

Australia Highlights

CANADIAN EDITION



Main Menu

Australia is a very popular destination for many Canadian backpackers. It is a beautiful country that offers many breathtaking sights, adventures and experiences that create memories to last a lifetime. However, with so much to see and do, many Canadians easily become overwhelmed by Australia's size. To help you avoid this, this guide highlights the must see places in Australia, and along with the backpacker tips in the back will guarantee a memorable experience that doesn't break the bank.

Click on the arrow in the bottom right corner to begin your adventure or use the map below to navigate to a particular location.



Melbourne

Melbourne is the nation's capital of culture, fashion and events. A city with a love of wine, food and the good things in life, Melbourne's trendy café and "cool bar" culture rival many cities in Europe. Australia's second largest metropolis is full of theatres, art galleries, leafy gardens and beaches. Melbourne is also sports-crazed with Australian Rules Football (AFL) more religion than sport!

From Melbourne, the dramatic coastlines, countryside and national parks are all a short distance away. Renowned attractions such as the Great Ocean Road, The Twelve Apostles, Arthur's Chair, Puffing Billy, Sovereign Hill and Phillip Island are only a few hours drive. Popular markets such as St.Kilda's and Victoria Market are also easy to get to and offer great bargains you do not want to miss!

Melbourne is a multi-cultural city, home to people from a 140 nations. Located on the banks of the Yarra River, where it meets Port Phillip Bay, the flatness of the city makes it easy to get around with its mixture of trains and famous rattling green and yellow trams.

Other Tidbits (Victoria)

Size: 227 620 sq km.

Telephone Area Code: 03

Time: GMT plus 10 hours. Victoria operates on Eastern Standard Time (EST) and has Daylight Savings from October to March (when clocks go forward an hour).

Population: 4 800 000.

Capital City: Melbourne is Victoria's capital and has a population of 3.4 million people.

Climate: It's been said that if you don't like the weather in Melbourne - just wait five minutes - it will change! To give you some idea, in summer it averages 28 degrees Celsius while in winter the average is 8.





Sydney

There is stacks to see and do in cosmopolitan Sydney. The best way to see Sydney is by cruising on the beautiful Sydney Harbour. There's a wide range of relatively inexpensive cruises to choose from or simply take the ferry over to Manly Beach, seeing all of Sydney's sights along the way. While in the downtown core, be sure to visit Sydney's Aquarium, home to 11 000 sea life, a seal sanctuary and the Open Ocean Oceanarium. Other city highlights include visiting the Opera House, and the Harbour Bridge- both quintessential Aussie icons.

Interested in shopping and finding some great deals? Paddy's market is a great place to pick up true aussie souvenirs, while The Rocks market offers great deals on Australian hand-made crafts and jewelry.

Any finally, no trip to Sydney would be complete without a day spent at famous Bondi Beach. Enjoy a stroll along the boardwalk or for those a bit more adventurous, ride the waves by surfing or boogie boarding.

Other Tidbits *(New South Wales)*

Size: 801 457 sq km.

Telephone Area Code: 02

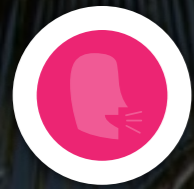
Time: GMT plus 10 hours. New South Wales operates on Eastern Standard Time (EMT) and has Daylight Savings from October to March (clocks go forward an hour).

Population: 6 642 900

Capital City: Sydney is the capital city of NSW with a population of about four million.

Climate: NSW has a temperate climate. Summer in Sydney is hot and averages around 25 degrees celsius, often with high humidity. Winters are mild and range from 10 to 20 degrees. Generally the further west you go, the drier and further north the hotter!





Airlie Beach *(Whitsunday Islands)*

Airlie Beach is the gateway to the Whitsundays and something of a backpacker mecca. There are heaps of pubs, clubs and bars and it's a great place to soak up the sun in a lively atmosphere.

The Whitsunday Islands are made up of 74 islands and are an absolute must see - breathtaking scenery, crystal clear water and some of the best beaches in the world. Plan a sailing trip on board a maxi yacht for a couple of days to see the best of the Whitsundays.

Other Tidbits *(Queensland)*

Size: 1 727 200 sq km.

Telephone Area Code: 07

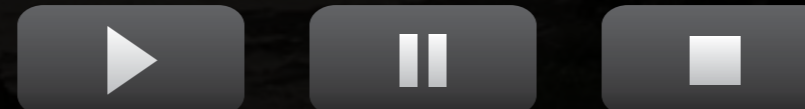
Time: GMT plus 10 hours. Queensland operates on Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Population: 3 670 500

Capital City: The capital city of QLD is Brisbane with population of 1.6 million.

