



AUSTRALIA

BACKPACKERS GUIDE

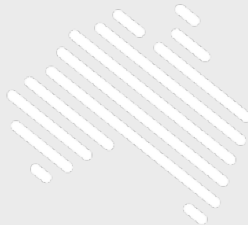


**PLAN
YOUR TRIP**

WORKING HOLIDAY GUIDE

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QUIT YOUR LIFE



IF YOU HAVE A JOB remember to check the notice period in your contract to resign in time. We advise you to leave your job in the best conditions possible – you never know, maybe there will be a job for you there when you get back! And if later you want to find a stable job in Australia, they will often ask for references from your previous employers at home.

FLAT / HOUSE

If you are renting, you should give the required notice to your landlord, from 1 – 3 months – check your contract.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Remember to inform your bank, your tax office, the Post Office (so they can forward your post) that you are changing address.

CANCEL YOUR CONTRACTS

Cancel any contracts you have running, for example your telephone, internet... Check the contracts as far in advance as you can so you know the terms and conditions. Then you can give them the notice period they request and avoid penalty payments etc as far as possible (although particularly for phone contracts these may be unavoidable...).

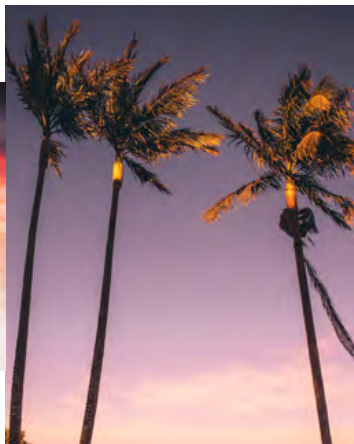
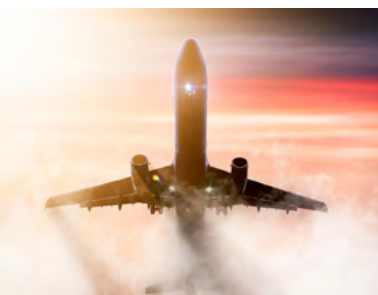
Watch out for contracts that are renewed

automatically. In these cases you will need to inform the company in writing (send it recorded delivery to be sure), giving them the notice required in the contract, and well before the automatic renewal is scheduled to happen.

You may need to do this up to a few months in advance... Sometimes moving abroad can justify ending your contract early (check the small print), so it is always worth asking!

Useful tip: start preparing 6 months in advance if possible, 3 months at the latest. All contracts and administrative procedures (eg renewing your passport) require notice/take a certain amount of time, and if you do not leave enough you may have to pay more or even miss out!

YOUR PASSPORT



A VALID PASSPORT is mandatory to enter Australia. Passports are delivered by German local municipal registration offices and last 6-10 years depending on your age.

You can obtain a passport either by queuing up in person to submit your application at one of the local municipal registration offices. Applicants have to apply for a new passport in person. A German passport (32 pages, issued to a person 24 years and older) costs 101€. A passport for a person under the age of 24 which has a validity of six years costs 68,50€.

FIRST ADULT PASSPORT

WARNING: it takes at least 6 weeks to get your passport. But one can be issued in four days by using the Express service if processed before 11 a.m.

Leave more time than this as the passport office does not guarantee how long it will take them to process your application and occasionally there can be delays. (They may even ask you to have an interview...). If you make mistakes on your form or if the application is incomplete they will send it back to you and you will need to start again (with another 4 to 6 weeks...).



RENEWING / REPLACING A PASSPORT

Renewing or replacing a passport takes the same time.

Book an appointment and go in person to a German local municipal registration office. When you apply before 11 a.m. an Express passport can be issued within 4 days.

If you want to check online, go to your state official website .

PLEASE NOTE if you already have a passport, make sure it is valid for the entire duration of your stay in Australia.



VISA WORKING HOLIDAY



A VALID VISA is mandatory to enter Australia. The “**Working Holiday Visa 417**”, is the best option for 18-30 year-olds from Europe and Canada enabling you to travel across Australia and work during your trip.

If you apply for the visa while you are 30, but turn 31 before a decision is made, the immigration might still grant you the visa. To Apply for the Working Holiday Visa [CLICK HERE](#).

WHAT THE WHV ALLOWS YOU TO DO:

- Travel in Australia for 1 year leaving and re-entering Australia as many times as you want.
- Work in Australia (12 months

maximum with the same employer in some areas).

- Study for up to 4 months.
- Apply for a second and third year visa if you meet the conditions

For travellers over the age of 31 the only options are a tourist visa or a student visa.

The tourist visa is very easy to obtain: complete the online application and an E-visa is sent to your email address within 10 days.

CONDITIONS TO OBTAIN YOUR FIRST WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

You must:

- be 18 to 30 years old (inclusive)

- have a valid passport
- not have any children under your responsibility
- be outside Australia when you apply
- not have already requested the same visa (there are different conditions to obtain a 2nd year visa)
- meet certain financial conditions (have enough money to live on during your stay). The official amount recommended is \$5000.
- meet certain conditions concerning your health (depending on your health status when you apply, they could ask you to go for medical checks (eg a chest X-ray) and you are asked to pay the costs for this.
- Purchase private health insurance (not checked but recommended).

FEES

- Online application is \$635 ((+ 1.08% bank card fees for payments with Visa or Mastercard +1,99% for American Express)
- Postal application: \$635 + \$80 administrative fee.

Warning!

Only apply on the official immigration website! Do not go through another website to get your working holiday visa!

HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

The WHV is delivered by the “Department of Immigration and

Border Protection”. Applications are generally completed online but you can also apply by post, using an application (+\$80). To apply online go to the Australian immigration website:

CLICK HERE

Online you need to create an account and fill in a questionnaire (approx 30 minutes).

1. Create an ImmiAccount on the immigration website, by selecting «Login to ImmiAccount».
2. You will receive an email with the title “Verify ImmiAccount Email Address”.
3. Click on the link in the email to confirm access to your account.
4. Click on “Login to ImmiAccount”
5. Click on “New Application”, then select “First Working Holiday Visa (417 or 462 depending on your citizenship)”.
6. Fill in the online form.

THEN WHAT?

Once the application request is validated, you will receive a “Transaction Reference Number” (TRN) which you need to keep safely. Your request will be dealt with directly in Australia. The response time varies from 24 hours to a month, depending on whether Immigration checks up on anything or not.

You can always check on your immi account the progress of your application. If you have any question, you can write to : evisa.WHM.helpdesk@border.gov.au (remember to provide your TRN).



USEFUL TIP : Check that your passport is valid for your entire trip overseas. If you renew your passport after applying for a WHV, you must provide your new passport number to the immigration.

VALIDITY

If your application is successful, you will receive an email with the title : “Visa Grant Notification Application” saying “Applicant Approved”, and containing a file/dossier number and information about your visa. We strongly advise you to print this email and keep it safe. You do not have to go to Australia as soon as you receive your visa. You have 12 months to validate it by entering Australian territory. As soon as you enter, your visa is activated and is valid from that date for a duration of 12 months. Your electronic visa (e-visa), is linked to your passport, so your passport will not be “stamped”.

If your visa application is refused, you will receive a reply stating the reasons for refusing. You cannot challenge their decision, and you cannot be

reimbursed the fees you paid for your application

MEDICAL TESTS

In certain cases, the Australian government may ask you to take medical tests (x-ray of lungs, HIV or hepatitis test etc.....). If this happens, you need to go to a medical provider accepted by Immigration and you must pay the costs. You can find the list of accepted medical centres in your immi account.

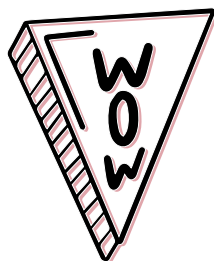
RENEWAL

The Working Holiday Visa is renewable 2 times if you meet certain conditions. If you work 88 days on your first year in some areas and jobs you can get a second year. If you carry out 6 months of specified work in regional areas while on your second visa, you may be eligible to apply for a third visa. Eligible types of work and regional areas will correspond with the requirements for the second visa.



K

oalas sleep
more than
20 hours per
day.



Did you know?



DRIVER'S LICENCE



GERMAN driving licences are not accepted. You will need an additional international driving licence to drive in Australia.

You have to apply for your international driving permit in Germany. You must always have your IDP along with your national license at all times. International drivers licence is not sufficient by itself.

You can also get a translation by a certified translator NAATI. (It is easier to get an International Driving Permit...)

Therefore, foreign-language overseas licence holders must obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP), or an official translation by a certified translator.

For more information on driving legally in Australia by State see: www.austroads.com.au/drivers-vehicles/overseas-driver-licences.

APPLYING FOR AN IDP

PREREQUISITES

- Minimum age: 18 years
- EU or EEA driving license or a foreign permit to drive motor vehicles
- Residence in Germany for at least 185 days a year or residence in a country that is not a party to the Convention on Road Traffic of November 8, 1968

You must apply for an international driving license at the driving license office in your place of residence. It is not necessary to apply in person. You can obtain the application form on site or, depending on the service, you can also download it.

If you live in a city district the driving license office is the city administration. If you live in a rural district, it will be the district administration office.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Identity card or passport
- Biometric passport photo
- EU driving license in credit card format: If you still have an old driving license in paper format, you must exchange it for a credit card driving license.

COSTS

- for the international driving license depending on the city or district: EUR 12.20 - 16.30
- If you exchange your existing driving license for a card driving license: an additional EUR 24.00

The extract from the local driving license register («index card copy») costs you nothing.

WARNING: do not send original documents! Make sure you still take your original driving licence with you and have it with you whenever you are driving. The international driving licence alone is not valid.



BOOKING FLIGHTS



We always recommend to book your flight tickets after receiving your visa.

