its length by the Southern Alps and the Fiordland's steep mountains and deep fiords record the extensive ice age glaciation of its south-western corner. The North Island is less mountainous, but its geography is marked by ancient volcanic activity.
- **Population:** 5,120,000 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Christian 44.3%, Hindu 2.1%, Buddhist 1.4%, Maori Christian 1.3%, Islam 1.1%, other 1.4%, none 38.5%, not stated 8.2%, objected to answering 4.1%
- **Time Zone:** New Zealand is on New Zealand Standard Time, 17 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 10pm in Wellington.

## National Holidays: New Zealand

In addition to the holidays listed below, New Zealand celebrates a number of national holidays such as Easter, the Queen's Birthday, and Labor Day. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 Day after New Year's

02/06 Waitangi Day

04/25 Anzac Day

Late June/Early July Māori New Year (Matariki)

12/25 Christmas

12/26 Boxing Day

## New Zealand: A Brief History

New Zealand's history is divided into two distinct phases: Pre-European settlement by the Maori and their ancestors, and European settlement from the 18th century onward. The first wave of settlement was by Polynesians from the Marquesas, Society, and Cook Islands. Their landing on

the beaches of the North Island in about 1300 A.D. signaled the end of the 5000-year migration of these “Vikings of the Pacific” across the vast ocean. Over time, farming took on a more important role. Since the crops would not grow in the cooler southern areas, the emerging Maori culture settled predominantly in the warmer North Island and began a “golden age” of agricultural settlement.

Villages sprang up, often with a central marae (village common) and elaborately carved whare runanga (meeting houses). The arts began to flourish: wood carvers, medicine men, tattooists, and priests were employed by a people who no longer had to spend all their time hunting and gathering food. But as the population increased, so too did the desire for good farmland. Inevitably, warfare broke out amongst the different iwi or tribes. These iwi, each linked by a different ancestral canoe, began to specialize in warfare and thus the Maori became a nation of warriors.

Between 1769 and 1777, British Captain James Cook made three voyages to the islands aboard the Endeavour. While he met with some initial hostility from the islands’ residents, Cook was able to forge a peaceful relationship with the Maori—but he soon claimed the islands for the British Crown without their consent.

The incursion with the most far-reaching and damaging consequences resulted from the introduction of liquor and European diseases, against which the Maori had no immunity. Thousands died from epidemics of what would be considered minor ailments today, such as influenza and measles. By 1830, New Zealand’s Maori population had been dramatically reduced. By the late 1830s, the Maori were beginning to accept Christianity. As more and more Maori embraced Christianity, fewer aspects of the centuries-old Maori society were observed. Traditional Maori culture began to dissolve.

On February 6, 1840, representatives of the British Crown and various Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi. In the English-language version, the treaty grants the Maori land rights and the right of British citizenship in exchange for ceding the sovereignty of New Zealand to the British crown. But in the Maori-language version, the word for sovereignty is weaker, suggesting governance or the right to make the first offer on land for sale, rather than ownership. Add a hasty translation to different cultural understandings of land rights, and the result is a controversy that continues to this day. By 1858, the decline in land sales combined with the pressure on the British government to allow more settlers into New Zealand resulted in a dangerous imbalance. The government responded by using a falsified story about an attack on the settlement of Auckland as the justification for launching an all-out war against the tribes of the North Island. Outnumbered, the Maori were forced to concede over 4 million acres of the best farmland to the settlers.

While the land wars raged on—in some parts of the country until 1865—colonists continued to arrive. They turned sheep farming, which remains a vital part of New Zealand’s economy. The discovery of gold in the mid-1800s brought bright new economic prospects, and a surging population, to the South Island. With the invention of refrigeration, New Zealand suddenly assumed a much greater role in the world economic scene, as it could now export perishable

products like meat, butter, and cheese. As New Zealand became more visible to the rest of the world, the native Maori population continued to decline precipitously. By 1900, fewer than 42,000 Maori remained.

New Zealand achieved complete independence from Britain in 1947. The economy soared following World War II, as agricultural prices rose dramatically. Soon, the country could boast one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world. Politically, New Zealand has been in the forefront of social welfare legislation for over a century. In 1893, it was the world's first country to grant women the right to vote. It also adopted old age pensions (1898); a national child welfare program (1907); social security for the aged, widows, and orphans (1938); and minimum wages, a 40-hour workweek, and unemployment and health insurance (also in 1938). Socialized medicine went into effect in 1941.

