

slightly too large

The Pocket Guide to



Australia



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The pocket guide to Australia

Written By David Hirst

To my friend and colleague, Cassandra, who was the inspiration for this book. Good luck in Australia!

To Ida, thank you for all the photos, but please heed the advice of this book and leave the beasties alone next time.

To my family who, despite having to survive the harsh realities of life in Australia, still found the time and the internet to help make this book possible.

The slightly too large pocket guide to Australia

Written by David Hirst

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Not made in Australia from local and/or imported ingredients

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Visit the website to learn more:
www.thepocketguidetoaus.website

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No Alpacas were harmed in the creation or printing of this book.

Goodluck!

Declaration:

This book is not a plant or animal product or a sporting good and therefore can freely be brought into Australia. It's also not worth a lot, so don't worry there either. Although the author and publisher waive all responsibility if you try to hide illegal items inside this book. Honestly though it's not a very big book, you are much better off hiding them in a pair of shoes or something. Also legally that does not constitute advice and we are not responsible if customs catch you. And if you really want to try smuggling stuff in try posting it in a Coconut. Just remember to put some stamps on and probably not a return address ;).



Note: Although the locations of the cities and towns marked on this map are accurate the map shouldn't be considered an accurate guide of their size or relative importance in the grand scheme of things.

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Introduction

Sorry! Well the book had to start somewhere, and it seems like a fitting start when it's entirely possible that the first time you open this book is while you are sitting on top of a mountain miles from anywhere, with no mobile phone coverage in a state of despair after having been bitten by a jellyfish and stomped on by a killer horse. All the while wondering what the hell was a jellyfish doing on top of a mountain anyway. And this book is probably not going to make you feel much better, as to be honest I have no idea what it was doing there either and I really don't have any advice to offer apart from maybe reading another more enjoyable book or playing Candy Crush on your phone to take your mind off your imminent demise. So hence, the starting with an apology seemed fitting.

However if you are not dying from a jellyfish sting/killer horse attack on top of a mountain then I hope this book will show you Australia isn't all that bad and there are many positive and enjoyable life-threatening experiences you can have while you are there. And hopefully it will give you some insight into Australia in general, what you can see and do, and most of all what to avoid in order to survive your trip down under.

Quick Facts About Australia:

Here are some useful things to memorise before arriving:

- Australia uses the metric system.
- Australia uses Australian dollars
- Australia is very big.
- There are over 24 million people in Australia, although 90% live in a major city close to the coast.
- The actual population density is 3.13 people per square km as of 2015. To put it in perspective the wikipedia says Australia ranks 236 out of 244 countries and territories.
- In Australia they drive on the left hand side of the road.
- Australia has no official language, although English is the most common language spoken by almost everyone to varying degrees.
- Despite all the dangers Australians have a very high life expectancy and are ranked 4th by the UN with an average of 82.1 years.
- Speed limits in Australia vary from state to state and place to place and range from 10km to no speed limit. As a general rule outside towns are 100km and inside towns is 50km. However each state has its own rules and everywhere it's well sign posted.
- The blood alcohol limit is 0.05 with stricter rules for learner drivers and truck and buses.

Arriving in Australia

Before you set off remember to make sure you have a valid visa or those lovely people at immigration suddenly become a lot less friendly if you don't. The same applies for customs, leave all your plants, bug-infested wood and drugs at home. For more information on both of these topics, consult the Internet.



Australia is an island, so getting there can be a challenge and swimming from Indonesia is not recommended. Once you arrive (normally by plane or boat), you need to pass through immigration and customs. Immigration will just want to check that you are legally allowed to enter the country. In most cases, this is done by acquiring an electronic visa before you leave your home country, and upon arrival just showing them your passport. Although travellers from some countries that Australia considers to be less agreeable places may need to obtain a physical visa or permission to enter Australia before even booking their trip.

After having your Passport checked you will collect your luggage and pass through customs. You will get bombarded with the rules all the way to Australia, however if you are in doubt about something you happen to have with you, declare it. The process of passing through customs can be slow and they may want to look at every single item in your bag. Border Security might also want to film them doing this, although remember you have the right to say no. And at this point it's a good idea to not act suspicious or they will definitely want to check every item in your bag and ask lots of random questions.

If you want to know what you can't bring in before you leave home, the Australian Government have created a handy website that lists all the most common items. Remember you cannot bring your pirated DVD's however your samurai sword is just fine :).

Can I bring it back:

www.border.gov.au/Trav/Ente/Brin/Can-I-bring-it-back

And it also might be a good idea to leave your novelty erasers at home especially if they look like sharks.

For more information about what you can import visit this site:

www.border.gov.au/Busi/Impo/Proh



After you have survived your ordeal with customs then you will most likely pass through some “exit/entry” doors (depending on the airport) and you are free. Remember they are watching everything that goes on in the airport though, so now's not a great time go crazy.

Once you have left the airport you can go back to looking suspicious and being crazy!

Final Tip:

Whatever you do don't tell them there is bomb in your bag. They get very upset about this and have no sense of humour.

Understanding the People

Australians talk funny, here's a translation of what they mean:

Places and Navigation Slang:

Out the Back of Bourke:	a long way away
Billabong:	an ox-bow river or watering hole
Beyond the Black stump:	a long way away/the back of nowhere
Bottle-o:	take away alcohol shop (off license)
Brizzie:	Brisbane
Bundy:	Bundaberg, Queensland, and the brand of rum that's made there
Down South:	the southern states (according to the northern states)
Up North:	the north states (according to the southern states)
Top End:	far north of Australia
Maccas:	McDonald's
Melbs:	Melbourne
Outback:	central areas of Australia
Servo:	petrol station
Station:	a big farm/grazing property
Sunny Coast:	Sunshine Coast, coastline north of Brizzie, generally pretty sunny.
Uni:	university
Unit:	apartment
Woop Woop:	a long way away/a small unimportant town(usually used when one has forgotten the name of said place)

Objects:

Bathers:	swimming costume
Billy:	large tin can to boil water over a campfire
Bitumen:	surfaced road (as opposed to dirt)
Boogie Board:	body board
Booze Bus:	police van for breathalysing
Bordies:	board shorts swimming shorts
Breatho:	see booze bus
Bull Bar:	stout bar fixed to the front of a vehicle
Bull Dust:	fine dust
Cozzie:	swimming costume
Daks:	trousers
Didge:	short for didgeridoo, Aboriginal Instrument
Dummy:	pacifier, also the basis for “spat the dummy” which means they got angry and gave up.
Dunny:	outside lavatory
Esky:	coolbox
Fly Wire:	gauze flyscreen covering a window or doorway
Jocks:	male underpants
Milkbar:	a fish and chips shop, although they often also sell milk.
Knacker:	testicle
Loo:	toilet
Road Train:	A very long truck, typically 3 trailers.
Stubby Holder:	beer bottle cooler
Sunnies:	sunglasses
Swag:	roll-up canvas bed for camping
Thongs:	flip flops
Togs:	swimming stuff
Trackies:	track suit
Ute:	utility vehicle
Vee Dub:	Volkswagon
Whipper Snipper:	garden strimmer