AIRLINES

Most popular airlines coming from Europe are:

- Qatar Airways (stopover in Doha)
- Emirates (stopover in Dubai)
- Etihad (stopover in Abu Dhabi)
- Singapore Airlines (stopover in Singapour)
- Air China
- Cathay Pacific (stopover in Hong Kong)
- Malaysia Airlines (stopover in Kuala Lumpur)

Most popular airlines coming from US & Canada are:

- Qantas (stopover in Doha)
- Air Canada
- Fiji Airways (stopover in Nadi)
- Air New Zealand (stopover in Auckland)

FLIGHTS SEARCH ENGINES

Main search engines are :

- [Skyscanner](#)
- [Opodo](#)
- [Alibabuy](#)
- [Edreams](#)

TIPS TO PURCHASE YOUR FLIGHT AT THE BEST PRICE

Use flight search engine websites like Skyscanner to find the best prices. Watch out for a practice that is becoming increasingly common: IP tracking. Some sites memorize your IP address, and when you visit a site for a second time to reserve online, they increase the prices.

Purchase your ticket in advance for the best price. The best time to purchase your flight is early in the week off peak time. Another way to pay a low price is to go out of season! The most expensive time to fly is between December and February. The cheapest time to fly to Australia is between May and July. Prepare to pay, on average, around 1100€ for a return ticket.

Finally, if you really want to fly out in December, make sure to check flights on Christmas day or New Years Eve as usually tickets on those day are way cheaper



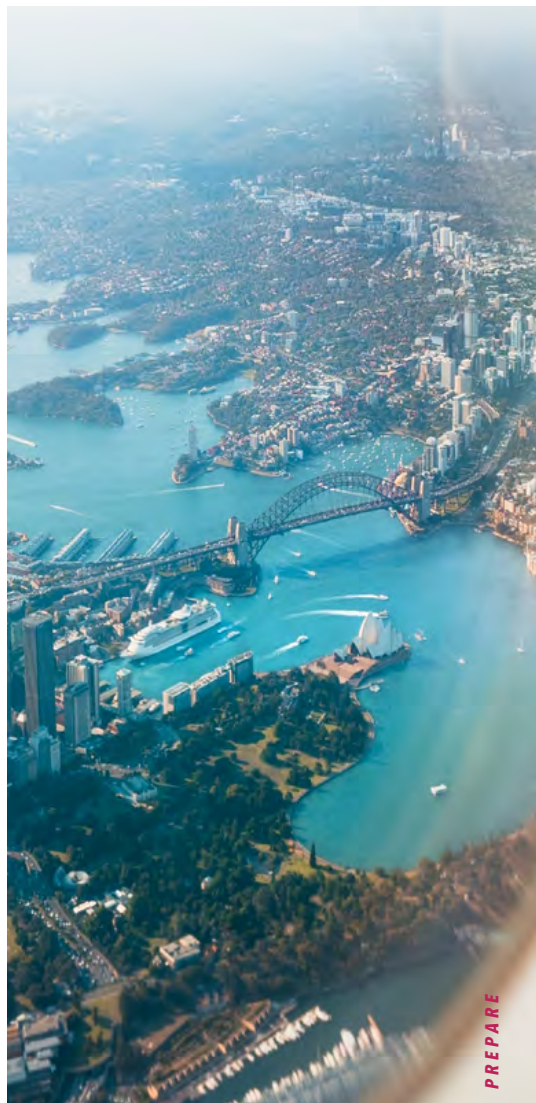
TYPE OF TICKETS

The first question to ask yourself is whether to buy a one-way or return ticket. (It is not mandatory to purchase a return ticket to enter Australia). It is usually cheaper to buy a return than 2 singles. There are also “open” tickets, or tickets which can be flexible at a certain cost. Some companies offer stopovers without extra charge, so why not make the most of it and stop over somewhere in the sun on the way!

If you want to travel in countries other than Australia, you can also consider a « round the world » ticket. Travel agents (eg FlightCentre) and certain airlines offer this kind of service. RTW tickets start at around 1800€ for 4 stops, 1 in each continent, going the same way round the world, and increase in price with the number of extra stops or changes to the classic itinerary.

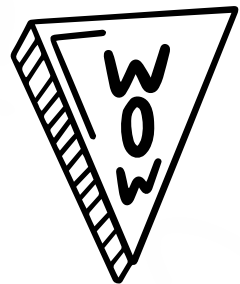
FLIGHT TIME

Flight duration varies between 23 hours (most expensive), and over 35 hours (cheapest). All flights have at least one stopover.





E xplorers left marks of their passage on trees. The most famous of all is «The Dig Tree» at Burke & Wills Camp (Cooper Creek, South Australia).



HEALTH



VACCINATION

No vaccines are required to enter Australia, but make sure your routine vaccinations are up to date. Try to fit in routine medical and dental checks before you leave (dentist, GP). Regarding Covid, there is no requirement to prove that you are vaccinated to enter Australia.

MEDICATION

Visit your GP for a list of medication to take with you according to your medical needs. For simple, over the counter medication (headache pills etc) you will find everything you need in Australian pharmacies so don't weight yourself down too much.

If you are on prescription medication, you are allowed to bring a maximum of 3 months' treatment with you into Australia. You do not need to declare it to customs as long as you do not bring more than this, you bring the medical prescription and a letter from your doctor describing your condition, and as long as your medication is not one of the substances that are prohibited or require a permit (eg steroids).

If you are planning to travel in isolated places in the Outback early in your trip, bring a first aid kit with you. Otherwise, you can buy one later in Australia.

PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Australia has signed agreements with the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Slovenia, Malta and Italy. These agreements entitle visitors from those countries to some subsidised health services for essential medical treatment while visiting Australia. Unfortunately Germans are not covered by the medicare healthcare system. Therefore it is highly recommended to get a travel insurance.

Your insurance from Germany usually doesn't cover trips longer than 6 weeks.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

There are a few insurances that offer special health insurance policies for travellers on a Working Holiday visa. There are a plethora of comparison websites with search engines that spit out an overwhelming number of travel insurances. It's difficult to make a general comparison though, as individual interests and plans differ. We have been working successfully with the partners listed below. If their policies don't meet your needs, you will surely find a travel insurance provider that offers what you want, when doing your own research. We don't recommend you to take out a

cheap cover. Always compare travel insurance before subscribing.

We compared 3 popular travel insurance which we can all highly recommend.

TRAVELSECURE

BENEFITS

Cheap Insurance, everything you need is covered, including unlimited rehabilitation and First Aid.

INCLUSIONS OVERVIEW

Outpatient and inpatient treatment, medically reasonable return transport, Assistance services, dental treatments up to 250 €/ year.

GET A QUOTE ✨👉

PROTRIP

BENEFITS

Offer includes liability - and accident insurance overseas, psychological treatment is limited, insurance period 24 months.

INCLUSIONS OVERVIEW

Outpatient and inpatient treatment, Reimbursement of medical, hospital and medical expenses. Travel allowance to relatives who have been in hospital for an insured person over a 14-day period up to € 500, Pre-existing conditions, if a scheduled treatment did not lead to treatment.

GET A QUOTE ✨👉

CAREMED

BENEFITS

Cheap option, no excess, max. insurance duration 24 Months, also available while already overseas.

INCLUSIONS OVERVIEW

24-hour emergency call service, outpatient and inpatient treatment,



everything you need is included.

GET A QUOTE ✨

COMPARE TRAVEL INSURANCES

You can subscribe directly from the table buttons. We have also listed the conditions and main advantages of each travel insurance on the following comparison (in german):



			
Anbieter	Travel Secure	Protrip	CareMed
Vertragstyp	WORK & TRAVEL KOMFORT	PROTRIP WORLD	CAREMED TRAVELER OHNE SELBSTBEHALT
Tarif pro Monat	31,03€	38,70€	40,30€
Tarif pro Jahr	372,30€	464,40€	483,60€
Vertragsdauer	3 - 36 Monate	3 bis 24 Monate	1 Woche bis 12 Monate
Kostenvoranschlag und Anmeldung	Online abschließen	Online abschließen	Online abschließen

Kookaburra



The Kookaburra is a terrestrial tree kingfisher. It is carnivorous and feeds mainly on insects, lizards, snakes and chicks.

Its loud call is very particular, it sounds like a monkey! And yet it was used for the sound of Flipper the Dolphin. Particularly present in the South and East of Australia, the laughing kookaburra is very territorial. You will hear them especially during sunrise and sunset



PLAN YOUR BUDGET



THE FIRST QUESTION we ask ourselves is usually “How much money should we leave with?”. However, before even asking this question, you have to ask yourself “how much do I need to leave?”. Here is an estimate of the expenses necessary to prepare a Working Holiday Visa in Australia to plan your departure.

PASSEPORT

To travel to Australia, you will need a valid passport. You won't be able to apply for a WHV if you do not hold a passport. You can apply online or with a paper form. It will cost you 101€ (applicants age 24+ years).

If you already have a passport, make sure it is valid for the length of your trip overseas.

THE WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

The visa has a cost! It is important to get your visa in the first place before buying your plane ticket or taking out health insurance. The Working Holiday Visa costs 635 AUD, or around 380€. It is valid for one year and renewable twice under conditions. If your request is denied for any reason, you will not be refunded.

Be vigilant! Apply for your visa only from the official government website.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR WHV

For those who leave for 1 year or more on a Working Holiday Visa, insurance for Australia is a big essential expense to leave safely. Health insurance will cover you in the event of an accident or infectious disease. Your hospitalization costs, repatriation costs, your accidents during the practice of certain sports (to be checked with the company), or your civil liability will be covered. Count around 400€ for one year of cover.

PLANE TICKET

The plane ticket will undoubtedly be the biggest expense before your departure. Indeed, Australia is at the other end of the world, so getting there will have a significant cost! For a round trip, prices vary between €1,200 and €1,500 for an open round-trip ticket (depending on the season) and a minimum of €900 for a one-way ticket.

To get a better price, a few tricks can be used. The price of your tickets can be optimized if you anticipate the purchase. Try to plan ahead. Prefer the low season, tickets will be cheaper in Europe and Australia. Use online comparators and get quotes from agencies that can get specially negotiated tickets for Working Holiday Visa makers.

FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

When applying for your WHV, the government asks for proof that you have a certain sum in your bank account. Indeed, this requires you to leave with at least \$5,000/person, i.e. around €3,500. Although this sum may seem large, remember that life in Australia is expensive. In addition, if you plan to buy a vehicle for example, a good part of your budget will be devoted to it.

BUDGET BEFORE COMING TO AUSTRALIA

- Visa : 380 €
- Passport : 96€
- Insurance : 400€
- Plane ticket : 1200€
- Savings : 3500€

TOTAL : 5570 € (around 2030 € + 3500 € savings)

BUDGET ONCE IN AUSTRALIA

Once there, you will also have to spend a little money to live in the land of kangaroos. In Australia, the Australian dollar is in place. The rate varies constantly but on average, 1€ =

\$1.65 (january 2024 rate).

In Australia, everything is paid per week (or every 2 weeks max.). Your wages will be paid to you every week, as will your rent, which you will have to pay every week. Daily life is quite expensive in Australia.



Your main expenses will be divided between accommodation, food, transport and the activities you will do. Thus, your expenses will not be the same depending on whether you decide to settle in town or go on a road trip.

AVERAGE BUDGET FOR A ROAD TRIP IN AUSTRALIA

Your road trip budget will depend on several factors such as the number of kilometers you plan to travel per month as well as the places where you are (gasoline will be more expensive in isolated areas). Your grocery shopping will also determine expenses, as will the level of comfort you want. It is possible to spend very little money when you are on a road trip by sleeping in your vehicle and choosing cheaper foods (rice, noodles, canned food). The main item of expenditure will be the purchase or rental of the vehicle in which you are going to travel. For example, count at least \$3,000 for a car, and \$7,000 for an equipped van. Added to this are the registration fees and the mandatory (third party) insurance. You can choose to take out full insurance or not, depending on your needs and means.

RENTING A VAN OR CAMPERVAN

For your motorhome or van rental, we advise you to go through an online comparator. [Motorhome Republic](#) for example, offers good discounts and works with all vehicle suppliers in Australia. This will allow you to compare different types of vehicles and even filter the results according to your criteria.

BUDGET FOR A ONE MONTH ROAD TRIP FOR 2 PEOPLE

- Food: 500\$ (approx 125\$/week)
- Fuel: 700\$
- Camping: 225\$ (1 night every 4 days in a caravan park costing 30\$ per night)
- Repairs / maintenance: 200\$
- Phone/Internet : 60\$
- Laundry : 15\$

TOTAL : 1850\$ / 2 people for a month.

AVERAGE BUDGET TO LIVE IN A BIG CITY IN AUSTRALIA

Whether you arrive in Sydney, Perth, Brisbane or Melbourne, your expenses will be quite high during your first weeks in Australia. Depending on where you are, the cost of living can vary greatly. Generally speaking, life in big cities is bound to be more expensive than in smaller Australian towns. This is explained by 2 main factors: the cost of housing which is higher, and the expenses/outings which are more frequent. On the other hand, food and gasoline are cheaper in large cities.

ACCOMMODATION

Your expenses will vary depending on your type of accommodation. On arrival or for a short stay, youth hostels are a practical and economical solution (from AU\$40 per night per person). Often it's more advantageous to book a full week to get discounts (-10% or even 1 free night!). You can also ask the hostel where you are staying whether they are looking for staff. You could be hired by the hostel to do some cleaning,



reception work in exchange for free accommodation. In any case, know that the prices vary a lot depending on the time of year and the location of your hostel. If you arrive during the high season, book well in advance and find the prices quite expensive.

Booking.com is one of the most reputable sites for hostel bookings. Thanks to this search engine, you can compare prices and make your reservation online (at no extra cost).

If you plan to stay in the same city for several weeks or months, flatshares or houseshares are good options. Prices vary by city, location, number of roommates, and of course the condition of the accommodation. In the center of Sydney, count around \$300 per week for a share bedroom.

Be aware that there are also alternative solutions that can save you money. Volunteering, for example via HelpX or Wwoofing, is a good option. You will be housed and fed in exchange for your help for a few hours a day. These networks allow you to limit your expenses for a time.

You can also try to do some housesitting where you live in someone's place while he is away and look after his house and/ or pets rent free.

FOOD

For those who stay in youth hostels, advantages are often offered in the room rate (breakfast included, free drinks etc..).

If you do your grocery shopping in the supermarket, count at least \$70/ week per person when cooking the meals yourself. The prices of fruits and vegetables vary greatly depending on the season. Meat is accessible but products such as cheese and cold cuts are more expensive.



In supermarkets, prices also vary during the day. It is more interesting to do your shopping at the end of the day to benefit from discounts on unsold items. Also favor markets for fresh produce and always look for specials in supermarkets and the “Quick Sale” section.

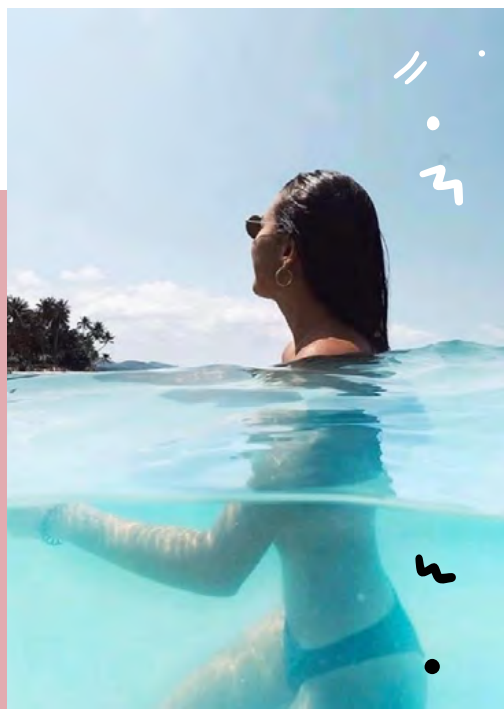
Finally, if you want to buy alcohol, count on average \$18 for a pack of 6 beers, \$12 for a bottle of wine, and \$50 to \$70 for strong alcohol (vodka, rum, etc.). If you eat out, the budget will be much higher, count around \$250 per week.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTS

Transport is quite expensive in the big cities. Most cities offer a cheaper rate if you use a transport card instead of an individual ticket (such as the Opal Card in Sydney). These cards will allow you to use the entire public transport network of the city (bus, train, tram, ferry, etc.). You can recharge it online according to your needs. You will need to tap in and out when using the public transports.

Also remember to check the free lines (bus, tram, boat). In most major cities, free bus lines allow you to get around town. For example in Perth, the CAT lines allow you to travel in the city for free. In Brisbane, the CityHopper (boat) is free and is a great way to discover the city. In Melbourne, the Tram is also free in a good portion of the city centre. So always check free public transports prior buying a ticket or a card.

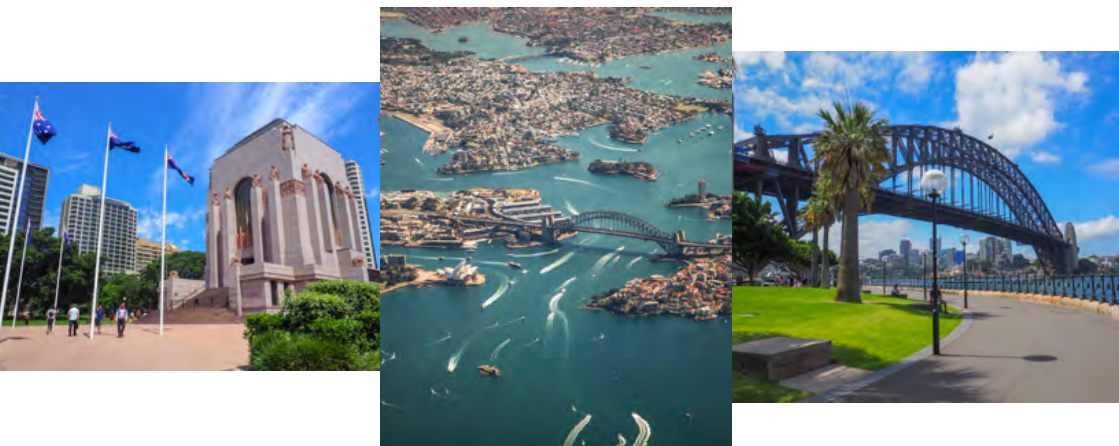




Doing a road trip in Australia was clearly my dream and honestly it is one of my fondest memories. Learn to live like a nomad, discover incredible landscapes, sleep in the middle of nature and meet other travelers; I would give a lot to relive this experience right away! I think it's the best way to discover this great huge country at its own pace and in a friendly atmosphere.



OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT



WHY OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?

Here are the main advantages to opening a bank account in Australia:

- You will be able to receive a salary from an Australian company
- Avoid additional fees for using a foreign bank card
- You can transfer money from your home account to Australia and vice versa for cheaper
- Withdraw money from an ATM without worrying about fees
- Make online purchases
- Simplify the procedures in the event of loss of your bank card

Remember to open a bank account as soon as you arrive in the territory..

The four most popular banks are Westpac, ANZ, NAB and Commonwealth. You will always find one of these in all states and territories of Australia.

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

To open a bank account, you just go to the bank of your choice and set up an appointment. A bank teller is then going to give you all the information you need to know to open your account.



Documents and information you need:

- Your passport
- A telephone number (preferably an Australian one – you can update this online later)
- Tax File Number (you can add it later if you don't have it yet)
- Postal address in Australia (It can be your address, the address of a friend or the post office...)

You may also be asked your tax number in your home country (if applicable)

In parallel with your bank account, your online banking account will also be created. This will allow you to manage your different accounts easily online. We also advise you to download the bank's smartphone app to facilitate transfers between your accounts, monitor your expenses, etc.

AND ONCE MY BANK ACCOUNT IS OPENED?

Once your bank account is open, your bank will give you a credit card. This is generally free. You can use your card to withdraw cash, pay for purchases in stores and buy products online.

You will be able to receive money into your account, from Australia or overseas. You can also make transfers online, via electronic transfer or a bank. If you want to transfer your money internationally, we advise you to go through a transfer platform to save money.

