



Australia & New Zealand: An Adventure Down Under 2017

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Tasmania: Australia's Natural Heritage

New Zealand's Bay of Islands

Your Travel Handbook

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TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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 their website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. 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 3 blank passport pages
- **Pre- and/or post-trip extensions:** No additional pages required.

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: A visa is required. We will help you obtain this in advance using Australia's Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) process.** An ETA is equivalent to a visa, but there is no stamp or label in your passport. This electronic visa process is handled free of charge through our computer system at Overseas Adventure Travel. However, we will still need you to confirm the necessary information, so please fill out and return your visa forms once you receive them.
- **New Zealand:** No visa required. **Additional documentation needed.** A visa is not required for U.S. citizens. The only special step you need to take for New Zealand is to bring an extra copy of your 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**.

Trusted Traveler Programs

Some travelers have found that Trusted Traveler programs can expedite long waits at customs when re entering the U.S. There are currently three programs available: Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI. These three programs also include TSA Pre-Check, which allows you to use a dedicated security line at participating airports, or you can apply solely for TSA Pre-Check.

TIP: Keep in mind that not all airports and airlines participate in these programs. You may want to consider checking with your airport prior to applying to find out if these programs would benefit you.

To apply for a Trusted Traveler program or TSA Pre-Check, typically you will be asked to pay an application fee (varies by program) and schedule a background check and/or an interview. If you are approved, you will be issued a Known Traveler Number (KTN). Your KTN is valid for a set number of years, based on the conditions of the program. Please see the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for more details on each of these programs: **www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs**. You can also find more information about TSA Pre-Check at **www.tsa.gov/precheck**.

If you are enrolled in TSA Pre-Check (or a Trusted Traveler program that includes it), **you must provide your KTN to the airlines**.

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.

HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip 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

- 12 locations in 28 days with two 1-night stays

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids; agility required for embarking boats
- You must be able to walk 3-4 miles unassisted and participate in 4-6 hours of physical activities each day
- Some walks may be in areas of high heat and humidity in Australia and snow and cool temperatures in New Zealand
- We reserve the right for Trip Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 40-100°F
- The tropical regions in northern Australia are warm and humid and in the Outback, temperatures can exceed 100°F during the day, and drop dramatically at night
- New Zealand's climate is temperate and weather conditions change quickly

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- We'll travel over city streets on foot, with occasional uphill walks along uneven glacial and rocky mountain terrain, sandy beaches, and rugged Outback trails
- Travel by 19-passenger minibus (no toilet onboard) and 20-350 passenger boats
- 1 overland drive 7 hours long in Australia
- 4 overland drives 5-8 hours long in New Zealand, with several stops for on-foot exploration, 3 cruises of 1.5-3 hours, one 7-hour cruise to the Reef, 7 internal flights (up to 3 hours long)

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Travel time will be 19–27 hours
- International flights from Los Angeles to Melbourne depart around midnight, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line, regained on the return trip
- Airport transfers in Melbourne and Wellington take approximately 1 hour

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

- Hotel rooms are smaller than those in the U.S., offer simple amenities, and feature private baths
- Some hotels do not have air conditioning

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 <http://wwwnc.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

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

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 this site for medication restrictions by country: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/customs.html>. (Follow the links to “Local Laws & Special Circumstances” for each country; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned, 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 Traveler Support team 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

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, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Australia

The official currency of Australia is the dollar, though its value differs from the U.S. dollar and the New Zealand dollar. The Australian dollar is divided into cents. Banknote and coin denominations are as follows:

- Banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollars
- Coins: 5, 10, 20, and 50 cents; 1 and 2 dollars

U.S. dollars are not legal currency in Australia and are not accepted for payment.

New Zealand

The official currency of New Zealand is the dollar, though its value differs from the U.S. dollar. The New Zealand dollar is divided into cents. Banknote and coin denominations are as follows:

- Banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollars
- Coins: 10, 20, and 50 cents; 1 and 2 dollars

U.S. dollars are not legal currency in New Zealand and are not accepted for payment.