Phrases:

Ace!:	Excellent! Very good!
Arvo:	afternoon
Beaut,Beauty:	great, fantastic
Bloody:	very
Bloody Oath!:	that's certainly true
Blue:	argument/ mistake
Bodgy:	poor quality
Bonzer:	great, ripper
Bull Dust:	rubbish
Cactus:	dead, broken
Cark it:	to die, stop working
China Plate:	mate
Chocka:	full up
Click:	kilometre - eg. "it's 20 clicks away"
Come a gutser:	a bad mistake or have an accident
Come good:	turn out ok
Crack a fat:	to get an erection
Not within cooe:	figuratively a long way away
Cut Snake:	(mad as a) very angry
Deadset:	true/ the truth
Dinkum/Fair Dinkum:	true, real, genuine
Dinky- di:	the real thing, genuine
Docket:	a bill, receipt
Doco:	documentary
G'day:	hello!
Give it a burl:	try it, have a go
Give it away:	give up
Going off:	good fun
Good Onya:	well done
Grouse:	great, terrific
Heaps:	a lot
Iffy:	dodgy
It's gone walkabout:	it's lost, can't be found
Knock back:	refuse

Phrases:

Mobs:	loads, a lot of
No worries:	no problem / it's okay
Piece of piss:	easy task
Pozzy:	position
Quid (make a):	earn a living
Rack off:	get lost! get out of here!
Reckon!:	for sure
Reckon?:	do you think?
Right/Righto:	okay
Ripper:	Great
Rooted:	ruined, broken, tired
She'll be right:	it'll be okay
Strewth:	exclamation
Stoked:	very pleased
Stuffed:	expression of surprise
Too Right:	definitely
Walkabout	setting off on an adventure - originally an aboriginal term

Animals:

Bat:	short for Wombat
Blowie:	blow fly
Boomer:	large male kangaroo
Brumby:	wild horse
Buzzard:	blow fly
Chook:	chicken
Croc:	short for crocodile
Freshie:	freshwater crocodile
Joey:	baby kangaroo
Joe Blake:	Snake
Jumbuck:	sheep

Animals:

Kanga-walla-fox:	an animal that has never been seen only heard.
Kelpie:	Australian sheepdog originally bred from Scottish collie
Laughing Jack:	Old English term for Kookaburra
Mozzie:	mosquito
Roo:	kangaroo
Saltie:	saltwater crocodile
Wedgie:	short for Wedge-tailed eagle, known to have taken small children

Food and Drink:

Avos:	avocados
Barbie:	barbecue (noun)
Bevie:	beverage, usually beer
Bickie:	biscuit
Brekkie:	breakfast
Chips:	crisps
Chokkie:	chocolate
Coldie:	a beer
Counter lunch/meal:	pub lunch
Damper:	bread made from flour and water
Dead horse:	tomato sauce
Dogs eye:	meat Pie
Fairy floss:	candy floss, cotton candy
Flake:	shark meat
Grog:	alcohol
Icy pole:	ice lolly
Lollies:	sweets
Middy:	New South Wales standard beer glass (285ml)

Food and Drink:

Munchies:	snacks, nibbles
Pav:	pavlova
Plonk:	cheap wine
Pot:	Standard glass of beer in Victoria (285mls)
Sanger:	a sandwich
Sav:	hot dog
Schooner:	large beer glass
Slab:	crate/box of beer
Snag:	a sausage
Spag bol:	spaghetti bolognese
Stubby:	a 375ml beer bottle
Tinny:	can of beer / small aluminium boat
Tucker:	food
Tucker-bag:	food bag
Veggies:	vegetables
XXXX:	Four X, Queensland brand of beer

Other:

A Kiwi:	Someone from New Zealand
A Pome:	Someone from the UK
A Yank:	An American
AFL:	Australian rules football
Football	See AFL. European football is called soccer

And a couple of other things to remember:

- When anyone asks “How are you” it does not mean people want to know how you are it's just how we say hello. The correct answer is “I'm good” even if you aren't.
- When people say “see you” or “cya” it does not necessarily mean they will ever see you again. It's just how we say goodbye.
- If you are asked to “Bring a plate” to a social occasion, it is not because they are short of crockery. You are expected to bring some food along with you to share.

Brief History of Australia

Note: this is only a brief and not necessarily 100% accurate history. If you really want to know consider reading a book about Australian history.

The aborigines are considered the native people of Australia and they first arrived somewhere between 40,000 and 100,000 years ago. However, it was a long time ago, so no one quite remembers the exact date any more. After they arrived, they spread out across all of Australia including the island that is entirely ignored by this book to the south of Victoria. For a very long time the aboriginals lived in harmony (we actually believe they had little or no concept of war) and developed a rich culture, basic agrarian society and many many different languages and customs. They were also not entirely isolated from the world as once believed, as there is clear evidence of aboriginal trade with people from Indonesia and possibly as far afield as China.



Aboriginal rock paintings at Burrungui
in the Northern Territory
Photo by Stephen Michael Barnett

The first Europeans to arrive were an ill-fated bunch of Dutch who landed somewhere up north and all died out or went home. Then a bit later the English arrived under Captain Cook and began the European colonization/invasion (it's a matter of perspective) of Australia. They first arrived at what is now Sydney on April the 29th 1770. They thought it was a great place with some weird animals so they went home and told everyone about it. No one believed the stories, so soon after lots more Brits started to arrive to clear things up. Slowly they began to colonise the country.

Initially though due to a slight problem with crime and punishment in the UK they used Australia as a place to dump all those people whom they didn't like very much. Many of the initial colonies were created as convict colonies, where people who had committed minor offenses were deported as a form of punishment then required to work for their freedom. For many it definitely beat life in prisons in the UK and many went onto start new lives for themselves in Australia.

Slowly but surely more colonies were founded and they grew steadily with new arrivals from the UK, Europe and other parts of the world. Explorers also set off inland in search of lost treasures, new lands, inland seas and the meaning of life. Many of these didn't fare very well and ended up pushing up daisies. Although most of them got roads or towns named after them and school kids are forced to learn about them at great length. So at least they are remembered.

Lots of other exciting stuff happened though the 1800's and by the end of that century, Australia was a pretty busy place. Although at this point all the separate self-governing colonies continued to operate as such and this made things a little complicated, especially as they were all still part of the British Empire too. So in 1901 after a lot of negotiation and a series of referendums, they finally agreed to become one country and the Federation of Australia was born.

After federation there was a bit of a disagreement about where to put the national's new capital. Sydney and Melbourne, which were the two biggest cities at the time, wouldn't agree to the other being the capital, so as a compromise they went and created a whole new city roughly halfway between and close enough to the main railway line that a detour wouldn't be hugely expensive. This compromise, which is now the national's capital, is Canberra.



Canberra in 1925 – It's changed a bit since then.