CAN I OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT FROM ABROAD?

You can open a bank account in Australia from abroad. However, once you arrive in Australia, you will need to go to a branch of your chosen bank to finish the process. You will have to show your passport to confirm your identity and order your bank card. Not all the banks offer this option. But NAB and Commonwealth are among the ones with which you can open an account before arriving in Australia.

WHICH BANK ACCOUNT SHOULD I CHOOSE?

There are two main types of bank accounts:

- Everyday account: You receive a bank card and you are able to withdraw money, pay online and in shops, and receive payments.
- Savings account: These accounts give you interest on your savings.

Which one to choose? Both! Without going into all the financial advantages you can get, let's talk about a key factor for your Australian road trip: saving.

It is smart to use a savings account to “keep” the majority of your money. You can use your current account for your daily expenses, and transfer money from your savings account if you start to run low. That way, if you lose your bank card or if it gets stolen, you don't risk losing all your money.

GET A CREDIT CARD IN AUSTRALIA

Opening a current account with a bank gives you access to a bank card.



With one of these, you will be able to:

- withdraw money from ATMs (free of charge from your bank's ATMs – otherwise, in general \$2 from other banks'),
- deposit money (at some ATMs),
- pay for your purchases in store or online.

The card is a Debit Card (MasterCard or Visa). Make sure you have the "Paypass" option on your card, which will allow you to make contactless payments up to \$100 without having to enter your PIN.

Your card can be sent to you by post within an average of 5 working days. A second letter will then be sent with your PIN code (which you can change later if you want). You can also request the withdrawal of your card at the counter of the bank of your choice..

OPENING A SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT

Superannuation is a kind of retirement savings plan. It is a contribution that is paid by your employer and sent to a contribution fund. This contribution must be paid in addition to salary for all employees over 18 years old. It represents 11% of your salary (January 2024).

Be aware that most major Australian banks offer a Superannuation account. It can be a good option to combine your current bank and superannuation to simplify the process. For example, if you open an account with Westpac, the bank will offer you the option to open a

superannuation account with BT, their partner. Superannuation withdrawal is only accessible to Australians once they have retired (or in certain special cases). Non-residents can recover part of their superannuation once they leave the territory and their visa ends.

CLOSING YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

Closing your Australian bank account is even easier than opening it. You can either go to your bank in person and ask or do it over the phone, from Australia or abroad. You will need to prove your identity and give your card details (number, expiry etc).

Of course, remember to pay all your bills, fines etc before closing the account. If there is money left in the account, you will either have to transfer it before closing or provide the details of an account where you can transfer the money (pay attention to transfer fees in this case).

If, on the contrary, the account is in overdraft, you will have to pay this off before closing the account.

Do not forget to take the necessary steps to recover your Superannuation if your fund is linked with your bank! Also remember to contact your bank before you leave Australia to inform them that you are leaving the territory and, for example, to deactivate the security service for managing your online account. With Westpac, you can choose to deactivate the security SMS to add a beneficiary to your account, for example.

MONEY TRANSFERS



WHEN YOU PREPARE your trip to Australia for your Working Holiday adventure, there is one important question: How to transfer money to Australia from your bank account without losing too much money?

WHY TO TRANSFER MONEY TO AUSTRALIA?

When you first arrive in Australia, you will need to have some money to eat and sleep before finding a job. Living expenses in Australia are quite high especially in big cities. Therefore only a bit of cash would probably not be enough for your first weeks there.

TRANSFER MONEY TO / FROM AUSTRALIA: BEST OPTIONS

We tested a lot of options to transfer money overseas and here are some tips to get you save money on your international transfers. First of all you would need to open a bank account in Australia. Indeed, when you work in Australia it is necessary to have an Australian bank account, as your employer will not transfer your salary to an international bank account. The big four in Australia are Westpac, ANZ, Nab and Commonwealth. We recommend you to transfer your money from your bank account at home to your Australian bank account (or opposite) to avoid transfers fees.

TRANSFER FROM BANK TO BANK: NOT THE BEST OPTION

International transfers can often be very expensive. Banks charge high fees and use lower exchange rates compare to the actual market rate. A good alternative is to choose a company that is specialised in international money transfers – for example CurrencyFair or Wise.

TRANSFER MONEY WITH SPECIALISED COMPANIES - RECOMMENDED

If you want to transfer money to Australia, CurrencyFair and Wise are definitely the best option to save money on your transfers. All companies are accredited and secured online platforms specialised in international money transfers. They are able to offer you good exchange rates (very close to the actual market rate) and only charge you a small transfer fee per transfer.

If you compare a transfer with your bank and one with specialised companies:

USING YOUR BANK

- You wish to transfer 1000€.
- You supposedly do not pay transfer fees (most of the time you do)
- Market rate is : $1\text{€} = 1.65\text{ AUD}$
- The exchange rate offered by your bank would probably be around 1.55

So for 1000€ you will get 1550 AUD

USING CURRENCYFAIR

- You wish to transfer 1000€.
- You pay 4 AUD transfer fees (5 free transfers using our link)
- Market rate is : $1\text{€} = 1.65\text{ AUD}$
- The exchange rate with CurrencyFair will be around 1.63 AUD

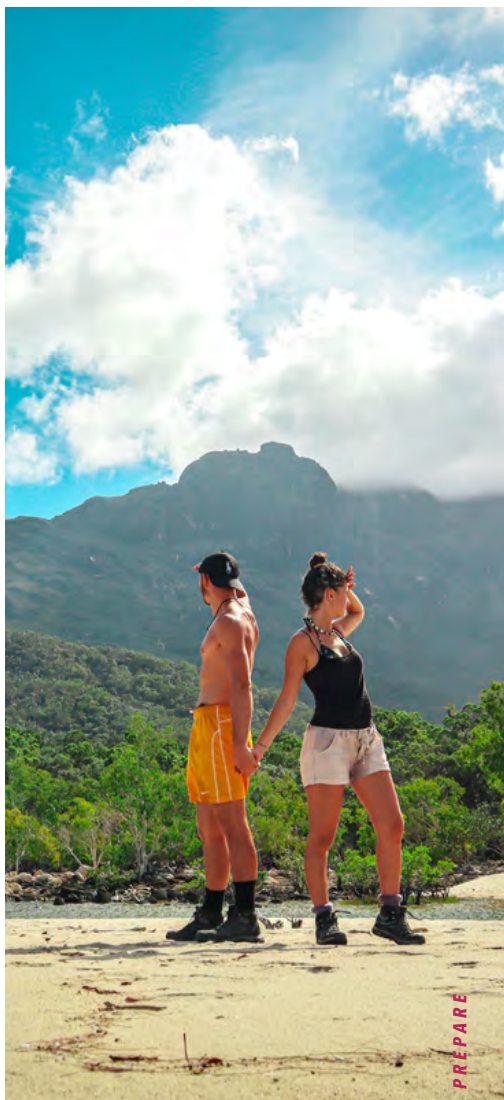
So for 1000€ you will get \$1630. There is a difference of more than 100 AUD!

TIPS TO TRANSFER YOUR MONEY

By going through international money transfer platforms, you will see exchange rates applied that are much more competitive than those of the banks. You will make great savings on each transfer! These international transfer platforms, according to our experience and the various user comments, are the most advantageous way to transfer money internationally. All these companies are very secure and their services have obviously been tested by us and many travellers. Here are the main ones:

WISE

This company has the accreditation of Starfield Technologies which controls this type of organization as well as the accreditation of the British Financial Conduct Authority. The transfers therefore respect all the criteria of security and anonymity.



Wise operates on a peer-to-peer system. You exchange currencies between users, going through an intermediary (Wise) and a secure platform.

Features:

- Real exchange rate
- 0.53% of the amount that's converted + 0.51 EURO (transfer EURO --> AUD)
- Transfer in 1 to 2 days (allow 5 days for your 1st transfer)
- Simple & easy system
- Application available on your mobile phone.

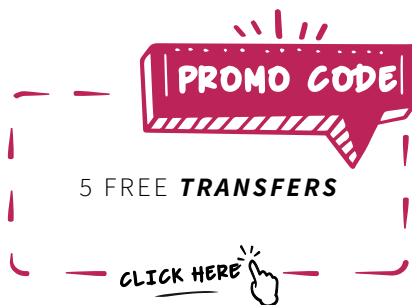


CURRENCYFAIR

CurrencyFair is a well-established company with offices in the United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and in Ireland where the headquarter is. The company is registered as a payment institution at the central bank of Ireland under regulation of the European Commission and also by the Australian Safety and Investment Commission.

Features:

- Fixed fee of 4AUD
- x5 Free transfers (from our link below)
- Exchange rate close to actual market rate
- Simple system
 - Extremely secured (more info to provide when you create your account)
- Application available on your mobile phone



OTHER WAYS TO TRANSFER YOUR MONEY

WITHDRAWING MONEY WITH YOUR NATIONAL CREDIT CARD

There are several banks and different types of credit cards, but with all of them, you have to pay fees when withdrawing money from an ATM in Australia. Most of the banks apply fixed fees for each withdrawal plus a commission on the withdrawal amount (usually between 2% and 3,5%).

For example, if you withdraw 100€:

- + 4€ of fixed fees,
- + 3% commission,
- + 2€ to pay to the bank of the country you are withdrawing from

$$= 100 + 4 + 100 * 0,035 = 109,5€$$

Using your bank services, you already lose approximately 10€ on a 100€ withdrawal!

And even if your bank is promising you a free withdrawal, just think about the exchange rate! Since banks apply low exchange rates, you will definitely lose money.

PAY WITH YOUR VISA CARD

By paying directly with your national card, you will still have international bank charges to pay. And depending on the bank, you will have a fixed rate + a commission rate relating to the amount of the payment. These fees and rates vary again depending on the bank. In general, they are slightly lower than those applied when withdrawing from an ATM.

In addition, an exchange rate is imposed by the VISA or MASTERCARD center for each purchase. This rate can be that of the same day or that of the day before. In all cases, it will be less interesting than the market exchange rate.

