

## Weather & Destination Specific Information

# Signature Australia

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

### WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Time Zones:** Continental Australia can be divided into three time zones, Eastern Standard Time, Central Standard Time, and Western Standard Time. EST (Sydney) is typically 16 to 17 hours ahead of US Central Time dependent on US Daylight Saving.

**Weather:** Average High/Low

City	April	May
Port Douglas	85°F/76°F	81°F/73°F
Sydney	74°F/69°F	69°F/54°F
Ayers Rock	82°F/54°F	73°F/46°F
Melbourne	69°F/53°F	63°F/08°F
Hobart	64°F/49°F	59°F/45°F

**Seasons:** Australian seasons are the opposite of those in the Northern Hemisphere:

Spring: September – November

Summer: December – February

Autumn: March – May

Winter: June – August

**Climate:** You can relatively divide Australia into two climate zones. Northern Queensland, the Northern Territory, and the northern regions of Western Australia, approximately 40% of the continent, can be designated as the Tropical Zone. The remaining areas of the country lie in the Temperate Zone. In the Tropical Zone there are two seasons and in the Temperate Zone, four seasons.

**Language:** English is the written and spoken language of Australia with an expression or two that can confuse even the English. Do not hesitate to ask questions; people are friendly and approachable.

**Currency:** The unit of currency in Australia is the Australian dollar. Currency exchange rates are subject to change on a daily basis. A helpful web site for referencing current rates is [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

**Electronic Travel Authority or eTA:** Visitors of all nationalities (except Australian passport holders) must obtain an Electronic Travel Authority or eTA prior to arrival in Australia. Instructions on applying will be sent to you in advance.

**Electrical Current:** The electric current in Australia is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts, then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.

**International Driver/Guides and Gratuities:** Holiday Vacations has arranged for International Driver/Guides to provide commentary on customs, traditions, language differences and history. Your Driver/Guides can also suggest attractions, restaurants, and shops. Recommended gratuity for your Driver/Guide in Australia is \$4.00 - \$5.00 Australian dollars per guest per day.

**Comfort on International Flights:** Hydration is key. Flying is dehydrating so drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic,



non-caffeinated beverages. Wear comfortable layers since the cabins can sometimes be chilly. Wearing compression socks helps with blood circulation in legs, ankles, and feet. Eye masks, neck pillows, and earplugs may also help you get more rest.

**Bringing Food into Australia:** Border control has strict rules on what you can bring into Australia. The majority of restricted or prohibited items are those which pose a biosecurity risk to the country's fragile and unique environments. For this reason, it's best to be mindful about what you pack in your luggage and know what you need to declare when you arrive. To be on the safe side, declare any food you have in your checked luggage or carry-on. Failure to declare a risk item or falsely declaring an item will likely incur an instant fine. Foods you may not bring include, but are not limited to, fruits and vegetables, raw nuts, and seeds, fresh meat or fish, honey, or bee products, eggs, and dairy products.

**Food:** Australian health and food regulations are second to none in application. In the larger cities you can find restaurants with cuisines imported from around the world. Food is fresh and abundant. Markets and supermarkets contain both local and imported foods. Fruit and vegetables, tropical or temperate, are fresh and plentiful.

Australian cuisine features a wide range of seafood – snapper, barramundi, grouper, and John Dory are just a few of the delicious varieties. Seasonal delicacies such as whitebait, oysters, crayfish, scallops, and game birds are recommended. In addition to restaurants offering Australian specialties, a wide variety of ethnic restaurants can be found. Visitors will find no shortage of tearooms or “take away” restaurants for quick meals.

**Tipping at Restaurants:** In Australia, a 10% tip is an acceptable gratuity.

**Water:** All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold-water faucets may be the opposite of North America, and hot water can be extremely hot.

**Souvenirs:** The following is a list of items travelers often like to bring home:

- Woolen goods and sheepskins
- Australian opals ranging from milky white to fiery red and blue in color
- Aboriginal art and boomerangs
- Australian folk music
- Outback clothing
- Destination DVD's – There are two major DVD formats worldwide, NTSC and PAL. NTSC is used in the U.S. Be sure to ask when in doubt.

Stores and shops are usually open 8:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday to Friday and often on Saturday. In some areas, late night shopping occurs on Thursday or Friday. Many shops, except for small neighborhood groceries and dairies (milk bars), are closed on Sunday.

**Clothing Size Conversion Chart:**

S-M-L	USA	Australia
S	2	6
S	4	8
M	6	10
M	8	12
L	10	14
L	12	16
XL/1X	14	18
1X/2X	16	20
2X	18	22
3X	20	24

**Departure Tax:** All visitors are required to pay a departure tax before departing Australia. This airport tax is included in your Holiday Vacations tour cost.