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-\$5 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.)

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

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 the Discover card is accepted in some countries outside the U.S., it is not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

Australia: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Australia. Some hotels may charge additional fees for credit card payments on supplementary charges (such as bar bills, room service, etc.). Australian shops and banks are moving to PIN-based 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. 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 are moving to PIN-based 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.

Notify Card Providers

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. Listed below are our recommendations for the tips that are not included in your tour price:

OAT Trip Leader: It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your OAT Trip Leader at the end of your trip, especially if he or she has provided you with individual service. As a guideline, many travelers give \$8–\$12 per person per day.

Reminder about Trip Leaders: On this adventure, you'll have the services of two OAT Trip Leaders. A resident Aussie Trip Leader will be with you in Australia, and then a resident New Zealand Trip Leader will take over during the time in New Zealand. This means that if you do choose to tip, each Trip Leader would be tipped for the number of days you spend with him or her, not the length of the whole trip.

Waiters: Restaurants do not generally add a service charge. It is common practice in Australia and New Zealand to tip approximately 10% of the bill for good service. However, this is at your discretion, and not expected by the staff.

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.

Please Note: Your tour price includes gratuities on the main trip and optional extensions for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters that may assist you during the scheduled activities on your adventure. All tips are quoted in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars. Please do not use personal or traveler's checks for tips.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

Land Only Travelers

If you plan on booking your own international flights or arranging with our air department to arrive/depart on an earlier/later date than standard for your program, airport transfers will NOT be included in your program price, unless otherwise noted. For eligible flights, transfers may be purchased separately, as an optional add-on, and are 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 OAT travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.

To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Traveler Support team at **1-800-221-0814**.

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 Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard and Visa 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 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 Account at **www.oattravel.com/myaccount**).

Communications

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

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype or FaceTime. These services are usually less expensive than making a traditional call, but you'll need a Wi-Fi connection 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

Australia and New Zealand aren't as well set up with wireless hotspots as you might expect, and when you do find them, they tend to be expensive. Most hotels in Australia and New Zealand charge daily 24-hour rates for Internet connection, which average approx \$20-25 AUD or NZD for 24 hours. This is slowly changing in some hotels, which are now offering the first 30 minutes free, and then charging after that. 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.

Outside of the hotels, free hotspots are starting to catch on; chains such as McDonalds now have them available throughout both countries, as do some airports. Or you could look for an Internet Café. They are easy to find and charge around \$3-6 per hour. Many cafes are equipped with webcams and headsets to make Skype calls, and many also let you download photos from your digital camera.

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

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 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-ons .
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (<i>length+width+depth</i>). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches . <i>These sizes are OK if the weight limit is followed.</i>
Luggage Type	A soft-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 Leader will pay for a baggage cart. Portage 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 soft-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 coin-operated self-service laundry facilities at most hotels during your trip. (As hotels are subject to change, the facilities are not listed here; please refer to your Trip Leader for details.)
- **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.
- **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.

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.

What to Bring

We have included suggestions from Trip Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. You may also want to consult the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

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 South Island – 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
- Fly net for Ayers Rock in summer (can be purchased in Australia)

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

Optional Gear

- Travel alarm clock
- Lightweight binoculars (essential if birding)
- Hanging toiletry bag
- Hand-wash laundry soap and possibly plastic hang-up clothespins
- Reading materials
- Travel journal/note pad and pens
- Home address book

- Small gift for Home-Hosted visit
- Collapsible walking stick, sold in most camping stores
- Calculator for currency conversion

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.*

Electricity

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, MP3 players, 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

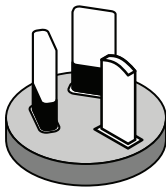
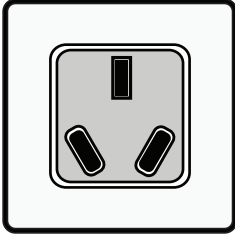
The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you'll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Although you will only need one type of plug on this 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

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.