EXCHANGE MONEY IN EXCHANGE OFFICES

Exchange offices offer exchange rates lower than the market rate to obtain a commission on each exchange. Using those services is recommended for short trips or stopover in a country. But it is not suitable for people intending to live in the same country for several months. Moreover, be sure to avoid offices in airports as they usually offer even lower exchange rates!

WESTERN UNION

Western Union allows you to withdraw cash overseas. Its services are quick, however, its fee is pretty high. We recommend you to use this option only if you urgently need some cash.

PAY WITH PAYPAL

You also have the option of using PayPal. Be aware, however, that this service charges significant fees. PayPal will

charge you up to 5% border fees and over 3.5% conversion fees.

Remember to check the exchange rate applied by PayPal at the time of your transfer. Also check the transfer fees before choosing this option.



The Wombat



The wombat is a muscular quadrupedal marsupial found exclusively in Australia. It can live up to 15/20 years and can reach speeds of 40 km/hour while running! It is about 1 meter long and weighs up to 35 kg. Wombats are herbivores. They are nocturnal animals and rarely venture outside their burrows during the day. They graze between 3 and 8 hours a night. Where to see them: Between Adelaide (South Australia) and Stanthorpe (Queensland), Tasmania. They are mainly found in the forests, mountains, and plains located in southeastern Australia.





CHOOSE YOUR ARRIVAL CITY



CHOOSING YOUR ARRIVAL TOWN will depend on several factors. Here are some tips to help you pick.

SYDNEY seems to be the most “logical” arrival destination. It is the best known city in Australia for its iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge. The weather is hot and humid during summer, and cool during winter.

MELBOURNE is the second city in Australia, attracting a large number of Europeans for its cafe culture, arty vibes. Melbourne has warm summers and cold winters.

BRISBANE is the capital city of the

sunshine state, Queensland. It is popular with backpackers because it has the most sun (300 years per year!) and is right next to the Gold Coast. Brisbane has a sub-tropical climate.

PERTH, more isolated on the west coast is growing rapidly and is perfect for those who want an immediate change of scenery. Perth has very hot summers and cool winters.

ADELAIDE, “city of churches”, is a lot more attractive than it sounds. Adelaide is bang on the doorstep of

some of most famous wine regions. Adelaide has hot summers and mild winters.

CAIRNS, in the extreme north-east of Australia, is a mini paradise ideally-situated to access the Great Barrier Reef. With a tropical climate, it is hot all year round up there!

GOLD COAST, is well known in Australia and is a perfect spot to surf.

CHOOSING YOUR ARRIVAL TOWN DEPENDING ON THE SEASONS

In Australia the seasons are the opposite to the northern hemisphere (Europe, US & Canada)! Remember that when it's summer for us, it's winter in Australia!

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER - SPRING

Spring is the second season where you can travel all over Australia. You just need to be careful in the northern part of the country because the wet season officially starts in October so it can already be very hot and humid. This season is ideal to discover the southern part of Australia without suffering the extreme heat of summer, and without the numerous tourists.

DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY - SUMMER

The Australian summer is a good time to visit the southern states (NSW, VIC, SA & southern WA). In general it is still quite hot - between 25 and 40°C, sometimes more! In Sydney, the weather is sometimes a mixed bag, because the heat can bring rain afterwards. But in general the weather is good and warm.

Good to know: The main vacation period in Australia (the equivalent of our "summer holidays") stretch from mid-December to the end of January. Tourist sites are busier and hotel/campsite prices increase.

MARCH TO MAY - AUTUMN

In Autumn you can travel more or less anywhere in Australia. In the southern half of the country, the temperatures are pleasant (20-25°C). In the northern half it is the end of the wet season, so it will be warm and humid. There is still a risk of flooding, so be careful! And you've already guessed it, ideally to avoid the humidity in the north and the rather cool temperatures in the south, is to visit the middle!

JUNE TO AUGUST - WINTER

In winter, the best region to visit is the Top End, the most northern part of the country (North Queensland and Northern Territory). It's the dry season here, and temperatures are not extreme (but still 30-35°C). In the south it can be very cool or even chilly. It even snows in the mountains of Victoria! In Sydney or Melbourne, winter temperatures remain reasonable, starting at 10°C in the morning and 18°C in the daytime.

NEED TO BUY A VEHICLE?

If you plan to buy a vehicle, avoid landing in a city that is too small where the choices will be limited. There are more offers in Sydney, the main city of arrival for backpackers. On the other hand, prices are higher there, especially during the summer (November to January).

GOOD TO KNOW : If you want to save money when buying a vehicle (a van for example), there are not many buyers in Sydney in winter (June to August), so you can sometimes find some great bargains at cut prices!

NEED TO WORK QUICKLY?

no doubt need to find a job quickly. If you want to work in town, how easy it is to find a job depends on when you arrive. Take into consideration that a big “wave” of backpackers arrive in Sydney between August and January. If you want to work on the farms straight away, remember to check the fruit picking seasons, **PAGE 106**.

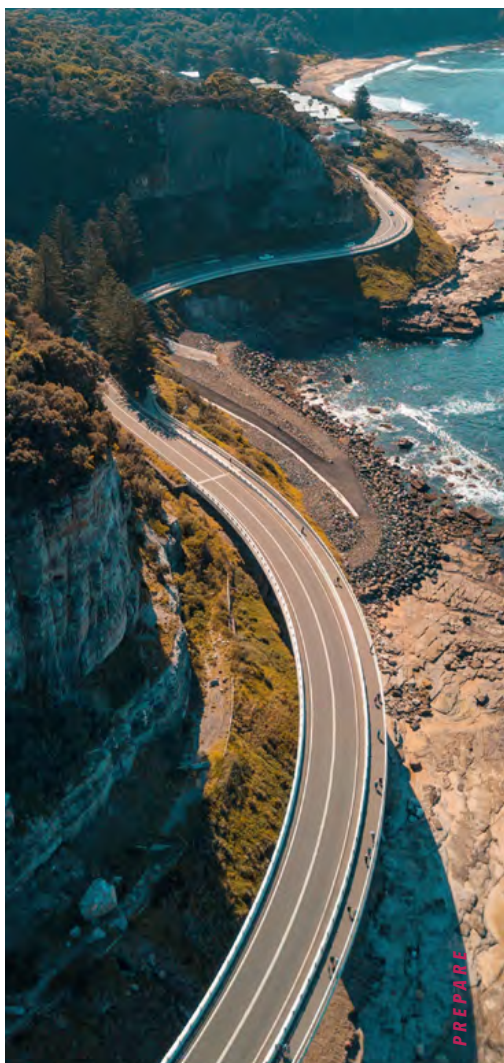
DO YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

If you want to start your trip by discovering particularly distinctive regions, very different from your home country, start with the west coast and north of Australia. On the other hand, if you do not feel comfortable with camping, we recommend you start with the east coast. It is more developed, you will have access to better services and more comfort (showers, toilets, supermarkets....), and will feel less isolated.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRAVEL ALL AROUND AUSTRALIA?

If your goal is to do the “big loop”, remember to make a route plan taking into account the weather conditions and the harvest seasons for picking. Even if you do not follow it to the letter, it will allow you to evaluate your progress compared to the initial plan.

You may be able to readjust your project. Sometimes it is better to “sacrifice” part of the country to be able to enjoy the rest. If you don’t have time to stop and enjoy the different points of interest, it may not be worth it...





-5%

CAMPERVAN RENTALS

PROMO CODE

GUIDEEN

WWW.TRAVELLERS-AUTOBARN.COM.AU

CHOOSING YOUR MODE OF TRANSPORT



YOUR MEANS OF TRANSPORT during your trip will be decisive in your stay. It will be taken into account for your city of arrival and will have consequences on your budget. But you can completely leave without making a decision and advise on the spot!

WITHOUT A VEHICLE

When you choose to travel to Australia without a vehicle, the country's approach is somewhat different. As you know, Australia is a big country and the distances between cities are long. To get around, you will have to take a plane, a bus or the train. You can also find travel partners to rent a vehicle together and take a trip with them.

In any case, you will most often travel from town to town via different means of transport. You will therefore be required to work in the city most of the time. Indeed, most farms are in rural, even isolated areas that are difficult to reach using public transport.

By living in the city and depending on the time you spend there, you can stay in youth hostels or even rent a shared apartment.

ADVANTAGES

- Less risk (no exposure to the bush and its potential dangers, no risk

of breaking down and therefore additional costs

- Better social life (life in towns and staying in youth hostels makes it easier to meet people).
- No complications from buying and later selling a vehicle

DISADVANTAGES

- More expensive (accommodation & daily life is more expensive than in rural areas).
- You will be dependent on others to get around (car-sharing, public transport...)
- More difficult to find work in the agricultural sector
- Limited opportunities to discover rural Australia and the Outback
- Transport costs (in town and across the country).
- Effort spent organizing travel (booking tickets, looking for accommodation in town when you arrive...)

GO ON A ROAD TRIP

Never-ending highways, fabulous landscapes and strange little towns hidden in the middle of nowhere... Australia is without doubt paradise for road trippers! In general it's very easy to drive in Australia, once you get used to driving on the left!

When you decide to travel in Australia, it is important to be aware of the number of kilometres between towns and to you're your itinerary: where you will stop, and in the most isolated areas, where you will fill up with petrol. The distances separating towns are huge and require some planning on your part! However, Australian roads are generally really well maintained and you will be able to drive around the country on any conventional vehicle. Of course, a 4WD will be essential if you intend to drive extensively in National Parks or any remote locations.

ADVANTAGES

- Freedom to discover the country exactly how you want to.
- More flexibility as you travel.
- Easier to find a job
- Storage space (no need to pack and repack your bags each time you move).
- Low accommodation costs (tent or sleeping in your vehicle).
- Outdoor life, closer to nature.
- Easier to meet the locals.

DISADVANTAGES

- Mechanical problems could incur high costs.
- May feel more isolated (sometimes

not so easy to meet people).

