



Backpackers on board yacht, The Whitsundays

## What you need to know

### Passports and Visas

You need a passport to travel to Australia – valid for longer than the period of your stay. Visas are required by all visitors, except Australian and New Zealand passport holders.

### Language

English is predominant in Australia. Australian English has an array of unique words and phrases, spoken in a distinctive accent that often varies from region to region. As the most culturally diverse nation on earth, Australia is bound to speak your language. Multilingual personnel are usually available at international airports and major hotels. A free telephone interpreting service operates 24 hours a day within Australia, offering communication assistance in over 100 languages. Phone 131 450.

### Currency

Australian currency is decimal. The dollar is the basic unit – 100 cents (100c) = one dollar (\$1). Notes – \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coins – 5c, 10c, 20c,

### Customs Regulations

You may bring your own personal effects into Australia without paying duty. Over 18 years of age, you may also include 1.25 litres of alcohol and 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco – these must be carried with you. Dutiable goods up to the value of AUD400 included in personal baggage are exempt. Duty and sales tax are payable on dutiable good in excess of this amount. Strict regulations apply to all narcotics and controlled substances.

50c, \$1 and \$2. Traveller's cheques and all major credit cards are widely accepted. Currency exchange facilities – most foreign currencies - are available at Queensland's three international airports and City banks exchange money during business hours.

### Passenger Movement Charge

Departing international flight passengers pay a Passenger Movement Charge. Ex-Brisbane – AUD30 over the age of 12; ex-Cairns – AUD46 per adult and AUD8 per child under 12; ex-Sydney – AUD33.40 per adult and AUD3.40 per child under 12. The charge is generally incorporated in your airline ticket price. Please confirm prior to departure.

### Quarantine

The Australian continent is a land like no other with unique animals, plants and landscapes. Quarantine restrictions help keep it that way. Australia has among the strongest quarantine measure anywhere in the world and protection from unwanted pests and diseases is essential for its continued preservation. Failure to declare food, plant and animals material could result in serious fines. If you have any doubts when you arrive, please ask the uniformed Quarantine staff in the Customs Hall. For further information visit [www.aquis.gov.au](http://www.aquis.gov.au)

## Distance Charts

h = hours m = minutes ● Flying ● Driving

Brisbane

102km 68mi ● - ● 1h 20m	Gold Coast									
110km 73mi ● - ● 1h 20m	210km 140mi ● - ● 2h 50m	Nambour, Sunshine Coast								
263km 175mi ● 1h ● 3h 20m	330km 220mi ● - ● 4h 30m	155km 96mi ● - ● 2h	Maryborough							
300km 200mi ● 1h 15m ● 4h	367km 245mi ● - ● 5h	192km 128mi ● - ● 2h 36m	37.5km 25mi ● 15m ● 36m	Hervey Bay						
541km 361mi ● 2h 15m ● 6h 30m	608km 405mi ● - ● 7h 50m	4335km 289mi ● 5h 15m	283km 189mi ● 2h 40m ● 3h 20m	294km 196mi ● 3h 10m ● 3h 30m	Gladstone					
643km 429mi ● 1h 25m ● 7h 30m	7.09km 473mi ● - ● 9h	536km 357mi ● - ● 6h 20m	385km 257mi ● - ● 4h 20m	396km 264mi ● 4h 40m	110km 73mi ● 25m ● 1h 2m	Rockhampton				
980km 653mi ● 3h ● 11h 40m	1045km 697mi ● - ● 13h 20m	872km 581mi ● - ● 10h 20m	721km 481mi ● 3h ● 8h 40m	732km 488mi ● 4h 35m ● 8h 40m	445kms 297mi ● 1h 35m ● 5h 20m	336km 224mi ● 50m ● 4h	Mackay			
1370km 9.13mi ● 1h 55m ● 16h 20m	1434km 956mi ● - ● 18h	1262km 841mi ● - ● 15h	1111km 741mi ● 3h 30m ● 13h 10m	1123km 749mi ● 4h 35m ● 13h 30m	835km 557mi ● 3h 35m ● 10h	727km 485mi ● 2h 10m ● 8h 40m	391km 61mi ● 1h ● 4h 50m	Townsville		
1715km 1143mi ● 2h 10m ● 20h 50m	1779km 1186mi ● 3h ● 22h 40m	1608km 1072mi ● - ● 19h 40m	1457km 971mi ● 4h 5m ● 17h 45m	1468km 977mi ● 5h 10m ● 18h	1181km 977mi ● 4h 35m ● 14h 40m	1072km 715mi ● 3h 20m ● 13h 20m	736km 491mi ● 2h 15m ● 9h 20m	349km 233mi ● 55m ● 4h 40m	Cairns	