Port Douglas, Australia: As part of the northeast tropical zone, Port Douglas is warm and wet year-round. The seasons here could be classified as rainy season and dry season rather than winter, spring, summer, and fall. Rainy season would be January–March and part of April; dry season is June–October; and the other months would be transitional shoulder seasons.

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.

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.

Climate Charts & 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 go online to www.oattravel.com/myaccount for your 10-day forecast.

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

MONTH	MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA			ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	79 to 56	52	1.8	97 to 70	35	1.4
FEB	80 to 57	49	1.6	95 to 69	40	1.6
MAR	75 to 55	48	1.4	90 to 63	35	1.5
APR	68 to 51	54	1.9	82 to 55	40	0.5
MAY	62 to 47	62	1.9	73 to 47	50	0.7
JUN	56 to 43	69	1.6	68 to 41	55	0.6
JUL	55 to 41	69	1.5	67 to 39	50	0.6
AUG	57 to 42	62	2.0	72 to 43	40	0.4
SEP	61 to 44	58	1.8	80 to 50	30	0.3
OCT	66 to 47	55	2.3	87 to 59	30	0.8
NOV	71 to 50	56	2.4	92 to 64	35	1.0
DEC	76 to 53	49	1.9	96 to 68	35	1.4

MONTH	PORT DOUGLAS, AUSTRALIA			SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	86 to 74	78 to 73	15	79 to 65	83 to 62	4.0
FEB	86 to 74	81 to 76	16	79 to 66	85 to 64	4.5
MAR	85 to 73	81 to 75	16	77 to 63	85 to 61	5.2
APR	82 to 70	78 to 72	8	73 to 57	84 to 59	4.2
MAY	80 to 67	77 to 72	2	68 to 51	83 to 57	3.9
JUN	77 to 63	77 to 71	1	63 to 47	83 to 58	5.2
JUL	76 to 62	75 to 69	1	62 to 44	80 to 52	2.5
AUG	77 to 62	73 to 66	0	64 to 46	79 to 50	3.2
SEP	80 to 65	69 to 64	1	68 to 50	79 to 52	2.2
OCT	82 to 69	70 to 65	1	72 to 55	79 to 55	3.1
NOV	85 to 72	71 to 67	3	75 to 59	78 to 56	3.4
DEC	86 to 73	72 to 68	7	78 to 63	82 to 61	3.1

MONTH	AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND			ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	75 to 61	77 to 62	2.8	73 to 55	78	4.4
FEB	75 to 62	80 to 63	3.4	73 to 55	81	4.2
MAR	73 to 59	81 to 66	3.1	70 to 52	81	3.6
APR	68 to 55	83 to 69	3.8	64 to 47	83	4.5
MAY	63 to 51	86 to 73	4.5	59 to 43	86	5.5
JUN	59 to 47	88 to 76	5.0	55 to 40	87	5.3
JUL	58 to 46	88 to 76	5.2	54 to 38	86	5.0
AUG	59 to 47	86 to 74	4.4	55 to 39	85	5.2
SEP	62 to 50	82 to 72	3.7	58 to 42	81	4.9
OCT	64 to 52	79 to 71	3.7	62 to 46	79	5.0
NOV	67 to 55	77 to 67	3.2	66 to 49	77	4.2
DEC	71 to 59	77 to 65	3.1	69 to 53	79	3.8