- Need a lump sum at the start of your trip to purchase the vehicle
- Less comfortable living conditions (hygiene, not sleeping in a bed, limited cooking facilities, more exposed to weather conditions...)



***FORGOT TO CHECK TO THE
REGO BEFORE BUYING A
VEHICLE***



***NOT CHECKING THE
SEASONS BEFORE
STARTING YOUR ROAD TRIP***

***PAYING A DEPOSIT TO
SECURE A JOB POSITION***



***REPLYING TO A FARM
JOB AD ON GUMTREE
WITHOUT CHECKING THE
BUSINESS ADDRESS & ABN***

mistakes to avoid





WHICH WAY TO DRIVE AROUND?



FOR THOSE willing to travel around Australia with a vehicle, it is recommended to do some research in advance.

Even if for most of us, travel equals adventure, it is still important to do a minimum amount of preparation.. If you go off from the wrong direction, for example, this may have certain consequences.

For example, you may find yourself in a state where the harvest season is over, arrive in the middle of the wet season, in winter, or experience other bad weather.

To avoid this, we recommend that you find out a minimum about the

direction you intend to take with an estimated schedule of your trip..

IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT to know how long you will take to cross a particular state, but depending on your date and place of return, try to establish a schedule and consult it every 2 months for example. Take into account the distances which can be very long. If you exceed your schedule, plan to travel 200 km per day, know that it will already be a fairly steady pace!

A RULE OF THUMB

For those who will be traveling for a year, count an average of two months per state (not counting the ACT and Tasmania).

Consider checking state seasons, harvest times, and events you want to avoid or not miss.

It is common to meet people who have misjudged their time, and then have to rush a whole part of the country!

CRITERIA TO THINK ABOUT

- Seasons
- Bad weather
- Wildlife: whale migration for example
- Harvest seasons
- Specific events: festivals for example
- Visits from your parents or friends
- The airport you will leave from

Depending on where you arrive, you can consider whether you want to start with a very distinctive, isolated region of Australia or with a more touristy area (east coast)..

YOUR ROUTE

Those who cannot or do not want to do the full circle, will no doubt still need to do a half circle: either the east coast via the Red Centre and Uluru, or the west coast. This choice has consequences because according to whether you choose east or west you will discover a very different face of Australia.

We strongly recommend you flick through our guide to decide which route interests you most.

To give you the big picture, the west coast is the wildest. Distances are long

from one place to another (sometimes no town for 200km),

but the coast offers magnificent views and beaches as far as you can see with no tourists! Ningaloo Reef in the northern part of WA is the “small barrier reef” of the west, less touristy than the Great Barrier Reef and closer to the shore. If you go there between March and July, you can try the unique experience of swimming with whale sharks.

The East coast, most populated and most often visited, also offers magnificent beaches, just like the image you have of Australia (surfers, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney.....). There are towns every 50km maximum and it is almost impossible to feel isolated.

The Northern Territory is also wild and packed with natural beauty for example Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National Park.

If you want to do a loop, the Red Centre is a unique experience in Australia, hosting all the country's major emblems: Uluru, Kata Tjuta et Kings Canyon.

PACKING YOUR BAG



GIVEN THE REMARKABLE QUANTITY

of sunshine, temperatures that can go above 40°C, you will obviously need to take sun cream and sunglasses. Shorts and T-shirts will be appropriate dress for most of your trip.

But, remember, it's not necessarily easy to avoid winter in Australia. And, despite our preconceptions, it can get cold! This vast continent has contrasting seasons and nights can be chilly.

It is recommended to take at least a big jumper/fleece and/or a jacket, but you don't need to overload yourself because you can always buy what you need over there.

If you are travelling and working in rural zones, bring comfortable clothes and shoes. If you stay in town, standards of dress are similar to ours. Australians dress up to go out, but they are less likely to refuse entry into a club for not wearing a shirt.

Remember that airlines set a weight limit for luggage. Usually it is 20kg for checked luggage (max. 2 pieces per person). With certain companies the limit is 30kg, or you can pay extra for another 10kgs!

Your hand luggage can usually be up to 7kg.

In any case, you can always find clothes once in Australia, at higher or lower prices depending on your budget. Remember to visit the Op Shop (Vinnies, Red Cross) to find second-hand clothes and accessories at low prices.

Also remember to make your useful docs, passport etc. accessible in your hand luggage!

USEFUL TIP: Opt for a backpack, easier to carry and pack! If you are planning to travel at some point it will be more convenient. 60/70L are appropriate. Choose a backpack with lots of pockets and compartments so you don't have to search for a small object in the central part full of gear! There are backpacks designed specifically for men or women (straps are placed differently).

ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA FIRST STEPS



AT THE AIRPORT

During your flight you should be given a landing card to complete (Incoming Passenger Card). On arrival at customs, you will give in your card together with your passport and your visa will then be activated for 12 months.

As in every foreign country, there are restrictions on food items you can bring in. All foods of animal or plant origin should be declared to customs. For more information on this subject, consult the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service website:

CLICK HERE.

Each passenger can bring up to 25g of tobacco or 25 cigarettes and 2,25L of alcohol. If you are planning on bringing a pet, remember that any animal coming from abroad will be placed in quarantine for a minimum of 10 days (conditions applied).

TRANSFER TO YOUR ACCOMMODATION

If you want to go straight to your accommodation on arrival, some hostels offer a shuttle service (often free), so contact them in advance to find out about this. Otherwise, a taxi is relatively expensive (approximately \$50) , so go for public transport.

Follow the signs, or ask an employee at the airport. Airport Link, the train line is accessible directly from the airport and cost \$19 to get to the city centre (there is no train circulating between midnight and 5am). Allow 20 to 30 minutes to reach the city centre.

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

It's not a myth: Australia is big! As soon as you arrive, you will notice it. Also, getting around Australia can become a real hassle if you are not prepared.

If taking a taxi or Uber can help out on a trip, it could be very expensive in the longer term. If you plan to settle in a city for a while, you will have to travel to visit accommodation, look for work or simply do your shopping. Unless you have a budget to buy a vehicle, find out about the transport cards available in your city of arrival. They will allow you to travel by bus, train, tram, metro, ferry and sometimes even bicycle at a lower cost. Here are the names of the transport cards in the major major cities:

- Sydney: Opal card (free)
- Brisbane/Sunshine Coast/Gold Coast: Go card
- Melbourne: Myki
- Perth : SmartRider card
- Adelaide : metroCARD

In general, all you have to do is buy a card for around ten dollars at an automatic terminal or at a counter, then top it up to travel according to your needs: for a specific amount, or by the day, by the week, by the month...

GROCERY SHOPPING

In Australia, there are mainly three major supermarket chains: Coles, Woolworths and IGA.

The Coles and Woolworths brands offer good products at reasonable prices. Prices between stores vary according to their location (isolated or not). IGAs are generally smaller and offer slightly more expensive prices. Their “Black and Gold” brand remains accessible, however choose the big brands for lower prices.

Apart from these 3 brands, you will find Foodworks or Aldi stores, only present in certain states.

To save money, remember to aim for “Reduced” products, which are more common at the end of the day on the shelves. Cut products are generally less expensive than on the shelf (eg bacon, ham, cheese...) and for fresh products think of the markets (better price/quality!)

For lovers of cheese and dairy products, the shelves are rather limited, but meat lovers will on the contrary be served on the choice side!

You will also find an entire section dedicated to medicines (aspirins,

vitamins, etc.) sold in self-service.

Once at the checkout, you will inevitably hear the question “Any cash out?”, understand: Do you want to withdraw cash? You can therefore withdraw money at the cash desk at the same time as you pay for your groceries. This service is free.

Finally, be aware that alcohol is sold exclusively in “Liquor Shops”. You will find them right next to supermarkets or in shopping streets.

For more information on shopping and especially how to save money, see our **DEALS PAGE**.



Things that shocked me



1 Distances are impressive and almost all highways are limited to 100km/h

2 You can't drive at night because of kangaroos

3 Lifestyle is different. Everything closes early and people wake up really early.



4 Australians put beetroot in burgers and chili in many dishes.

5 Rents are generally paid weekly and salaries are paid every 2 weeks.



INTERNET AND PHONE PLANS



ONE of the first things you will need when you arrive in Australia is a phone number and internet access. If your phone from home can help you out at the beginning (provided you have unlocked it for use abroad), it is strongly recommended to take out a mobile plan on site.

HAVING AN AUSTRALIAN PHONE NUMBER

Whether it is to find accommodation, a job and even sometimes to open a bank account, an Australian phone number is essential.

The easiest way to get one is to buy a prepaid Sim card. The simcard costs between 0 and 2 AUD, and then you pay to top-up as needed. You will find them in supermarkets, post offices, tobacconists and even for sale at the airport.

The main operators are:

- Telstra
- Optus
- Vodafone
- Virgin
- Amaysim

Telstra is the main telephone operator in Australia and covers practically all the territory, but the prices are

higher than other companies. If you are planning to travel around the country, we recommend you go with Telstra to have best coverage. If you are going to stay in town you will have good coverage whichever operator you choose so you can go for the best offer!

ACCESS TO INTERNET

Internet access is often available in public libraries (free WiFi). Most McDonalds, Hungry Jacks (Australian Burger King), and main shopping areas/shopping centres also offer free WiFi, although it can be slow. You can also find free access in some backpacker travel agencies or cafés in cities. However, outside the main cities (eg West coast, north, centre, outback) it can be hard and expensive to connect (\$2 for 20 mins) so we recommend purchasing a 4/5G thumb drive so you can connect wherever you are.

HOW TO FIND ACCOMMODATION



BACKPACKER HOSTEL

Youth Hostels are everywhere in Australia. Appreciated by newly-arrived backpackers, it is the ideal solution for taking your bearings and finding other accommodation or buying a vehicle. These hostels are an economical way to stay, prices ranging from \$40 to \$80 for one night. Reductions are often offered if you stay from 1 or more weeks.