Following on from this, things ticked along fairly well and nothing eventful happened up until the First World War broke out. Australia, still being linked to the UK, joined in and lots of people died. We won't go into great detail here, although the National War Museum in Canberra is worth a visit. It is from World War One that the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corp) tradition started. It is commemorated on April 25th, known as Anzac day and everyone has a holiday.

After the First World War, Vegemite was invented and there was much rejoicing. Well perhaps not then but now at least as it took a while to take off. And in 1936 the last Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) died in captivity, meaning there was one less thing to kill you on Tasmania at least, although they were unlikely to pose any threat to humans. Somewhere around here there was also a rabbit plague. Though, through the use of a nasty virus, we dealt with all of them, so no need to worry about killer rabbits from Monty Python. The ones that are still left are mostly harmless.



Thylacine in the zoo in 1904

In 1939 Australia entered the Second World War which played out a bit differently to the previous world war. In this particular conflict Australia was directly threatened and the Japanese even bombed Darwin and were close to invading Australia itself. It's from here that Australia's close friendship with the Americans developed and is part of the reason why Australia also got dragged into the Vietnam War and more recently the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Throughout the 1950's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's lots of eventful and exciting things happened, but this is no history book, so you will have to read about them somewhere else. The government took away aboriginal kids and more recently apologised. A prime minister was sacked, and a referendum on becoming a republic failed and some sports men and women probably achieved great things... In the year 2000 Sydney hosted the Olympics and there was much rejoicing when the world didn't come to an end because of the Y2K bug. Australia got to celebrate 100 years of being, well, Australian 2001.

In more recent times, governments came and went, the economy went up and down and a lot of the country was either dug up and sold to China or just sold to China intact. That pretty much brings us to the present day and concludes the brief and fairly useless history of Australia.

Useful things to know about Australia

Geography

Australia is big! Very big, it is the 6th largest country in the world and is considered a small continent. Australia varies dramatically in environments ranging from sand dunes in the centre of Australia to rainforest, both tropical and temperate, on the eastern coast and snow-capped mountains. Despite its size the majority of the population live around the coast (with the majority of those being in the major cities and the eastern side of the country). Inland from the coast, Australia has a lot of agricultural land ranging from orchards and crops to large sheep and cattle stations.



Distances

One thing that often catches foreigners out is the distances and the rather relaxed way some people explain them in Australia. The expression “Just down the road” can mean anything from the next block to 3 days drive away. And just popping to the shop might be a 2 hour drive, so make sure to check exactly how far the place you are looking for is before



setting off. After all, with the huge distances you can also get pretty lost. Although look at it this way: it's an Island, so if you run into the sea and you are not trying to reach another island then you might as well turn around and try again.

The water

As is instantly obvious from any map Australia is an Island and as such is surrounded by water. Now this might sound great if you like swimming, or going into the water in general but the problem with this is all the deadly things that live in this water. Also of note are the deadly things these damper than



"Who am I kidding, we all know Australia has no water "

Photo by John Coppi, CSIRO

average areas themselves can do to you even without the help of their inhabitants. In short don't go into any water, even swimming pools want to kill you... Statistically water killed more people last year than all the homo sapiens and wild animals put together (see the Fauna section). So if you do venture to the beach remember to always swim between the red and yellow flags and when you're at a river don't dive in!. The fauna may be out of your control, but a bit of common sense can protect you from the water.

Culture

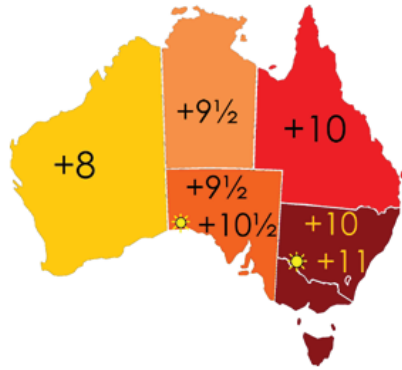
Australia is a multicultural society and it's considered an important part of the country's culture and identity. Australia's history of immigration has led to many different ethnic groups, languages and customs being present in society and all of these have influenced the country's culture and customs. English is the most common language although approximately 18% of the population speak a language other than English at home, with Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek and Arabic being the most common. To accommodate this all government services, offer support in a wide range of languages. There was also over 400 aboriginal languages spoken at the time of European arrival, although today only about 70 are still in use and only a few of these are not considered endangered.

The states and territories

As mentioned previously Australia was formed in 1901 when the Federation of Australia was created. Prior to this, all the states existed as separate colonies. These were Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia, which continue to exist till this day. They have also been joined by the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory (ACT). These states and territories all have their own governments and laws and that makes life rather complicated, especially if you live near a state border.

Time Zones

Time zones in Australia are a slightly complicated thing. If you are staying in one place, they are simple enough, although across the nation Australia has between 4 to 5 different time zones depending on the time of year, Western Australia being between 2 to 3 hours behind NSW and Victoria, meaning they get all their TV hours later and get lots of spoilers online.



Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory do not observe daylight saving and remain the same time all year round which is regarded as a good idea by most. The south eastern states on the other hand continue to observe it even though it makes everyone tired and grumpy twice a year. As a result of all the different time zones there are a few strange anomalies. The town of Broken Hill in NSW observes South Australian time and there are a series of “towns” along the WA/SA border which wanted to be different and have their very own time zone +8:45, although no one outside the area cares and it's not officially recognised.

Sport

Sport is a big deal in Australia. Most Australians are mad about it, however their preference varies from state to state, and in Victoria for example they all love Australian rules football, whereas in New South Wales and Queensland it is rugby. Australian rules football (AFL) is an odd game adapting rugby and soccer (football in Europe) together and mixing in some Irish game to make themselves feel cultured. Like most ball sports, it involves running around after a ball and keeping it away from the other team.

Australians also take great pride in winning lots of medals in the Olympics and Commonwealth Games and they prefer not to talk about the sports they can't win, so the TV coverage can be a tad biased neglecting everything that Australians don't win.

The Internet

Internet in Australia is much like the internet around the rest of the world generally. Although there is one important thing to understand (apart from the fact it is really slow...) especially when visiting people. Almost all internet in Australia is metered (like data caps on mobile phones), so when you are visiting friends or family don't go watching every video on YouTube or they may just kick you out and never forgive you. The average speed is also fairly crappy though, so odds are you will get tired of the buffering well before you have managed to waste all their quota..

This quota limit does not usually apply to schools, universities etc. And if you don't like someone you could always use all theirs on purpose; and odds are they will be stuck with 256kb (0.2mb) internet for the rest of the month or a really big bill. The government is also secretly trying to destroy the internet in Australia, although that's a topic for another book.

Politics

Australia is a multi-party democracy; although like many Westminster based systems, it's dominated by two major parties. The two largest in Australia are the Australian Liberal party (centre right) and the Australian Labour party (also pretty much centre right). There are also a series of minor parties including parties like the Deadly Serious Party and the Sun-Ripened Warm Tomato Party.

Unlike most western democracies, voting in Australia is compulsory for everyone who is eligible to vote and not voting can incur a penalty ranging from a small fine (\$20) to disappearance. However, despite this, they have not managed to achieve 100% voter turnout and many people have disappeared.