MONTH	QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND			WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	71 to 49	66	3.2	65 to 58	--	2
FEB	70 to 48	70	2.9	65 to 58	--	1
MAR	67 to 46	72	3.0	64 to 57	--	1
APR	59 to 40	77	2.9	60 to 53	--	1
MAY	52 to 35	80	2.6	57 to 51	--	1
JUN	46 to 30	81	2.2	54 to 47	--	1
JUL	46 to 29	82	2.2	52 to 46	--	1
AUG	50 to 32	77	2.5	53 to 46	--	1
SEP	55 to 36	70	2.6	55 to 48	--	1
OCT	59 to 40	68	3.0	58 to 50	--	2
NOV	64 to 43	66	2.5	60 to 52	--	2
DEC	68 to 47	65	2.4	64 to 56	--	2

MONTH	HOBART, AUSTRALIA			WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	71 to 53	56	1.9	75 to 60	78	2.7
FEB	71 to 53	59	1.5	75 to 61	77	8.2
MAR	68 to 51	61	1.8	73 to 59	81	7.1
APR	63 to 48	66	1.9	69 to 54	83	6.1
MAY	58 to 44	70	1.8	64 to 51	84	8.6
JUN	53 to 41	75	2.2	61 to 47	88	6.8
JUL	52 to 40	75	2.1	59 to 45	92	8.1
AUG	55 to 41	68	1.9	60 to 46	81	10.1
SEP	59 to 43	63	2.1	62 to 48	84	5.3
OCT	63 to 46	60	2.3	65 to 51	80	6.9
NOV	66 to 48	57	2.4	69 to 54	75	4.2
DEC	69 to 51	56	2.1	72 to 57	75	5.4

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS

OAT Trip Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure you'll be accompanied by one of our local, expert Trip 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 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 Leaders ensure that your experience with OAT is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

Culture & Points to Know

This trip combines both our *Ultimate Australia* and *Pure New Zealand* adventures into an extended tour of this stunning region. Some passengers may join this tour as they travel the individual itineraries, while others may travel only the complete combined itinerary, and you may journey with a changing group of travel mates. No matter which tour you're on you'll enjoy the chance to share the adventures of like-minded travelers as your experiences intersect.

Cuisine in Australia

Two of the most popular cooking styles in sunny Australia are Mediterranean and Southeast Asian—though every type of cuisine under the sun 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.

Cuisine in New Zealand

Major cities in New Zealand offer cosmopolitan dining and a wide range of restaurants that serve every choice of international cuisine. In rural areas, menus often still reflect the traditional English-style of cooking—a meat and two vegetables. New Zealand specialties include lamb and venison dishes; orange roughy, a delicate white fish; crayfish, know as spiny or rock lobster; and the succulent, white-shelled Bluff oysters, available from March to about July.

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 Leader for advice.

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 in your pocket. Carry most of your money, and your passport, in a travel pouch or money belt under your shirt. Replenish your pocket supply when you are in a safe and quiet place, or in our vehicle. 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 them.

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

Shopping

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. OAT 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 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

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 50 cigarettes or 50 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 of any kind into Australia. It 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 50 cigarettes, or 50 grams of tobacco, or 50 cigars, or a mixture of all three weighing not more than 50 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 of any kind into New Zealand. It 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.

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

Australia

Facts & Figures

- **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**.

01/01 New Year's Day
01/26 Australia Day
04/25 Anzac Day
12/25 Christmas Day
12/26 Boxing Day

Historical Overview of Australia

Early History

Australia's Aborigines believe that their people have lived here since the dawn of time—the Dreamtime—when their spiritual ancestors brought the land into being with song. Anthropologists believe that Aborigines 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 “Aborigines” 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 Aboriginal people traded with each other across the continent. After thousands of years of independence from outside influence, Aboriginal life changed dramatically with the arrival of Europeans.

European Exploration and Settlement

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. Dutch ships blown off course during voyages to the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia) occasionally encountered the land they then called “New Holland,” but found no economic benefit in colonizing it. 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.

The departure of the American colonies from the British Empire set the stage for pivotal events in Australian history. 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.