Beds offered range from private rooms to dormitories (mixed or single-sex) from 8-12 people. The more privacy you have the more you will pay! You will have to share kitchen and bathroom. Most hostels also have a communal area with a billiard or ping pong table and a television..

Hostel prices can vary depending on the season, they can also show full in big cities, find out before and remember to book at least one night for your arrival.

Here are the main Backpack chains that can be found in all Australian cities:

- YHA : www.yha.com.au
- NOMADS : www.nomadsworld.com
- BASE : www.stayatbase.com

In Sydney, count on average \$500 for 15 days in a dormitory of 8.

HOW TO FIND A HOSTEL

Hostels are easy to recognize thanks to their signs. You can also ask at Visitor Centres who can usually provide a map for you to find the hostel of your choice. Given the number of options, this is also a good way to get some advice on which to choose.

But to find the best deal available and get comments from other visitors, we recommend to use the website **BOOKING.COM**.

TIP: If you stay a few weeks in the same hostel, ask to work for the establishment (reception, cleaning, driving the shuttle) in exchange for free or reduced price accommodation.

SHARE HOUSE

If you want to stay in town for a long time, this is the ideal solution! The principle is to share an apartment with several other backpackers or locals. You have your own bedroom and share the kitchen and bathroom with the other occupants. Rent is usually paid weekly or every two weeks. Count around \$300/week for a small room. As a couple, you will easily find offers

between \$400 and \$550/week in the city center (in Sydney for example).

WHERE TO FIND HOUSE SHARE ADS?

The first step to find ads for sharing apartments is THE reference website in Australia: “Gumtree”! www.gumtree.com.au

You can also look at what’s available on websites specialized in house-sharing such as www.housemates.com.au or www.flatmates.com.au

Shops, bars, cafés, backpacker hostels often have a notice board with house share ads. Take a look at these to find some bargains.

In town, always look around you. You can find ads all over the place (supermarkets, stuck to lampposts...). Word of mouth is also very effective for finding a place, so talk about it to everyone you meet – you never know!

Bear in mind that in Australia you can rent for 1, 2 or 3 weeks, as well as for longer periods. Most landlords will ask for a deposit, the “bond”. The amount varies (usually 2 weeks’ rent), and you get it back when you leave as long as there is no damage to the property or contents during your stay.

Beware!

Beware of scams! Never pay more than 2 weeks in advance and never give money before signing anything and having the keys!

RENTING AN APARTMENT

It is easy to rent an apartment in Australia if you want more privacy. The procedure is relatively simple and very similar to Europe and North America. You usually rent through an agency rather than directly from the owner.

When you visit an apartment, you can take an “Application form” which, if you are interested in renting the property, needs to be completed and given to the agency along with other documents. You will need to provide information such as your passport number, your previous address, your employment, financial and professional references...

You should also supply copies of:

- Your passport, driving licence
- Your employment contract, your last payslips...
- References from previous landlords or agencies, or even your employer.

The more documents and references you can provide, the better the chance that you will succeed in convincing them to give you the apartment.

When you have finally obtained the apartment you want, you should have an appointment with your landlord where you inspect the apartment together and complete a Tenant-Landlord check list (Condition Report) recording the state of the apartment and everything in it. You keep a copy of this.

NB: If you are on a working holiday visa, agencies may want to avoid

renting to backpackers, so it may be difficult to find an apartment unless you flat-share with others

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

To rent an apartment, you will need to pay:

- The deposit (The bond). The amount varies according to the type of accommodation (expect to pay 4 weeks' rent for an empty apartment).
- The first month's rent, or at least the first 2 weeks, payable in advance.

Read the conditions carefully on your contract to avoid any surprises. Check the duration of your rental because it can be expensive to get out of a contract early in Australia. If you leave your rental before the end, you will have to pay the sum of the rents until the date agreed upon signing. You can also make arrangements with the agency or the owner to find someone to replace you.

To get back your deposit, you will need to complete a "claim for refund of bond money" request form. Also be aware that landlords in Australia have every right to prohibit you from having a pet in your home.

Rent prices can be very versatile depending on the size of the property, location and number of tenants. But to give you a rough idea:

- Share room Sydney CBD: From \$300/ week
- Private room Sydney CBD: From \$350/ week

OTHER OPTIONS

COUCH SURFING

"Couchsurfing" can be option to help you out when you first arrive in a new country. Practical and cheap, it is now a common practice. You can stay temporarily, free of charge, with a resident who can offer their sofa, a sofa bed or sometimes even a guest room. This friendly and open concept offers an opportunity to meet people and to get some great local tips from your host!

To take part in couchsurfing, you need to sign up (free of charge) on the website, in order to see the ads:

www.couchsurfing.org

You will need to provide personal information and will have access to files about the hosts. (NB Don't count on couchsurfing in cities such as Sydney where accommodation is expensive and everyone would like to couchsurf! It's very unlikely you will find anything.)

AIRBNB

Finding accommodation on Airbnb can also be a good temporary solution. You can choose according to the suburb that interests you and this will be a good starting point to discover the city. You can choose between a homestay or an entire accommodation depending on your budget. It is also a good way to get lots of information and tips from your hosts.

HOUSE SITTING

As a house sitter, you are usually employed to look after a house or apartment whose owners are away for a



while. For most homeowners, the most important reason to get a house sitter is to know their pets are in good hands, as well as knowing their house is protected against burglary or damage. Usually your main tasks will revolve around looking after pets; feeding them, going for a walk, cleaning out litter boxes and spending time with them. You may also be asked to do things such as water plants and empty the mailbox. In return, you stay in their house without paying rent and can explore the local area. It is a win-win situation.

WORKING AS AN AU PAIR

Another simple idea: you receive accommodation, food, and payment in exchange for work within the household, mainly looking after the children in your host family. They may also ask you to do other tasks such as housework, preparing meals etc. You work around 30 hours a week for a salary of around \$300.

To find a host family you need to sign up with specialist organizations (most of which you have to pay for).

www.aupair-australia.net

www.aupair-world.co.uk

It is also possible to contact families directly by looking for ads for “family wants au pair” (on Gumtree or Facebook).

WWOOFING

Wwoofing is very popular in Australia. You receive accommodation and meals in exchange for working on the farm. Your hosts provide a roof

(caravan, room, tent), and feed you, in exchange for your help managing their property.

To take part in the programme you need to sign up on the website and pay to gain access to all the contacts on the site : www.wwoof.com.au

Registration costs \$70 for 2 years (\$120 if you register for two) and includes a list of all the hosts' contacts and a basic insurance policy covering you in the event of an accident in the workplace. You will also have access to the Wwoofing application from your phone.

More info on Wwoofing [CLICK HERE](#).

HELP EXCHANGE

This programme is based on the same concept as the wwoofing. You again need to sign up to the website on their website and become a member to access the ads: www.helpx.net
Registration costs 20€ and is valid for 2 years.

Good to know

Bushfire recovery work carried out after July 2019 in affected areas is eligible specified work for the purpose of a second or third Work and Holiday visa. Similarly, flood recovery work carried out from January 2022 in affected areas of Australia is eligible specified work for the purpose of a second or third Work and Holiday visa applications.

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

"A one of a kind cinematic venture
that only comes around every decade or so"
THE WRITERS' GUILD

MIA WASIKOWSKA ADAM DRIVER

TRACKS

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF THE KING'S SPEECH



LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND



HEATH LEDGER

ORLANDO BLOOM

NAC WAT

WHEN THE LAW TRIED TO SILENCE HIM
A LEGEND WAS BORN.

NED KELLY



RED DOG

He's been everywhere mate.

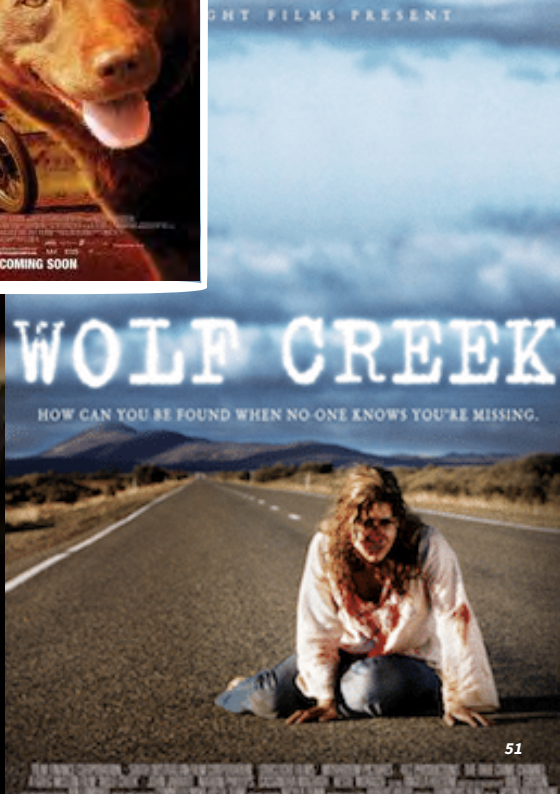


IN CINEMAS COMING SOON



SAMSON & DELILAH

TRUE LOVE



WOLF CREEK

HOW CAN YOU BE FOUND WHEN NO ONE KNOWS YOU'RE MISSING.



WHAT TO DO ON ARRIVAL



OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

To open a bank account in Australia, you can either :

- Open an account over the internet from the UK/Ireland/US before you leave. Check with your bank in case they are linked with Australian banks, which could be another way to transfer money before you arrive.
- Go to the bank of your choice to open an account within 6 weeks of your arrival in Australia. (After 6 weeks it can be more difficult with stricter conditions.)

The main banks are: Westpac, ANZ, NAB and Commonwealth. We advise you to choose one of these banks so you can access your account and withdraw in any state or territory.

Opening an account is easy and quick. Simply go the bank you have chosen and ask for a current account ("day to day banking account"). You will need to provide your passport and an address (which can be your address in your home country or the address of your hostel, friend etc). You will need to order your debit card that will be received to your postal address within a few days or you can decide to pick it up from the branch a few days later. Most of the banks will also offer you to open a 'saving account' that could be useful if you want to put some money aside. It may also be a good idea to open your superannuation account with your bank as it will make it easier to withdraw the money at the end of your visa.