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Percival Hillary, along with Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, made history by ascending Mount Everest. Together, these two men went where no men had ever been. The 1970s saw a revival of Maori culture, driven by a demand for recognition and participation in economic prosperity. In 1985, the Treaty of Waitangi was amended to include claims dating back to the original signing of the treaty in 1840. Financial reparations were made to several Maori tribes whose lands were unjustly confiscated.

On the political front, Jenny Shipley became the nation's first female prime minister in 1997. The country has now had three female prime ministers. The Christchurch earthquakes of February 2011 drew international outreach and support. Many countries—the U.S. included—sent search and rescue teams or other aid.

Christchurch, New Zealand would be at the front of tragedy again, when two local mosques were the targets of a terrorist attack. On March 15, 2019, two mass shootings took place and 51 people were killed. In response to the terrorist attack The Arms Amendment Act was introduced later that same year. A Royal Commission of Inquiry was held and presented on November 26, 2020. The report made 44 recommendations, and in 2024, the current Attorney-General confirmed that the New Zealand Government was in the process of implementing 36 of them.

On December 9, 2019 Whakaari, also known as White Island, erupted in steam. The uninhabited island was a popular tourist destination that had frequent volcanic activity. There were 47 people on the island at the time of its eruption, 22 people were killed and 25 people were injured with life altering burns. Whakaari Management Limited (WML), who license tours operations to the island, was found guilty of not minimizing risk to the people who died on the island. Since its eruption in 2019, tourism has not resumed on the island.

### **Events That Shaped New Zealand the 20th Century: World War II**

New Zealand's involvement during the Second World War began when it declared war on Germany alongside Britain on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939. New Zealand troops in World War II had a very different perspective from their counterparts in the First World War fighting overseas as part of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Having relatives who fought with ANZAC gave them some insight as to how badly a war can affect a country and its people.

Still, many New Zealanders felt a strong patriotic desire to join arms and fight alongside Britain—so much so that Michael Joseph Savage, New Zealand’s Prime Minister, gave a speech just after war was declared and stated:

“Both with gratitude for the past and confidence in the future, we range ourselves without fear beside Britain. Where she goes, we go. Where she stands, we stand.”

The first major engagement during the war occurred in Greece, where several thousand New Zealand troops were deployed to help strengthen the Greek army against Italian and German invasion. In April 1941, the rapid occupation of mainland Greece by German forces resulted in the deaths of about 300 New Zealanders while about 1,800 were able to retreat to the island of Crete, which Germany sought next to occupy.

The Battle of Crete, also known as Operation Mercury, began on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1941, when thousands of elite German paratroops descended onto the island of Crete in one of the world’s first ever airborne assaults. For 12 days New Zealand, British, and Australian troops fought alongside the Cretan resistance under the command of Major General Bernhard Freyberg, who was head of the New Zealand Expeditionary force.

The initial invasion was mostly beaten back, as hundreds of German paratroops were killed before reaching the ground. As more German reinforcements poured in, the Allied forces soon found themselves overwhelmed and eventually surrendered on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1941. Although the Allied forces had been defeated, their defenses proved to be quite effective as more than 6,000 German troops were killed or wounded while nearly 300 aircrafts were destroyed. Those staggering losses led Hitler to conclude that airborne invasions could no longer exploit the element of surprise and would therefore never be used again for the rest of the war.

By December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the war had taken a radical turn when the Japanese Empire launched series of surprise attacks including the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Within a few months, Japan had seized a great amount of the Western Pacific as Japanese troops pushed down through Papua New Guinea and launched bombing raids in Australia. With the threat of war right on its doorstep, defenses were thrown up in New Zealand in fear of a Japanese invasion which fortunately, never came.

New Zealand forces were also present on D-Day, as the Allied forces launched their invasion to reclaim Western Europe from Nazi Germany on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944. World War II came to an end with the surrender of Germany in May of 1945 followed by Japan about five months later. Though news of Germany’s surrender had spread to New Zealand, the government banned all public celebration until the surrender was officially announced by Winston Churchill who served as the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom.