The old and new parliament houses in Canberra, this is where all the important politicians like to hang out.

Photo by Brenden Ashton

Money

As mentioned previously Australia uses the Australian dollar, which is valued at around 1 AUD = 0.76 USD (at the time of publishing at least). Australia is famous for the early adoption of plastic notes and all notes in Australia are made of plastic. They are fairly colourful and, as the Americans would say, look like monopoly money.

Australian monetary units comprise:

- Silver coins: 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c
- Gold coins: \$1, \$2
- Notes: \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100



Money related Tips:

- A gold coin donation means donating a \$1 or \$2 coin (This is often used as a form of entrance fee)
- Legend has it that some drinks machines will take New Zealand \$1 coins, meaning you get a discount, as they are not worth as much.

Telephones

Telephones in Australia work like they do in the rest of the world. You enter a number and eventually you get connected to the person at the other end, who if you call them at the wrong time of day will most likely be unhappy. Telephone numbers in Australia are generally fairly long, however the location and type of number can easily be identified by the code at the beginning.

02	Central East:	New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory
03	South East:	Victoria, Tasmania
07	North East:	Queensland
08	Central and West:	Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory
04	Mobile telephones:	Australia-wide

Also remember that 1800 numbers are free to call and 1300 numbers are at local call rates. Although neither of these necessarily apply to mobiles as that's up to your provider.

Note: Mobile phone coverage outside major cities is patchy at best and frequently non-existent. See the Health and Safety section for more information.

Flora

Australia is home to a huge range of plant species and has many unique species, which occur nowhere else on Earth. With varied climates from arid and dry in the centre, to tropical rainforest in the north and alpine plateaus in the mountains of the Great Dividing Range and temperate rain forests in southern Victoria and Tasmania, unless they have cut them all down by the time this is published. Generally, most of these plants are harmless unless you eat them.

That said even plants in Australia might try to kill you. There are the odd plants kicking about which are rather nasty and one is the gympie gympie, also known as the stinging bush or *Dendrocnide moroides*, a sting from this plant can cause extreme pain and in severe cases kill you, so best you avoid touching these plants.



The gympie gympie: Yep good luck working out exactly which plant wants to kill you from this photo.

Photo by Cgoodwin (Wikipedia)

And just in case you thought that wasn't bad enough there's also two other types of stinging tree (*Dendrocnide excelsa* and *Dendrocnide photinophylla*) although these are considered less dangerous than the gympie gympie and in most cases won't kill you. And in case all that wasn't bad enough, Australia has plain old stinging nettles too. Keep in mind these plants are not like the triffid and they are not going anywhere, not that we know of anyway.

Snakes:

These are one of the things you will be warned about as a tourist and for good reason. There are 140 species of land snake, and around 32 species of sea snakes (yeah, in case you thought the land ones weren't bad enough). Some 100 Australian snakes are venomous although only about 12 of them are considered very dangerous to humans. But then again some of these 12 are amongst the most common snakes in Australia so sorry, I know you were feeling better just then and I ruined it again.



Eastern brown snake
Photo by Ida Lahti

As a simple rule, snakes are attracted to motion so in the event that you do bump into one stand very still and hope it moves on. If you do get bitten try to stop the venom circulating through your blood by using a snake bandage or your t-shirt to restrict the blood flow, and then hope someone comes to your rescue in time. And if you can describe the snake or take a selfie with it that's also useful, as if they know what type of snake it was it's easier to give you anti venom. Although try not to get bitten taking the selfie, a regular photo would also suffice.

Horses:

As mentioned previously these deadly beasts should be treated with a degree of caution. Despite them being popular with young ladies across the country they are also prone to killing us, be it often accidentally. This book advises avoiding any horsie-related activities, no matter how fun and cute you might think they are. As they say in Australia "It's all fun and games till someone gets killed."



A horsey
Photo by Ida Lahti

Spiders:

These are not likely to leap out and bite you, so by using a bit of common sense you can avoid any problems with them. Except for the Great Southern Leaping Biting Spider, but that's beyond the scope of this book. A simple rule regarding spiders is to just remember to always check before sticking your fingers under things like sheets of metal, paving stones or bark.



A spider
Photo by Ida Lahti

Blue-ringed octopus:

This scary super cute tiny sea monster is a rather nasty piece of work and turns into the Kraken if provoked. The Blue-ringed octopus, despite its small size, is particularly dangerous to humans and if you accidentally touch it you need to go to hospital or you will die... The Blue-ringed octopus also gets enraged by humans wearing Santa hats, so there are a particularly high number of fatalities at Christmas.



Look on the bright side; if it gets you, at least you can die looking at a pretty octopus.
Photo by Sylke Rohrlach

Irukandji jellyfish:

This tiny jellyfish (about 1cm long) is found in many warm waters around northern Australia. Its sting causes what is known as Irukandji syndrome, which, amongst all the usual pains, causes psychological phenomena such as the feeling of impending doom. It can also be fatal and there have been a number of deaths attributed to this



Pretty big and scary isn't it?
Photo by GondwanaGirl (Wikipedia)

species. The latest was only discovered in 2010, so not a lot is known about these jellyfish. Although like most other things in Australia they are a nasty piece of work.

Jumping jacks:

In case all the snakes, spiders and sea monsters were not enough you also need to worry about ants. At least one ant in particular (although many species have nasty bites and quite a few are aggressive). The species you should be most worried about is the Jumping jack. These ants are known for their



A friendly looking Jumping jack
Photo by Ida Lahti

rather nasty sting, which can cause anaphylactic shock and have been responsible for a number of deaths in the last 20 years. Not only can they jump like a grasshopper they are reported to have very good eyesight (for their size, they can get up to about 14mm) with some suggestions that they can see up to 1 metre and they are considered extremely aggressive.

Bunyip:

The bunyip is a humanoid monster that roams the bush in Australia. They are not responsible for many recorded deaths, although every child grows up in fear of being taken by one while wandering home from school. There are a few recorded cases of bunyip kidnappings and even less is known of the fate of their victims. Efforts to research them or take photos have met with little success as these mysterious animals don't show up on cameras and have eaten everyone who's ever tried.



A 1935 painting of what a bunyip could look like, who knows what they were smoking..

However, unfortunately, due to human activity and habitat loss, bunyip's have become very uncommon and are now considered critically endangered.

Crocodile:

These land beasts should be treated with a degree of caution. They are only usually found in Northern Australia and often close to rivers. Although you never know with climate change and everything, next thing you know they might be lurking in the Murray River. Anyway, these beasties should be avoided, they are a nasty piece of work and are known to happily take off an arm or a leg.



Flies and the ones that bite you:

Bush flies as they are known are a characteristic part of Australian life and are entirely harmless, although in large amounts without a fly net, they may trigger insanity and they are particularly fond of flying into your eyes...