Captain William Bligh of “Mutiny on the Bounty” fame became Australia's fourth governor in 1806. He lost his post two years later in the Rum Rebellion, a successful mutiny by the colony's powerful military, the New South Wales Corps, who held land grants and a monopoly on rum. During the more stable tenure of Bligh's successor, Lachlan Macquarie, sheep farming began to play an increasingly large role in the economy.

Before England ended the practice in 1853, more than 150,000 convicts were sent to New South Wales and Tasmania (then Van Diemen's Land); 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. Aborigines 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.

After New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land (renamed Tasmania in 1854) was the next colony settled, beginning in 1803. Perth and the colony of Western Australia were settled in 1829, but languished until the discovery of gold in the 1890s. Adelaide was established as the capital of South Australia in 1837, and Melbourne (which had been settled in 1836) became the capital of the colony of Victoria in 1850. Queensland, which today includes Brisbane, Cairns, and the Daintree, split off from New South Wales in 1859.

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. However, immigration from countries outside of Europe, Canada, and America was prevented for the next 100 years under a policy called "White Australia." It was not until the 1970s that immigration restrictions were relaxed.

Creation of a National Identity

In contrast to the United States, which became a federal republic in 1789, and Canada, which became a Commonwealth in 1867, 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.

Australian folk tales and bush ballads celebrate the lives of the farmhands, miners, and sheep shearers whose rugged perseverance built a prosperous nation in a challenging environment during this 19th-century colonial period. This was also a time when a panoply of newspapers trumpeted diverse local points of view in the various colonies. A milestone in the emergence of a uniquely Australian literature occurred in 1874 with the publication of Marcus Clarke's *For the Term of His Natural Life*, a graphic account of prison life in Tasmania earlier in the century.

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 Wars 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.

New Zealand

Facts & Figures

- **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:** 4,438,393 (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 that follow a lunar calendar, 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.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 Day after New Year's

02/06 Waitangi Day

04/25 Anzac Day

12/25 Christmas

12/26 Boxing Day

Historical Overview of New Zealand

Early 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. At first the ancestors of today's Maori must have found the land very different from their homelands: cool temperate rain forests, snow-frosted mountain peaks, aquamarine lakes, and spurting geysers composed a landscape the likes of which they had never seen on their tropical South Pacific isles.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of new land may have been the new types of animals they encountered, such as the moa, large flightless birds that initially had no fear of humans. Crops brought from their homelands, like kumara (sweet potato) and yams, were planted to augment this easy supply of food. Over time, as the moa population dwindled, 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.

Though Abel Tasman, a Dutch navigator working for the Dutch East India Company, was the first European to sight New Zealand in 1642, his attempts to come ashore at Golden Bay were thwarted. Due to a misunderstanding between Tasman and a canoe of Maori warriors, a fight broke out that left four of the Dutch crew dead, and as a result Tasman set sail and never

landed in New Zealand. He did however give New Zealand its first European name, Staten Landt. An unknown Dutch cartographer back in Holland later changed this to Nieuw Zeeland (or Nova Zeelandia in Latin) after the Dutch maritime province of Zeeland.

European Settlement

For over a century New Zealand was largely left alone by explorers. Then, between 1769 and 1777, British Captain James Cook made three voyages to the islands aboard the Endeavour. Eventually, Cook was successful in navigating and charting the coastlines of New Zealand's North and South Islands. 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.

Other explorers, including the French, also flocked to the region and heedlessly exploited the land's natural resources. Sealers ruthlessly plundered the thriving seal colonies in the waters around the South Island and practically decimated the entire seal population by 1802. Other settlers came in search of lumber, flax, and whales. They established isolated, lawless camps along the West Coast of the South Island, and conducted business with no regard for the environment, destroying great forests and burning down sacred bushlands in order to clear land. Sadly, the muskets they traded with the Maori only served to intensify the violence between tribes, and soon led to brutal intertribal warfare.

But 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.