## RESOURCES

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### Suggested Reading

#### General South Pacific

***Kon-Tiki, Across the Pacific*** by Raft by Thor Heyerdahl, with F. H. Lyon, Translator (Exploration) On April 28, 1947, Heyerdahl and five other adventurous souls set themselves adrift on a raft off the coast of Peru. When they arrived in Tahiti five months later, they not only had a great tale of adventure on the high seas, but also changed the way historians viewed the migration of early humans.

***Tales of the South Pacific*** by James Michener (Short Stories) Set during WWII in Polynesia, this series of loosely related short stories won the 1948 Pulitzer Prize and was the basis for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific.

***The Happy Isles of Oceania, Paddling the Pacific*** by Paul Theroux (Travel Narrative) When noted travel writer Paul Theroux decided to tour the South Pacific, he figured that kayaking would be the way to go. In the end, he explored the coastlines of 51 different islands from New Zealand to Hawaii. This book is a terrific introduction to the region, combining history, anecdote, and acutely observed detail on people and place.

***The Journals of Captain Cook*** by James Cook (Exploration) Cook's narrative of his expeditions between 1768 and 1779. Includes his explorations of Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Hawaii, and a host of other previously unheard-of Pacific locales.

#### Australia

***Lane's End*** by Jill Paterson (2014, Mystery) Part of the Fitzjohn Mystery Series set in Sydney, this novel sees Inspector Fitzjohn trying to solve a murder at a cocktail party in the Sydney Observatory.

***Chasing Kangaroos*** by Tim Flannery (2007, Natural History) Part road-trip, part natural history, this book is an ode to Australia's national animal combined with the author's search to trace when and how the kangaroo first developed.

***Dirt Music*** by Tim Winton (2001, Literature) A powerful and suspenseful story about the tragic passion between two vulnerable people—an alcoholic woman stuck in a broken relationship and a grief-stricken poacher.

***True History of the Kelly Gang*** by Peter Carey (2000, Historical Fiction) Undoubtedly Australia's most potent legend, Ned Kelly is a mythic hero and Wild West-style outlaw. This is a breathless adventure, with many angles, such as a boy's defense of his mother, and a man's confiding letter to a daughter whom he will never meet. Winner of the 2001 Booker Prize.



***The Fatal Shore*** by Robert Hughes (1986, History) An immensely readable yet scholarly account of Australia's tragic origins. Hughes combines thorough research with a compelling narrative in this splendid work.

## New Zealand

***The Luminaries*** by Eleanor Catton (2013, Fiction) In Victorian New Zealand a young gold prospector stumbles into a strange meeting of 12 local men who are there to discuss some even stranger events: a disappearance, a death, and a fortune.

***Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All*** by Christina Thompson (2008, Memoir/History) An unusual mix of personal memoir and history that bounces between the story of the arrival of the European settlers in New Zealand and the American author's courtship and marriage to a Maori man. And the title? It comes from a famous story about the Maoris' reaction when they first saw the Europeans.

***A Concise History of New Zealand*** by Philippa Mein Smith (2005, History) The title says it all. Travelers interested in a more detailed, scholarly history should look for the works of Anne Salmond, such as ***Between Worlds: Early Exchanges Between Maori and Europeans*** and ***The Trial of the Cannibal Dog*** (about Captain Cook's voyages).

***Once Were Warriors*** by Alan Duff (1990, Literature) The controversial best-selling novel about the disintegration of Maori culture in contemporary New Zealand, and how the lack of a clear cultural identity can lead to strife and violence.

## Suggested Films & Videos

### Australia

***Lion*** (2016, Drama) A five-year old boy is separated from his family in India and adopted by a couple in Tasmania. Later as an adult, he searches for his birth mother using a few memories and Google Earth. Based on a true story.

***Sapphires*** (2012, Drama) Based on a true story, the movie follows four young Aboriginal women who become a soul singing group that entertain troops in Vietnam. A moving story that incorporates historical events, such as how the White Australia Policy and Stolen Generation affected mixed race families in the 60s and 70s.

***Red Dog*** (2011, Comedy) Set in the late 70's and early 80's, this film tells the story of a rascally stray dog, named for the color of his coat, and how he brings the local community together. The story, which is based on a well-known book, showcases the new Australia that developed from the wave of immigration after World War II.