Climate: Queensland is invariably fine and sunny - its catch cry 'beautiful one day, perfect the next' isn't too far wrong. In the south, summer is humid and hot (mid 30's) and winter is mild (low 20's). Two thirds of the state (above Rockhampton) is in the tropics and summer is wet and hot (high 30's) while winter is hot and dry (25 to low 30's).

Sailing the Whitsundays





Cairns

Sunny Cairns is one of Australia's most popular tourist destinations and a place many travelers find hard to leave. It's a tropical cosmopolitan city with a laid back lifestyle, a diverse lot of locals and it's a great base to explore the magnificent:

Great Barrier Reef: One of the seven natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef is spectacular and has 400 types of coral and 1500 species of fish. Don your togs, grab a snorkel (or even better, learn to dive) and explore this amazing incomparable underwater world.

Cape Tribulation has some of the most beautiful country in the world. It's famous for its long stretch of beaches and being the only place in the world where two world heritage areas meet (Cape Tribulation and the Great Barrier Reef).

Just north of Cairns you'll come across some beautiful beaches and the 'village in the rainforest' – Kuranda. With its charming markets and spectacular scenery, Kuranda has been a long favourite with backpackers. One of the best aspects of this little town is getting there – with your choice of a scenic winding railway or a skyrail over rainforest.

Other Tidbits (Queensland)

Size: 1 727 200 sq km.

Telephone Area Code: 07

Time: GMT plus 10 hours. Queensland operates on Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Population: 3 670 500

Capital City: The capital city of QLD is Brisbane with population of 1.6 million.

Climate: Queensland is invariably fine and sunny - its catch cry 'beautiful one day, perfect the next' isn't too far wrong. In the south, summer is humid and hot (mid 30's) and winter is mild (low 20's). Two thirds of the state (above Rockhampton) is in the tropics and summer is wet and hot (high 30's) while winter is hot and dry (25 to low 30's).



The Red Centre (Uluru)

The Northern Territory has some of the most spectacular sights in the country—barren deserted outback, lush tropical rainforest, unique wildlife and, of course the big three: Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kings Canyon and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas).

Get down and dirty. Spend a few days camping out in swag under the stars in the true Australian Outback. Get up early, get to Uluru and watch the changing light on the magnificent 600 million year old rock. A moment you won't forget. Formed 600 million years ago, the 'rock' is an absolute Australian icon.

After your visit to Uluru, make your way to Kings Canyon and take on the challenge of completing the rim walk, a rather steep but rewarding experience filled with breathtaking views.

Your next challenge must include a hike around the Kata Tjutas, consisting of 36 rock domes of various sizes, spread over 35km, soaring over 500m above the desert. Are you up for it?

Other Tidbits (Northern Territory)

Size: 1 347 525 sq km

Telephone Area Code: 08

Time: GMT plus 9.5 hours. The Northern Territory operates on Central Standard Time (CST).

Population: 199 900

Capital City: Darwin is the Territory's capital and has a population of 70,250.

Climate: The climate in the 'Top End' consists of two seasons - Wet and Dry. The Dry season is from May to November (when most travellers visit) while the Wet season runs from December to April. Whatever season you arrive in, the temperature will most likely be between 30°C and 35°C.



Tips & Links

There are numerous options when it comes to lodging, getting around, and booking sightseeing adventures. Listed below are some of the best ways to do all this on a backpacker's budget.

Getting there: Qantas Airlines offers their Aussie Air Pass special throughout the year at different discounted rates, starting at \$1,499. The pass includes full airfare from six major Canadian cities to a selection of Australian cities, and three free flights within Australia. Considering the geographical scale of Australia, this option is probably the best way to get around. On the side is a link to the Qantas Aussie Air Pass webpage.



Lodging: Youth Hostelling Association Australia (YHA Australia) provides a great network of safe, clean and affordable hostels at all of the mentioned locations, and all across Australia. Each hostel offers a variety of dorms ranging from shared 6 bed dorms to private double bed ensuite. The most attractive aspect of the YHA Australia network is their easy to use web booking system that lets you book all your accommodation months in advance. Follow the link on the side to visit the YHA Australia website.



Booking Adventures: Your place of stay will provide you with a variety of adventure options available at each stop. You can book this upon arrival or even through the YHA Australia website. Click on the link on the side for the YHA Travel Deals webpage.



Getting Around: Once you have used up your 3 free flights from the Aussie Air Pass you might need other ways of getting around. Some of the budget oriented alternatives are Australia Greyhound, bussing company, and JetStar, a no frills airline. Follow the links on the side to their respective web sites.



Order Book

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