Brisbane

836km 557mi ● - ● 1h 45m	Emerald			
1074km 716mi ● - ● 2h 20m	309km 206mi ● - ● -	Barcardine		
1181km 787mi ● - ● 4h	417km 278mi ● - ● -	107km 71mi ● - ● 30m	Longreach	
1830km 1220mi ● 2h 30m	1066km 711mi ● 9h	754km 503mi ● - ● -	649km 433mi ● - ● -	Mt Isa

### Climate and Clothing

Australia's seasons are opposite to those in the northern hemisphere with summer officially starting in December and winter in June. For up-to-date and detailed information on Queensland's weather check the Bureau of Meteorology website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

The summer months (December to February) are warm to hot everywhere so bring lightweight, casual clothes but keep a jacket or a sweater handy as nights may be cool. For the winter months (June to August), warmer medium weight clothes plus sweater, jumpers, a jacket or light coat are advisable. Northern Australia has warm to hot days, mild coastal evenings, but inland nights can be cold. In tropical areas, lightweight clothing (natural fibres) is suitable all year round.

Depending on your destination, keep clothing light, layered and comfortable to cater for whatever you want to do. Protect yourself against the sun – don't forget to pack a sunhat, sunglasses and suntan lotion. For special occasions like business meetings, theatres, and formal dining, men may need a jacket and tie or suit and women a more formal dress.

### Time

Queensland follows 'Eastern Standard Time' throughout the year. Unlike Australia's southern states, Queensland does not have daylight saving during summer. Be careful to check the time if travelling to or from another state.

### Calling Queensland

Queensland's area code is 07 but the zero is left off when calling from outside Australia. To call Queensland direct from you country, dial:

1. Your country's international access code.
2. Australia's country code: 61
3. The Queensland area code: 7
4. The individual Queensland number.

For example, to call the Queensland number (07) 3456 7890 from your country dial:

(Your country's international access code) – 61 – 7 3456 7890.

### Tipping

Tipping is appreciated but not compulsory or expected. However, it is customary to tip a hotel porter for

his efforts, a restaurant for exceptional service (10% of the bill is typical) and a taxi driver for luggage assistance.

### Electricity

Australian voltage is 240 volts AC, 50 Hz. You need an adaptor plug for the standard Australian 3-pin socket. You may need a voltage converter. Most hotels have universal outlets for 240V or 110V shavers. Most hotels have universal outlets for 240V or 110V shavers.

### Disabled Visitors

Major facilities throughout Queensland provide easy access and use for disabled visitors. The Brisbane City Mall was the site of Australia's first 'Braille Trail' – a tactile guide for blind pedestrians. Many taxis are specially modified for wheelchairs. For more information, contact the Office of Disability at the Department of Family Services.

**Phone: +61(07) 3224 8031**

**Fax: +61(07) 3224 8037**

# Tourist Information

## Religion

All major religions are represented and you will find places of worship throughout Queensland.

## Alcohol Laws

In Australia liquor licensing laws do not allow alcohol to be purchased on behalf of, or served to young people under 18 years or to someone who may be intoxicated. Identification may be asked for before being admitted to licensed venues.

## Smoking

Smoking is banned in many places in Queensland, including all airports, government offices, health clinics and workplaces. Smoking in restaurants, clubs, pubs and shopping centres is also banned.

## Mobile Phones

Australia's mobile phone network operates on the 900 and 1800 bands for GSM and 800 for CDA. Contact your telecommunications carrier for activating international roaming while you are visiting Australia.

## Sun Protection

The Australian sun can be very intense so while enjoying outdoor activities in Australia's beautiful weather, minimise your exposure to the sun especially during the middle of the day when it is the hottest. Wear sunglasses, a broad-brimmed hat, cover up and apply frequently water-resistant sunscreen SPF30+ to exposed areas. Be aware of the danger of heat exhaustion and sunstroke and remember to drink plenty of water on hot days.