***Animal Kingdom*** (2010, Thriller) A gritty Australian family-crime drama about an innocent young man who, when his mother dies, turns to his uncles for guidance. Too bad the uncles are a crew of hardened Melbourne bank robbers who are nearing the end of the line. Critically acclaimed film with an ensemble cast that features Guy Pearce playing the good cop for a change.



**Australia** (2008, Adventure) An English lady inherits a cattle ranch in Australia and works with one of the ranch hands to organize an immense cattle drive across the Outback, but then gets caught up in the events leading to WWII.

### General South Pacific

**South Pacific** (1958, Romance) A Rogers and Hammerstein musical set on a tropical island during WWII. Will young the American nurse fall for the sophisticated French planter? Or will she wash that man right out of her hair?

**The Endless Summer** (1966, Documentary) The primary focus of this documentary is two young surfers searching the world for the perfect beach. But with scenes in Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii, it also captures the rise of surfer culture in the South Pacific during the 1960's.

### New Zealand

**Hunt for the Wilderpeople** (2016, Comedy) Written and directed by Taika Waititi this charming, off-beat comedy follows a mixed-up 13-year-old named Ricky Baker and his cankerous, yet highly skilled foster father Hec as they hide in the woods from a manhunt launched by mistake.

**The World's Fastest Indian** (2005, Drama) A biographical film based on the life of New Zealand speed bike rider Burt Munro, and his attempts to break the land speed record on his Indian Scout motorcycle.

**The Lord of the Rings** (trilogy comprising of **The Fellowship of the Ring**, **The Two Towers**, and **The Return of the King**) (2001–2003, Adventure) An epic retelling of the classic works of J.R.R. Tolkien, set in the legendary world of Middle Earth, which was loosely based on old Norse and Celtic myths. When director Peter Jackson needed to find diverse locations from craggy peaks, to lush hills, to peaceful meadows, he turned to his home country—the plot might be pure fantasy, but the scenery is real New Zealand.

**Whale Rider** (2002, Drama) A young Maori girl fights for a chance to lead her tribe. But will her grandfather consider a girl for their next leader?

**The Piano** (1993, Drama) A mute woman, who only expresses herself through her piano and in sign language to her young daughter, is sent to New Zealand for an arranged marriage. But soon after her arrival, a potential romance with a local worker leads to dramatic consequences.

## Useful Websites

### **Overseas Adventure Travel**

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

### **Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions**

[www.oattravel.com/faq](http://www.oattravel.com/faq)

### **International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)**

[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

### **Electricity & Plugs**

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

### **Foreign Exchange Rates**

[www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter)  
[www.oanda.com/converter/classic](http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic)

### **ATM Locators**

[www.mastercard.com/atm](http://www.mastercard.com/atm)  
[www.visa.com/atmlocator](http://www.visa.com/atmlocator)

### **World Weather**

[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
[www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

### **Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)**

[www.travlang.com/languages](http://www.travlang.com/languages)

### **Packing Tips**

[www.travelite.org](http://www.travelite.org)

### **U.S. Customs & Border Protection**

[www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)

### **Transportation Security**

#### **Administration (TSA)**

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

### **National Passport Information Center**

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

### **Holidays Worldwide**

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays)