However not all flies are harmless, there are also biting ones. These are a bit like mosquitoes and are generally not harmful, although they

hurt like hell and have been known to follow people for some distances just to inflict pain on them. They are rather sadistic flies after all.



A fly, the biting kind
Photo by Ida Lahti

Quokka

Finally, some good news, the Quokka: a cute, fluffy little animal from Western Australia that won't hurt you, even though there are some images on the internet of them holding knives. These animals just want to be your friend and won't bite, scratch or steal your immortal soul. So cheer up:).



Although they say they are friendly you have to wonder what's it plotting?
Photo by Brian W. Schaller

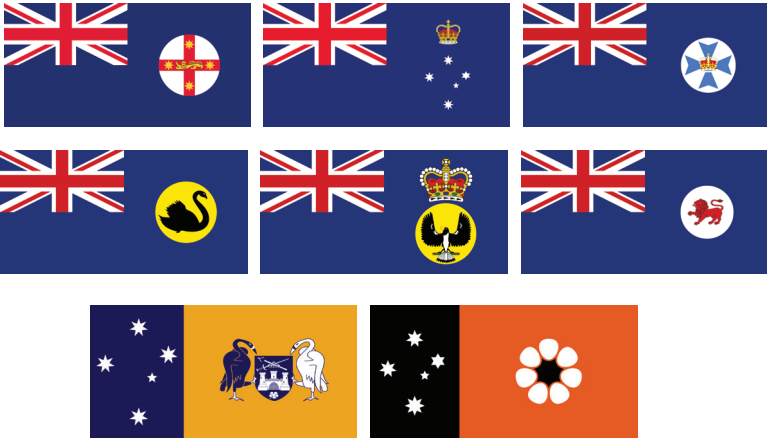
Did you Know:

Australia has many flags, each representing different things. Each state and territory has its own flag, and then there is the National flag and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's flags. You will often see one or more of these in government offices and public spaces.

If flag flying is your thing you can fly any flag you want on your own property. You could even fly the Third Reich flag (Nazi flag) if you wanted (although you might upset people). When it comes to flying the Australian flags though, remember there are protocols about how to fly them. If for some odd reason you decide you wanted to burn them all, this isn't illegal. As long as it's not a total fire ban and they are your own property (again this is going to upset people).



State Flags



Famous people/things

Sooner or later while being in Australia some of these names will get mentioned. So to make you appear all savvy here's a few of them.

Crocodile Dundee: This great Australian demonstrates how obviously everyone in Australia wants to live. He depicts the traditional lifestyle of many northern Australians and should be seen as a great role model to follow when trying to understand the local culture and customs. Although remember to leave your big knife at home or you will get arrested in most states for possession of a dangerous weapon. And in Victoria you will probably just get shot before they even arrest you.

Phar Lap: Phar Lap was a horse... He was a very fast and successful horse and someone poisoned him. This made a lot of people very upset, and they still haven't gotten over it to this day.

Ned Kelly: Edward "Ned" Kelly was an outlaw, murderer and thief, he was eventually hanged for his crimes although not until after killing a lot of people along the way. Despite all of this you would be forgiven for thinking he was some kinda national hero.

Big Things:

Australia has a thing about building giant models of things. No one's entirely sure why they keep doing this, although they seem to like their big things. There are roughly 150 of these located around Australia ranging from Big Apples, and a Banana to a Giant Marion (sheep). None of these are worth going out of your way to visit. Unless finding big (in some cases ugly) things is what you want in which case knock yourself out.



What to see and do



Main Range, Near Kosciuszko
Photo by Zoe Hirst

Australia is a big place, so we will break this down into states and cities, offering some advice on the top highlights of each. Obviously if you are planning to visit any of these, it's worth consulting a more comprehensive guide and this should just be taken as a reference.

New South Wales (NSW)

New South Wales is Australia's most populous state and it was also the first colony in Australia. NSW actually controlled the entire island briefly before other colonies were formally founded. The state capital of NSW is Sydney, which is also Australia's largest city.

Sydney

Sydney is famous for being the first place Captain Cook landed in Australia and where he formally laid claim to the entire island. Since then Sydney has grown a lot and is now the largest city in Australia and probably one of the most famous with its iconic bridge and opera house.



We all know this is why people go to Sydney

Highlights:

Sydney is a happening place with its harbour bridge, the opera house, the botanic gardens, the zoo, an aquarium and a variety of markets. Generally speaking, it's an exciting place to visit with lots of things to see and do. And it had a monorail once, but they knocked it down.

Rest of New South Wales

Nimbin

"It is as if a smoky avenue of Amsterdam has been placed in the middle of the mountains behind frontier-style building facades. ... Nimbin is a strange place indeed". -Austin Pick

I think that pretty much sums up the place. It's considered the alternative/counterculture capital of Australia and is known for its festivals and marijuana. There isn't much more to say, although nice scenery around there. It's a beautiful area.

Dubbo Zoo (aka. Taronga Western Plains Zoo)

Dubbo Zoo is a large zoo located in Dubbo in central/western NSW. It's known for its successful breeding programs and large open enclosures where the animals live slightly more natural lives. The zoo is one of the main attractions in Dubbo (or the only, who knows). Dubbo can be reached by driving a lot from basically anywhere, or by train, though this may take between 6 or 7 hours to a few months. Who knows with NSW railways? Apparently their regional trains haven't achieved an on-time running target in 12 years. (Not being more than 10 minutes late)

Yarrangobilly Caves

Yarrangobilly Caves are a series of limestone caves located in the middle of nowhere in the mountains in southern NSW. They are famous for their stalagmites and stalactites, which in some cases are millions of years old and there are plenty to see. There is a range of caves to explore. Getting there's a minor problem without a car as it's a rather long walk from anywhere worthy of mention. Although it's surrounded by beautiful nature and you might even spot some wild horses in the area, Silver Brumby fans out there.



Inside one of the
Yarrangobilly Caves

Victoria (Vic)

Victoria is located in the bottom right hand corner of Australia and Melbourne is the state capital. Victoria is a small state by Australian standards and boasts a high population density, also by Australian standards. So if you get lost here and wander around aimlessly hoping for rescue you have a higher chance of bumping into someone here than in other states.

Melbourne

Melbourne is the centre of the universe, don't forget it! Victoria is Melbourne and vice versa, at least that's what people in Melbourne seem to think. The city is the second largest in Australia and keeps getting voted as one of the best places to live in the world. Although no one outside Melbourne understands why. They also have a lot of trams, although I don't think that makes a difference in terms of liveability as their trains always break down.



Yeah sorry, this is the London Eye, but the Melbourne one probably looks/looked something like this

Highlights

Although Melbourne lacks all the iconic buildings of Sydney, it's apparently still a great place to visit with all its exciting museums and other un-noteworthy things. Really, it's hard to work out what you should do in Melbourne. So if you find yourself there as a tourist, I'm sorry. Melbourne does however have the Melbourne Star (like the London Eye) except unlike the Eye it's plagued with problems and spends most of its life broken. It will probably have fallen to bits before this book is even published.