### GOLD COAST AND SUNSHINE COAST

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg Max Temp °C	28.5	28.3	27.6	25.9	23.3	21.2	20.6	21.4	23.3	25.2	26.7	28.1
Avg Max Temp °F	83.3	82.9	81.7	78.6	73.9	70.1	69.1	70.5	73.9	77.4	80.1	82.6
Avg Min Temp °C	20.3	20.5	19.2	16.5	13.4	10.6	9.2	9.8	12.1	15.0	17.4	19.2
Avg Min Temp °F	68.5	68.9	66.6	61.7	56.1	51.1	48.6	49.6	53.8	59.0	63.3	66.6
Water Temp °C	26.5	26.5	26.2	25.3	23.5	22.1	21.1	20.9	21.0	22.0	23.5	25.1
Water Temp °F	79.7	79.7	79.2	77.5	74.3	71.8	70.0	69.6	69.8	71.6	74.3	77.2

### BRISBANE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg Max Temp °C	29.2	29.0	28.1	26.4	23.5	21.2	20.6	21.8	23.8	25.7	27.3	28.7
Avg Max Temp °F	84.6	84.2	82.6	79.5	74.3	70.2	69.1	71.2	74.8	78.3	81.1	83.7
Avg Min Temp °C	20.9	20.9	19.6	17.1	13.8	11.0	9.5	10.1	12.6	15.7	18.0	19.8
Avg Min Temp °F	69.6	69.6	67.3	62.8	56.8	51.8	49.1	50.2	54.7	60.3	64.4	67.6
Water Temp °C	26.5	26.5	26.2	25.3	23.5	22.1	21.1	20.9	21.0	22.0	23.5	25.1
Water Temp °F	79.7	79.7	79.2	77.5	74.3	71.8	70.0	69.6	69.8	71.6	74.3	77.2

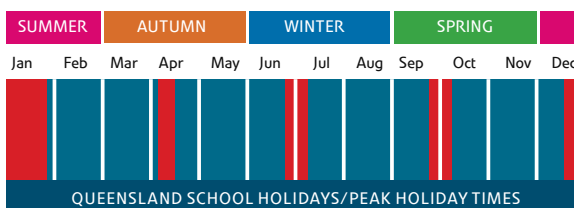
### WHITSUNDAYS AND MACKAY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg Max Temp °C	29.9	29.4	28.5	26.6	24.1	21.8	21.1	22.5	25.0	27.4	29.0	29.8
Avg Max Temp °F	85.8	84.9	83.3	79.9	75.4	71.2	70.0	72.5	77.0	81.3	84.2	85.6
Avg Min Temp °C	23.4	23.2	22.1	20.0	17.1	13.6	12.7	13.8	16.4	19.5	21.7	22.9
Avg Min Temp °F	74.1	73.8	71.8	68.0	62.8	56.5	54.9	56.8	61.5	67.1	71.1	73.2
Water Temp °C	28.5	28.0	27.8	26.3	24.8	23.1	21.9	21.8	22.5	25.2	26.0	27.2
Water Temp °F	83.3	82.4	82.0	79.3	76.6	73.6	71.4	71.2	72.5	77.4	78.8	81.0

### CAIRNS AND TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg Max Temp °C	31.4	31.1	30.5	29.1	27.5	25.8	25.6	26.5	27.9	29.4	30.5	31.3
Avg Max Temp °F	88.5	88.0	86.9	84.4	81.5	78.4	78.1	79.7	82.2	84.9	86.9	88.3
Avg Min Temp °C	23.6	23.6	23.0	21.5	19.9	17.6	17.1	17.4	18.7	20.5	22.2	21.6
Avg Min Temp °F	74.5	74.5	73.4	70.7	67.8	63.7	62.8	63.3	65.7	68.9	72.0	70.9
Water Temp °C	29.5	28.5	28.5	26.9	25.6	23.7	22.7	23.0	24.0	25.9	28.0	27.9
Water Temp °F	85.1	83.3	83.3	80.4	78.1	74.7	72.9	73.4	75.2	78.6	82.4	82.2

## Seasons



## Time Zones

Australia spans three time zones from east to west.

Eastern Standard Time (EST)  
NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, QLD

Central Standard Time (CST)  
SA, NT

Western Standard Time (WST)  
WA

CST is half an hour behind EST, while WST is two hours behind EST.

Daylight Saving – clocks put forward one hour.

Some Australian states and territories have daylight savings during the summer months. In New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and South Australia daylight savings runs from the end of October through to the end of March while in Tasmania, it is from the beginning of October through to the end of March. Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland do not have daylight saving.