OPEN A SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT

If you intend to work in Australia, consider opening a superannuation account, i.e. a retirement savings account. You can choose the ‘Superannuation account’ of your choice.

Your employer is required to pay retirement contributions into this account. So if you don’t open it, he will do it for you.

You can set it up with your bank when you open your bank account when you arrive in Australia. You can also choose a specialized organization yourself (Ausfund, AustralianSuper, CBUS, ClubPlus, SunSuper etc). Knowing the details of this account, you will have the advantage of being able to consult and follow the evolution of the fund and the money available online.

GET YOUR TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN)

A Tax File Number is a personal number which identifies you as an Australian worker for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Anyone who wants to work in Australia needs a TFN. When you start a job, you must provide your employer with your TFN within 28 days. After this date, you will be taxed on your salary. Make sure you obtain your TFN as soon as you arrive.

To get a TFN, you can simply connect to the ATO website: [CLICK HERE](#).

You will need your passport, a phone number and an address in Australia (hostel, apartment, campsite, friend’s address, poste restante etc); you complete a form online, and then you receive your TFN by post within 28 days.

Requesting a Tax File Number is free. For nomads, you can obtain your TFN by telephone: call 13 28 61 (Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm). A staff will give you your TFN after checking your identity (name, date of birth, passport number etc).

GET AN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER (ABN)

If you want to do freelance work with selfemployed status, you need to obtain an 11-digit ABN (Australian Business Number) which identifies you to the Australian government. If you are not sure whether you are eligible to get an ABN, we recommend to pop in to your closest ATO office and speak with one of the staff members.

You can request an ABN from the ATO, either in person at their offices, or on their website. Remember that you need to obtain your TFN first because you will need it to obtain the ABN. Applying for an ABN is totally free.

When you have an ABN, taxes will no longer be taken directly off your salary before you receive it so you will need to put some money aside to pay your taxes at the end of the financial year (31 June). When completing your tax return, you will need to enter the revenues received under your ABN and those received under your TFN (as an employee). Therefore you will only complete one tax return with the information related to your TFN and ABN..

GETTING READY TO GO BACK HOME



BANK

Some of you don't want to close your account when you leave Australia. This for several reasons: desire to return in a few months, do not want to withdraw the money from their account but prefer to transfer it, or even waiting for a final payment from an employer, etc.

In this case, remember to go to your bank to notify them that you are leaving the country.

Indeed, be aware that for example to add a beneficiary to an account with certain banks, such as Westpac for example, it is necessary to receive a security code on your phone. So if you leave the territory without notifying your bank and then want to transfer money from your Australian account to your national account, you will not be able to receive this code because your Australian phone number will no longer be active. To avoid finding yourself in this situation, go to your bank. The bank can deactivate this security code (it will therefore no longer be necessary) or change the telephone number linked to your account to replace it with a German number (for example that of your parents). Note that you also have

the option of asking your bank to provide you with a token. This small device allows you to receive a security code for free no matter where you are. This box is normally provided free of charge by your bank (it varies according to the bank).

In any case, remember to notify your bank before leaving Australia to simplify your return.

TRANSFER YOUR MONEY TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY

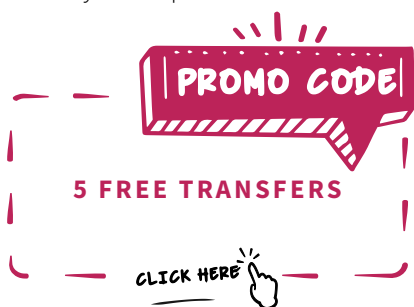
If you are preparing your return, you are probably wondering how to transfer your money with the minimum cost. For this, there are many possible options, but some are more advantageous than others. Again, as for your arrival in Australia, we advise you to go through an international money transfer platform, the most economical way to transfer your funds.

The main advantage of going through this type of company is that the exchange rates are much more competitive than those of the banks.

We recommend that you use one of these approved and secure platforms:

CURRENCYFAIR

- Exchange rate very close to the market rate
- Very secure system
- Only 4 AUD per transfer and the next 5 transfers are free (thanks to our partnership)
- Transfer time ranging from 1 to 2 days (4 to 5 days for the 1st transfer)
- Easy to use platform



WISE

- Real exchange rate
- Online assistance for your transfers
- Fee of 0.53% of the amount that's converted + 0.51 Euro (transfer EURO --> AUD)
- Transfer time 1-2 days (4-5 days for 1st transfer)
- Ergonomic and simple system
- Mobile app available



CLAIM GST ON EXPENSES

It is possible to recover VAT on items (not especially electronic) purchased in Australia. This is the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS). For this, several conditions must be met:

- You will need to have bought the goods in person in a period of 60 days before your departure date.
- The total amount of goods has to be \$300 or more. Your purchases must be from a single business. It can be more than one items but only if they have been bought in the same shop. If you bought items from one business, even on separate invoices, that together total AUD 300, these items could be eligible for a tax refund.
- Have an original invoice
- You must have the goods on you (hand luggage (be careful with liquid products)).

The refund is made at the airport, after the customs. Look for signs indicating Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS). The refund can be paid into an Australian bank account, to a credit card, or by cheque. It will be made within 60 days of the claim being lodged.

More info : [CLICK HERE](#)

GET YOUR SUPERANNUATION BACK

When you work in Australia, your employer must pay 11% of your salary to a superannuation organization, it is a contribution for your retirement. This contribution is paid in addition to your salary.

Normally, you can only access your contributions at retirement age. However, for temporary residents, when you leave Australia, you can recover this contribution. You must be outside the territory to apply for it and your visa must have expired.

Claiming your super is free. However, you cannot get the full amount of your superannuation back. A 65% tax will be deducted when you claim your superannuation. Also a management fee is often deducted.

If you leave Australia before the end of your visa and wish to recover your superannuation, you will have to cancel your current visa from your immiaccount.

THE PROCESS

To claim your super, you will need to visit the ATO website. You will need to complete an online form on the ATO website.

When completing the form, you will need to provide:

- your name, date of birth and other personal details
- email address
- your passport number
- Australian tax file number (TFN)
- your super account details – including your super fund's Australian business number (ABN) and your member number. These informations can be found online when accessing your super account.

Most of the time you will need to attach a certified copy of your visa, or any evidence showing that your visa has ceased to be in effect, together with a certified copy of your passport.

You can also choose how to receive payment of your super. It can be either by cheque or via an International money transfer to your financial

institution overseas. Note here that if you require a money transfer to your bank overseas, you will be charge additional transfer fees. Once completed just lodge the form online.

The service standard for processing a DASP claim is 28 days from the date you lodged your complete application.

More information: [CLICK HERE](#)



SEND A PACKAGE

The weight of your bag in the hold will be limited for your return to Europe (from 20 to 30 kg depending on the airline). If you want to send business to Germany, you have several options. The first is obviously to find out about the weight limit authorized by your airline. If you are overweight you can look at how much excess baggage costs you, but on long haul the rates are very high (count nearly 50 AUD/kg depending on the company).

VIA THE POSTOFFICE

The most common and often the most cost-effective solution is to send a package by post (maximum 20kg). You can get an estimate online by going to their website, and indicating the characteristics of your package. Count about 20 days for a parcel shipment to Europe by air, and 2 to 3 months by boat. Know that if you want to send a parcel by boat (cheaper) it needs to be at least 2kg, otherwise you will only have the option of sending by plane.

Online quote : auspost.com.au/apps/postage-calculator.html

VIA A PRIVATE COMPANY

Finally, you can request a quote online on the website of companies specializing in international shipments. The main companies are:

- Fedex
- UPS
- DHL

PSYCHOLOGICALLY MANAGE YOUR RETURN TO EUROPE

For many travelers returning home

can be quite a difficult transition. After having lived so intensely and freely for several months, even years, finding your city, housing, a job and your daily life can be complicated. We can have the impression that nothing has changed, that everyone still has the same little life and the same habits while on our side we have changed, evolved. So to try to remedy the return blues, here are some tips:

ANTICIPATE

Because yes, a trip needs to be prepared, but a return too! Try as much as possible to prepare for your return (housing, schedule, plans, etc.). The more ready and busy you are, the better it will go. Plan to visit family, friends, have personal or professional projects to motivate you and move forward.

SAVE

Arriving with some savings will allow you to have more freedom and less worries. You will be able to travel freely, you will not have the pressure to find a job in an emergency etc. So as for the departure, try to return with money.

HAVE PLANS

Try to set projects for yourself, because the worst thing is to have the feeling of having returned to the starting point and having no prospects. It feels like going backward which is never good. Whether professionally or personally, having a goal will give you motivation and keep your mind occupied.

KEEP MOVING

If adventure has been a revelation for you, then why not keep cultivating it! During trips to other countries in Europe, or in your way of life (seasonal jobs, living in a van, etc.)

DO NOT RETURN OR TRAVEL ELSEWHERE

You also have the option of continuing your journey once your visa has expired. You can for example decide to make a loop in Asia for a few weeks or months and then return slowly to your home country while making stops on the road. This could be a good transition as you will live this return trip as a vacation before going back home.

LOOK FOR SUPPORT

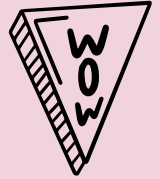
Via the community that has experienced the same things. Talk to your relatives or colleagues. It is always helpful to share your feelings with someone that would be able to guide you.

TRUST THE PROCESS

What travel teaches us is also that there are ups and downs but that we always end up bouncing back or adapting. So have confidence in yourself and don't ask yourself too many questions. The return is just a new adventure!



Must have mobile apps



1 **WikiCamps:** to find free and cheap campsites when you are on a Road Trip.

2 **Gumtree:** first site for free classifieds ads in Australia

3 **Fuel Map:** crowd-sourced database of petrol stations and fuel prices from all across Australia.



4 **Wise:** international money transfer app. To transfer money from abroad.

5 **XE Convert :** Currency App to track the latest conversion rates for all currencies!