Rest of Victoria

The Twelve Apostles

The Twelve Apostles are a lie, there are in fact only 8 left (at the time of publishing). So you better head there quickly in case that's reduced to 7...They were (again when this was published) a series of limestone rocks located just off the southern coast of Victoria near Port Campbell on the Great Ocean road.



The 7 Apostles

Sovereign Hill

Sovereign Hill is an open-air museum located in the town of Ballarat. The museum aims to recreate the first 10 years of Ballarat's gold mining past. The museum boasts a range of shops and attractions aiming to recreate the historic gold mining town and you can even pan for your own gold, although don't count on finding much of anything and if by some miracle you find a huge gold nugget they will probably just take it away from you.

Mount Despair

This mountain pretty much sums up how you will feel travelling around Victoria, and if this isn't enough for you, you could also visit Mount Hopeless, Mount Terrible, Mount Buggery, Mount Typo or Diapur, which is a real happening place with approximately 20 residents located in the west of the state.



Obviously not a terrible place
Photo by Bahnfreund (wikipedia)

Queensland (QLD)

Brisbane

Brisbane is the capital and largest city in Queensland. It is famous for very little and is close to the Gold Coast (which is famous for a lot more). Brisbane has a river running through it and an artificial beach, in case Queensland didn't have enough real ones.



The artificial beach in Brisbane

Highlights

Its mix of museums, botanic gardens and buildings makes it a lot like every other city in Australia, although they do have The Gold Coast just down the road and there's a big hill to the north of the city that provides a nice lookout.

Rest of Queensland

The Whitsundays and Fraser Island:

Though these two are not that close to each other, they both share one thing in common. The island bit, both are areas of outstanding natural beauty and unspoilt nature and if islands, beaches and sea monsters are your thing they are well worth visiting. Note though that they are at least a 15 hour drive from each other, so don't plan to see both of them in a single day.

The Gold Coast:

The Gold Coast is an area/city located just south of Brisbane towards the border with NSW. It is the most populous non-capital city and the 6th most populous urban area in Australia. In other words, lots of people live there. Besides

all the people, the area boasts some fairly nice, albeit crowded beaches and a series of amusement parks and very expensive houses.



The endless beach
Photo by Petra Bensted - Flickr

The Great Barrier Reef:

The Great Barrier Reef is a coral reef located off the eastern coast of northern Queensland. It is the largest coral reef system in the world and can be seen from space, not that it helps you much if you are in Australia. The reef can be accessed from multiple places in Queensland with the most popular being Cairns and Townsville.

Keep in mind the Great Barrier Reef is in a dire state at present, so consider visiting it before it's too late. A combination of climate change, pollution and the Queensland and federal government mean that this great natural wonder may not be around for much longer

South Australia (SA)

Adelaide

Adelaide is the largest city and capital of South Australia, It's a dull and uninteresting place and completely unworthy of your time. Its attractions include a zoo and some buildings and there's a tram. Well that's a lie there's probably more than 1 but there's only one line. Anyway, avoid Adelaide at all costs if you're passing through you can probably find a way around it on your way to all the exciting places to visit in SA and other parts of Australia.



The last known photo of Adelaide...

Highlights

If a zoo, a couple of museums, a market and a few moderately exciting buildings are your thing then you have come to the right place...

Rest of South Australia

Murray Mouth

The Murray river, along with the Darling River, are Australia's largest river system and they meet the sea in South Australia at the Murray Mouth, which is near Goolwa.



The Murray River near Jingellic about as far as you can get from the Murray Mouth.

Unlike most great river systems, the point where it reaches the sea is a

rather dull affair, as half the time there is virtually no water left by the time it reaches this point. I am not sure this really counts as an attraction, but where else can you see the mouth of a major river system with no water?

Lake Eyre

Lake Eyre is an unusual place, it is occasionally the largest lake in Australia, although the rest of the time it's a salt pan. Lake Eyre fills up to varying degrees following monsoon rains in the north of the country and then the water flows down the rivers into the lake and evaporates again. The amount it fills up varies and sometimes the water doesn't reach the lake at all. There has been the odd suggestion over the years to dig a channel from the sea to Lake Eyre as it's 15m below sea level, although so far no one's actually tried to do it.

Cooper Pedy

Cooper Pedy is famous for its opals and underground houses. The town has been mining opals since 1915 and has produced many of the world's gem-quality opals. Due to its location in the middle of the desert the temperatures range from tops of 47°C in summer to below freezing in winter. Many residents prefer to build their houses underground, this also saves on heating and cooling costs as it maintains a constant temperature.

Western Australia (WA)

Western Australia occupies the far west of the continent/island. It's a strange place, being 3 hours out of sync with everywhere that matters, and is sometimes seen as being another country altogether. They did successfully vote to leave Australia in 1933 but no one took much notice of them and to this day they are still here.

Perth

Perth is the largest city and capital of Western Australia. It has a river running through it and uses the black swan as its official emblem and people say nice things about it. Although they might just say that to make themselves feel better about being stuck in Perth. Maybe it's a bit like the vikings and Greenland.



Somewhere in Perth at night

Highlights

Like every major city in Australia it has a zoo, a botanic gardens and a load of museums. Perth also likes to promote their river, but most major Australian cities have one and there's a limit to how excited you can get about it.

Rest of Western Australia

Kimberley region

The Kimberley region is basically the entire northern part of Western Australia. It's famous for its unique nature, with lots of unique flora and fauna, rock formations, rivers and lots of crocodiles and tourists getting eaten by them. It might also be where Crocodile Dundee lives, although no one knows.

Wyndham:

This town located in far North Western Australia is a great place to visit if you hate wearing jumpers, jackets or trousers. The town boasts the record for being the warmest place in Australia with an average temperature of 35°C and a top of 46°C in November. The town also has the giant crocodile monument if you are looking to see all of the giant things.

Lake Disappointment:

Despite the name this is really a really exciting lake with lots of exciting bird life (that generally won't eat you alive, although if you die of dehydration they may peck at you). Although Lake Disappointment is a little hard to reach, being located in the middle of nowhere you certainly won't be disappointed with all the exciting things the place



Lake Disappointment.

I know you're thinking "what?? This is bound to be fake". However, remember this isn't the internet... It's in a book, so obviously you can trust it.

Photo by Zoe Hirst

has to offer once you reach it. We wouldn't want to spoil the surprise though, so all the exciting things won't be covered in this book.

The Northern Territory (NT)

The Northern Territory occupies a previously unclaimed area of northern Australia. It's a large and sparsely populated state with most of the surviving inhabitants living in Darwin. The rest were taken by crocodiles or water buffalo.

Darwin

A city of 146,245 people, Darwin isn't a particularly exciting place. Lots of crocodiles and it's hot all year round. Darwin often functions as a start and end point for tours to Uluru, Kata Tjuta and the Kimberley in Western Australia.



You don't really want to go there do you?

Highlights

They have lots of crocodiles and a few museums. Generally speaking though Darwin's not a particularly exciting place.