### **History & Culture**

[en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

## Useful Apps

### **Flight Stats**

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

### **LoungeBuddy**

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

### **Timeshifter**

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

### **GoogleMaps**

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

### **Triposo**

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

### **Rome2rio**

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

### **Flush or Sit or Squat**

Find a clean toilet anywhere

### **Uber**

Ride sharing around the world

### **Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus**

#### **ATM locations**

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

### **TunnelBear**

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

### **What's App, Skype, or Signal**

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

### **Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel**

Learn dozens of foreign languages

### **Google Translate**

Fast and simple translations

### **XE**

Currency conversions

### **SizeGuide**

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

### **Best Units Converter**

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

### **Tourlina**

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

### **Happy Cow**

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

### **Eatwith**

Dine with locals all over the world

### **Meetup**

Connects you with locals who share your interests

### **Skyview**

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

### **Travello**

Find travel friends on the road

### **ALIX for One**

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

### **TripWhistle**

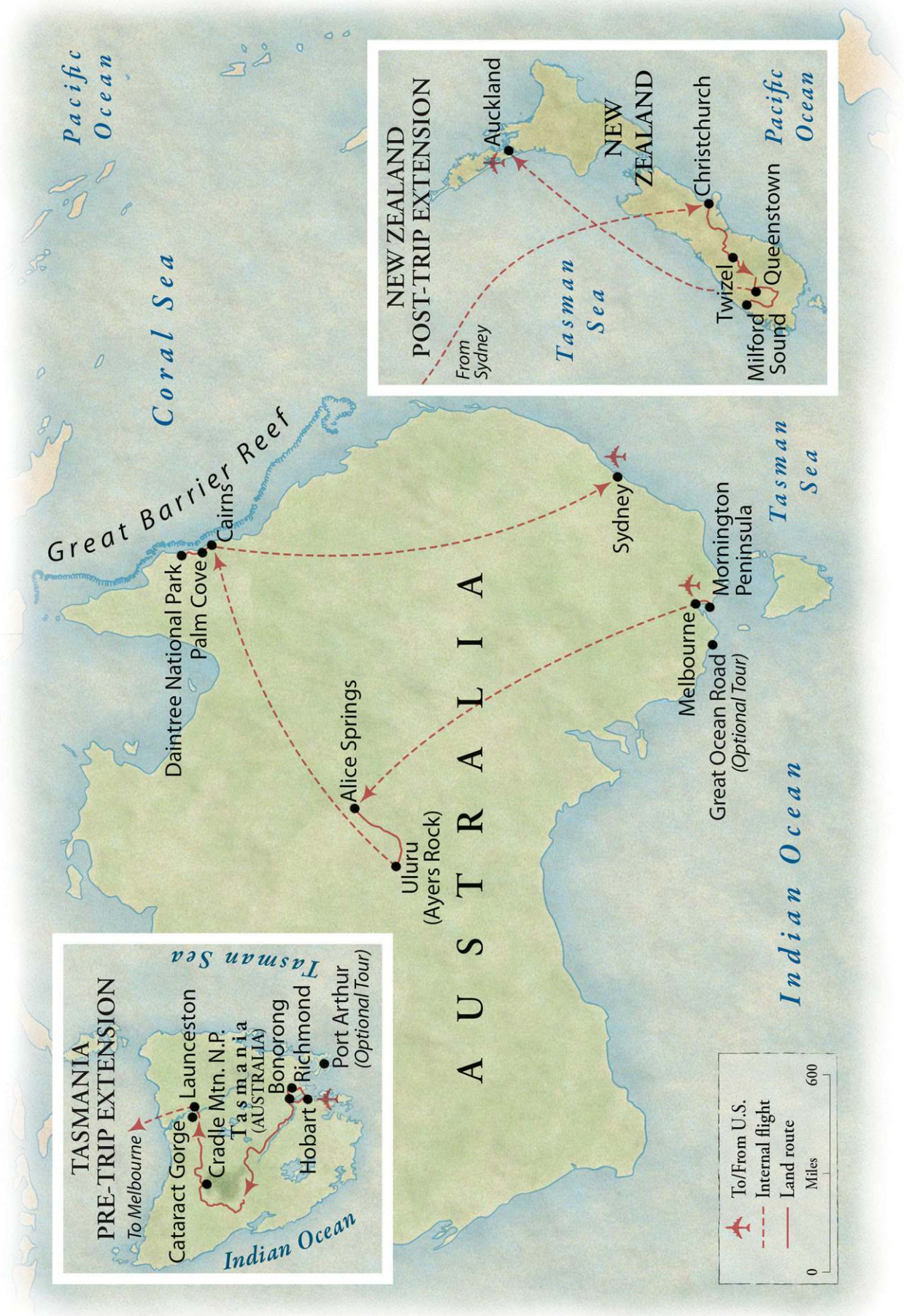
Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

### **GeoSure**

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

### **Chirpey**

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more





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30-time traveler from Woodbury, NY



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from Edina, MN



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from Foster City, CA



Submitted by Steven dos Remedios,  
23-time traveler from Oakland, CA



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