Missionaries, too, traveled to the new land with hopes of spreading the doctrine of Christianity. On Christmas Day, 1814, Reverend Samuel Marsden, aided by a friendly young chief, preached his first sermon to the Maori. By the late 1830s, the Maori were beginning to accept Christianity, perhaps in part because they were impressed with the missionaries' ability to cure diseases that Maori healers could not. However, as more and more Maori embraced Christianity, fewer aspects of the centuries-old Maori society were observed. Traditional Maori culture began to dissolve.

Land Wars and Gold Rush

On February 6, 1840, representatives of the British Crown and various Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, a key date in New Zealand's history. 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.

The Treaty also specifies that the Maori will only sell their lands to the British Crown. In the short-term, this seemed to work for both parties. Because Maori lands could only be sold to the Crown, or through the mediation of the Crown, the land could be used to entice settlers to New Zealand, but the rights of the Maori could also be protected. But 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 found the semi-mountainous, thickly forested lands of New Zealand difficult to cultivate. Eventually they turned their efforts to 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. During the 1860s, boomtowns cropped up at various coastal sites, as prospectors flooded in from Australia and North America. The Gold Rush of 1862 was short-lived, but gave the country a definite boost in commercial development.

One of the Otago towns affected by the Gold Rush was Arrowtown. It was during the Gold Rush (fueled in large part by the success of American prospector William Fox, who was crafty enough to claim 220 pounds of gold for himself before letting the word get out) that Arrowtown's population exploded to 7000. Among the hopeful were large numbers of Chinese who established settlements that remain to this day.

While few struck it rich through panning for gold, new arrivals to New Zealand were won over by its natural splendor. The town of Rotorua, in particular, gained a reputation for its supposed "healing waters." An area of great geothermic activity, Rotorua also attracted visitors eager to gaze upon the Pink and White Terraces, impressive structures formed by deposits of silica as a result of volcanic activity.

Emergence on the World Stage

New Zealand finally carved out a niche for itself economically through international trade. 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. The first shipment on ice was made to Britain in 1882. Its success laid the cornerstone of New Zealand's modern economy.

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. And while they had been allowed to vote since 1867, each year saw the loss of more and more of their culture and ancestral lands.

Kiwis (the name adopted by residents of New Zealand) fought alongside the British during the Boer War of 1899–1902 and with the Allies during both World Wars. 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. And New Zealand's progressive social welfare system made it the envy of many. New Zealand was home to the world's most comfortable middle class, with few very rich and relatively few very poor.

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.

The Modern Era

In 1953, the entire world came to learn of the astounding accomplishment of a man who would soon become New Zealand's most famous native, Edmund Percival Hillary. On May 29, 1953, Hillary, along with Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, made history by ascending Mount Everest. Together, these two men went where no men had ever been. Born in Auckland in 1919, Hillary honed his climbing skills on the mountains of his homeland, particularly Mt. Ruapehu located in Tongariro National Park. Of his historic feat and international acclaim, Hillary humbly commented, "In some ways I believe I epitomize the average New Zealander: I have modest abilities, I combine these with a good deal of determination, and I rather like to succeed."

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.

Drawing attention on the international stage, New Zealanders have adamantly protested nuclear weapons since the 1960s. In 1985, their "No Nukes" stance intensified after a Greenpeace ship in the Auckland harbor was sunk by French intelligence agents. One crewmember was killed. New Zealand immediately banned any nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships, including those of the U.S. Navy, from its ports. By 1991, relations between the U.S. and New Zealand, weakened by the 1985 anti-nuclear ban, began to improve.

Major events taking place in New Zealand in recent years include the 1996 eruption of Mount Ruapehu, whose ash clouds made air travel problematic all across the country. On the political front, Jenny Shipley became the nation's first female prime minister in 1997. She was succeeded by Helen Clark in 1999 and by John Key in 2008. 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.

RESOURCES

Suggested Readings

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

A Traveller's History of Australia by John H. Chambers (History) A concise account of Australia's history—from the arrival of the earliest Aborigines around 50,000 years ago to the preparations for the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000. (And yes, the title has two "Ls" in "traveller"; the series is British.)