The rest of the Northern Territory

Katherine Gorge

Katherine Gorge is a series of gorges on the Katherine River in the Northern Territory; they are located in the Nitmiluk National Park and are a popular tourist destination. They can be explored by organised tour boats or with a canoe or flat-bottomed boat. During the dry season the waters are fairly calm and the crocodiles harmless (so swimming is fine), however during the wet season the crocodiles change and become the evil, biting type and then you are not permitted to swim.

Uluru (Ayers Rock):

Formally known as Ayers Rock, Uluru is Australia's second largest rock! Or, if it makes it sound more spectacular, second largest monolith. It is by far the most spectacular, located in the middle of nowhere in the centre of Australia. This rather large rock can be reached by road or local flight from Alice Springs and it boasts a large population of flies. The rock is also considered sacred by the local aboriginal tribe and they ask you not to climb it. Although you can if you really want to.



Uluru
Photo by Ida Lahti

Kata Tjuta (The Olgas)

Kata Tjuta, more big rocks in the middle of the desert, are also spectacular and are located a short drive (even by Australian standards) from Uluru. Unlike Uluru, climbing these rocks is a great deal more challenging, although there are numerous walking tracks around the base which give you great views of the rocks from different angles and cause you to get heat stroke if it's too hot.

Survival tip:

Remember, if you are visiting either of the above sites on a hot day, to drink lots of water. Although due to the fact they like to put chlorine in all of it, it will most likely taste like drinking a spa

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

The Australian Capital Territory is a tiny territory located within NSW. Its existence is tied to a dispute between Victoria (Melbourne) and NSW (Sydney) about where the new national capital should be built. As neither side could agree the ACT was created and Canberra was founded in 1913. Due to the size of the ACT, Canberra occupies most of the territory, the rest being national park.

Canberra

A city of 356,585 people, it's an unusual place. It's widely regarded as being dull and uninhabited by people from other cities in Australia. The city is home to the Australian government and all of its associated departments. It's also where most overseas embassies are located and it has a lot of roundabouts and a lake. It's also unusual in the sense it's one of the only planned cities in the world. It was all planned out and was first founded in 1913 in a field in rural New South Wales, kind of far from anywhere of significance.



Canberra
Photo by asheshwor - Flickr

Highlights

There are a variety of things to visit in Canberra including the National Museum, the National War Memorial, Questacon (national science museum) and the National Parliament. Canberra is also known for its discount pornography and fire crackers (which are illegal in other states)

Outside Canberra in the rest of the ACT there are a few farms and bush land. Most of the state is made up of a national park.

Overseas territories:

Unlike traditional guides to Australia, this one also tells you about all the overseas territories, for those who like to really get off the beaten track, or have a thing for tiny island.

Note: This is only a partial list. If you seriously want to visit all of these exciting places this book recommends consulting a really big detailed map or the internet.

Norfolk island

Norfolk Island is a small island located out in the ocean sort of in the direction of New Zealand, although a bit further north. There isn't a lot of exciting things to say about the island, although it is famous for its pine trees which are popular as an ornamental tree in Australia and around the world.

Christmas Island

Christmas Island is located northwest of Australia and south of Indonesia in the Indian Ocean. It's home to lots of asylum seekers and crabs. The asylum seekers have little choice about being there although the crabs go there voluntarily. They are somewhat famous on the Internet because of their size.



The island is famous for its crabs.
Photo by David Stanley - Flickr

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The Cocos Islands are also located northwest of Australia and they are even further away than Christmas Island. There is not a lot to say about the islands, although they speak Malaysian there alongside English due to their colourful history. Which just happens to be beyond the scope of this book.

New Zealand

Little is known about these islands located 4,155 km east of Australia in the Pacific Ocean. The islands that make up this place are famed for their beautiful nature and the people who live there are considered to talk a bit funny. This mystical place is also famous for the stories of its most revered heroes Bilbo and Frodo Baggins.



The Entwood, where you can find the Ents, to help you defeat Saruman.

Ashmore and Cartier Islands

The Ashmore and Cartier Islands, located in-between Australia and Indonesia, are a magical and exciting place. They are best seen by boat due to the lack of solid land, although that never stopped all the adventurers who have visited this wonderful place over the years hoping to find its lost treasures.

Australian Antarctic Territory

The Australian Antarctic Territory is the largest of the Antarctic territories claimed by various nations. It's a cold and sparsely populated place with a population of 1000 smart people over an area of 5,896,500 km². So if you get lost here you might as well give up and cry. The Australian Antarctic Territory is also home to lots of exciting wildlife like penguins and seals.



A common sight in the Australian Antarctic territory
Photo by Alan Wilson

Getting Around



Australia is big, I mean very big. So if you are in one place and think it would be nice to go to another place we do not necessarily recommend walking, unless the other place is the corner store or you are mad.

Air travel

Due to the vast distances between major Australian cities, air travel is by far the most popular way of travelling around the country. Every major city has an airport and there are daily domestic flights between all major cities. There is a variety of airlines operating on the domestic market, although competition isn't great and prices may be considered a bit steep compared to places like Europe. When travelling on domestic flights some form of photographic identification is required and obviously no bombs or illegal weapons etc. Besides that there are no internal customs or anything like that.

Public transport

Again due to the huge distances, a lack of foresight and a determination to save money, public transport outside the major cities is often limited and if you live in Melbourne it doesn't work well at the best of times. Like when it's too hot and the train tracks melt. That said all the major cities have metropolitan bus/rail services with varying degrees of efficiency.

That said all the major cities have metropolitan bus/rail services with varying degrees of efficiency.

The major problem that afflicts Australia's public rail is that back before federation every state decided it would be good to build their railways with different gauges so that trains from other states couldn't sneak in. This continues to haunt them to this day with the most prominent example being the train station in Albury on the NSW/Victorian border which has two different types of tracks. One Catering for the NSW trains and another for the Victorian Ones.

Generally speaking there are alternatives to driving or flying when trying to travel around Australia, although it's worth a bit of investigation beforehand. Besides the public transport options there are private bus services between all the major cities which are reliable and comfortable and you can take privately operated trains between most of the major cities, although they are somewhat infrequent (once a week for example) and usually expensive.



Tourists waiting for the train at Tumut Station
(NSW)

Fun Fact:

Even though the Tumut Railway station above appears rather abandoned (and the tourists are in for a long wait). Services on the line is in fact only suspended not closed (and have been since 1984).

Driving

Obviously Australia's roads link most everywhere together. These roads vary in quality from big highways to tiny dirt roads. Driving around the country is relatively easy as long as you can cope with the distances, there are generally service stations and rest places located along all major roads and towns scattered about the place. However if you are driving through the middle of nowhere remember to have a spare tyre or two.



A typical Australian road complete with recent bushfire.

Walking

If walking over huge distances is what does it for you then Australia is relatively inhospitable and fairly flat apart from some mountains along the east coast known as the Great Dividing Range. If you do decide to walk across Australia then a good pair of walking boots, some water and maybe a guide about walking across Australia would be useful, as this book has no other useful advice on this topic.