Chasing Kangaroos by Tim Flannery (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 (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.

In a Sunburned Country by Bill Bryson (History) Lots of history mixed in with the best-selling author's comedic observations about Australia, its people, and its cultural institutions.

Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway (Memoir) A beautifully written narrative of Conway's girlhood on an isolated sheep farm in the grasslands of Australia prior to her departure for America. She eventually went on to become the first women president of Smith College.

The Bone is Pointed by Arthur Upfield (Mystery) One of the dozen or so Bony mysteries (that's short for Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte) written by Upfield from 1929 to 1966. In this book Bony, who is half-Aborigine, searches for a missing man in the Outback.

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

The Songlines by Bruce Chatwin (Cultural Portrait). In this unusual book, Chatwin combines straightforward reporting, history, dream-time stories, and a heady mix of quotations from his notebooks. This book may not be in stock at your local store, but it can still be found online.

The Thorn Birds by Colleen McCullough (Literature) One of the most beloved novels of all time—a saga of dreams, struggles, dark passions, and forbidden love that has enthralled readers the world over. *The Thorn Birds* is a chronicle of three generations of the Cleary family with a love story at its heart.

True History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey (Literature) 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.

New Zealand

A Concise History of New Zealand by Philippa Mein Smith (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).

Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All by Christina Thompson (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.

Once Were Warriors by Alan Duff (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.

Tutira: The Story of a New Zealand Sheep Station by W.H. Guthrie-Smith (Natural History) Originally published in 1921, and a classic in New Zealand, this book follows the daily work and ecological impact of a sheep station by Lake Tutira. A bit scholarly, but still relevant considering today's environmental concerns.

Suggested Movies

Australia

A Cry in the Dark (1988, Drama) Based on the true story of a woman accused of the murder of her child, but who maintains that the child died in an animal attack. Although famously associated with the line “the dingo ate my baby,” the real quote is actually “the dingo’s got my baby”.

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 Pierce 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.

Crocodile Dundee (1986, Comedy) A comedic “fish out of water” story that has an American reporter hosting an engaging, but eccentric, Australian crocodile hunter in New York City.

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.

Muriel’s Wedding (1994, Comedy) Muriel deals with the boredom of life in a small Australian town by listening to ABBA and planning her dream wedding. There’s only one small problem—she’s never been on a date.

Mutiny on the Bounty (1935, Drama) A dramatic retelling of the historic mutiny led by Fletcher Christian against Captain William Bligh.

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994, Comedy) If you liked *The Birdcage*, this one’s for you. When three performers are hired to set up a drag show revue at a resort in the middle of the Outback, comedy ensues.

Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002, Adventure) Molly, Daisy, and Gracie are part of the “stolen generations”, aboriginal children forcibly removed from their families by the Australian government and placed in re-education camps. But the girls escape, and by following one of the lengthy rabbit-proof fences that crosses the country, try to make their way home on foot. Based on true events.

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.

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.

Strictly Ballroom (1992, Comedy) A sweet romantic comedy set in the world of Australia's ballroom dancing championships. Scott, the odds-on favorite, feels constrained by rules that will not let him create new dance steps. Fran, the new dancer, is repeatedly overlooked despite her talent. If they dance together, they might have to choose between winning and creative freedom.

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

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.

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.

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.

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?

Once Were Warriors (1994, Crime) This film adaptation keeps intact the book's gritty and realistic view of the violence and societal problems that can plague the urban Maori in New Zealand.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel Forum (tips from previous travelers)
www.oattravel.com/forum

Overseas Adventure Travel Store
www.oatshop.com

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Electricity & Plugs
www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates
www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators
www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather
www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)
www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips
www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection
www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center
www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide
www.timeanddate.com/holidays

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Visit **www.oattravel.com/myaccount**
or call us toll-free at **1-800-221-0814**