Health and Safety

Australia is generally a fairly safe place and medical care is generally very good. When visiting Australia though, travel insurance is a good idea to avoid costly hospital bills. Healthcare in Australia is subsidised for Australians under Medicare, although private health insurance is also popular to cover the limitations of medicare.

In the event of an emergency you should dial 000.

This will connect you to the emergency services anywhere in Australia and then you can specify the type of emergency and what help is required. This will work even if you have no credit or are not roaming.

Alternatively you can also use 112 the international emergency number which will also work with any network and not cost you anything.

Note that outside the major cities phone coverage can be patchy at best and nonexistent most of the time, despite what the Telstra ads suggest (though to their credit, they did get in trouble for that). In many rural areas Telstra provide the only coverage via an 850mhz 3G network known as Next G, which is incompatible with many handsets, as these do not support the 850mhz frequency which is only used by a few of companies worldwide (and none in Europe).. So odds are you're stuffed.

In the event of you having no phone coverage you could try shouting for help. Although as previously mentioned it's a big place and odds are no one will hear you. And depending on the nature of your emergency that may just make your situation worse.

Eating

The author of this book assumes everyone who will ever read this needs to eat to survive. So here are some suggestions of food to try and likewise to avoid.

Sausage roll:

Sausage meat wrapped in pastry and baked. It's a popular choice as a snack or for lunch and can be found everywhere.

Tim Tam:

A popular chocolate biscuit which if the ads are to be believed is also self replenishing so the packet will never run out.



Tim Tams

Meat pies:

Again considered iconically Australian and they contain a lot of gravy, but little if any discernible meat. Meat pies can easily be found in any milkbar, service station and smaller supermarkets.

Weet-Bix:

A wheat based biscuit like thing the locals eat for breakfast. It's considered somewhat iconic but is really not that exciting.

Lamingtons:

These suck, don't bother... Although that said they do taste nice with cream and jam in.



A lamington

Pavlova:

a popular meringue-based dessert named after a Russian ballerina. It tastes good and if you want to upset the locals tell them you heard it's from New Zealand.



A pavlova

Kangaroo:

despite what a lot of people might think the majority of Australians don't eat this. Although it's available in most major supermarkets it's predominantly an export thing.

Witchetty grubs:

a large wood-eating larvae which is considered a staple of aboriginal diets. I am not sure I'd recommend eating them...

Vegemite:

created as a local competitor to Marmite this spread is now considered an Australian icon and is very popular. It also tastes nice and for the record it's not marmite and the two are quite different. It goes well by itself or on toast with some butter.



Vegemite

Leaving Australia

So your times come to an end? Glad to hear you have survived your time in Australia. Leaving Australia isn't quite as complicated as

entering, although you will have to leave behind all your new native animal friends as trying to take them out of the country will make you rather unpopular with customs and they will not only take your furry/scaly friends away but a large amount of your money too.

And it's important to make sure you leave before your visa runs out or they get a little upset and may not let you in again for a long time.

Note: If for some reason you face deportation make sure it's abundantly clear where you came from/where you would like to go next. As in the past they had a nasty habit of sending people to totally the wrong country.

Fleeing Australia

Although this may seem unlikely. However as any traveler knows it's important to be prepared. So in case things go south and you need to flee the country for some reason here are some suggestions on how you might go about this.



Its a long way to anywhere remember! Essentially, you are trapped.

Embassies:

You could try the whole “flee into the Ecuadorian embassy” like Julian Assange (who just happens to be Australian) although this is not generally advised. Not only will you have to get to Canberra, and convince the embassy to protect you, you will most likely end up stuck there for some time.

New Zealand:

If you can find a boat and know how to sail and navigate this maybe a good bet. It's a nice place. Note that it's not very big, so if you can't navigate you may want to skip this option as if you miss the next stop maybe Chile and by then you maybe rather hungry and thirsty

Indonesia:

This could be a good bet if you want to sail and can't navigate. Odds are by the time you get halfway you will get picked up by the Australian navy and dragged there anyway. Although this may backfire and you may just end up on Nauru instead. Try telling them you are a people smuggler instead they will most likely take you to Indonesia, although they may then insist on destroying your boat. However if you are really lucky they may pay you for it.

Epilogue

Well good luck, I hope this book served to give you some insights into Australia and thoroughly prepared you for the worst and possibly made you re-consider your plans altogether. You could always buy a new flight to NZ before you leave the airport? It's a nice place and no harmful animals and you might even find a hobbit.

Assuming it's too late, or you're scared of hobbits, here's a few final bits of advice to help you. Remember your hat and sun screen if you are venturing out into the world in the summer (a broad brimmed one preferably), the sun won't do you much good. Furthermore, a fly net to cover your head is recommended while out in the bush or the outback, or you will go insane before long.

Last, but not least, remember don't go climbing the trees. They will be full of ants. They will bite you .You will fall . It will hurt. Then you will realise your mobile phone has no reception, so you will lie there in agony... and a kangaroo will come and nibble on you, and it will be a thoroughly unenjoyable experience.

All the warnings and dangers aside enjoy your time in Australia!

Appendix

This book aims to be thoroughly modern, progressive and accepts its own shortcomings as a physical printed book. Like any great publication or work out there, there are mistakes made, things get left out, information may be wrong or is simply made out of date by the passage of time. Therefore, this book offers an innovative solution to all these problems.

This appendix allows you to download, print out and paste in new content to update the book. For example; if it turns out that the author completely forgot about a very important bit of information about Australia in the first edition, then you can download and print it out and stick it in and then your book's updated.

So the following four pages were deliberately left blank to allow you to paste in updates. If more than four pages of updates happen to come out, then I guess you could staple them to the back, or get a new updated copy of the book or just switch to the ebook.

To download updated content and learn more checkout the website at: www.thepocketguidetoaus.website.

About the Book

The idea for this book first began in late 2015 as a gift for a close friend and colleague who was setting off to Australia for 6 months on a student exchange. As the project began to grow, I quickly realised that this was morphing into a big job and furthermore something I'd like to give to other people as well, especially family and friends. I never had any intention of publishing it or making any money off it. I was just getting old and becoming all philosophical and I thought that it would be cool to create something memorable.

As is traditional in books, for some reason, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible. My partner Ida for putting up with me spending lots of time working on it, my parents for proof reading it and making sure it makes sense and my sister and her partner for helping put it all together in the end.

I should also thank Post Denmark and the Danish government for giving me money (while I was studying), so that I could afford electricity and food to survive and actually write this.

Note: Post Denmark and the Kingdom of Denmark in no way endorse this book. Well, I have never asked them, but odds are that they don't.

slightly too large
The Pocket Guide to

Australia

This isn't your every day guide book. No this book is different, this book will be mildly confusing, likely to mislead you and often take the piss; like a true Aussie. This book will cover lots of information that will prove much more useful than it ought to be.

Written by a former Australian, now living in Denmark, with assistance from some acquaintances still back in the land down under, this book is designed to keep you as entertained as you are informed.

The author takes no responsibility for how this book is used or interpreted



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