

A black and white photograph of a young man walking away from the camera on a city street. He is wearing a striped t-shirt, dark pants, and sneakers, and has a large backpack on his back. The street is paved with cobblestones, and there are buildings and other people in the background, though they are out of focus.

THE ULTIMATE STUDENT GUIDE

G'day!

BEDSSI.COM

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It's fantastic that you're thinking about studying overseas. Especially in Australia! We're sure this will be the best experience you will ever have.

This doesn't mean that there won't be challenges or difficult moments. But you will get through them.

This is why we created this guide. To help you adapt and make the transition to Australia painless. It doesn't have to be difficult!

Enjoy!

A photograph of Uluru, a large sandstone rock formation in Australia. The rock is a deep red color and has a smooth, rounded shape. The sky is a clear, bright blue. In the foreground, there is a desert landscape with sparse, low-lying vegetation and red soil. The text "About Australia" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the upper left portion of the image.

About Australia

HOW BIG IS AUSTRALIA?

It's BIG. It's the 6th largest country in the world with 7,692,024 km² occupying 5.2% of the world. It's the largest country without a land-border to neighbours (an island) and the largest in Oceania.

In fact it's easier to show you how big it is rather than to try and explain it. Have a look.

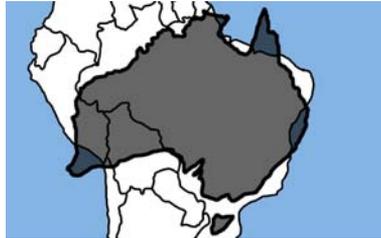
Fun Facts: The largest country is Russia with 17,098,242 km² (11.5% of the world) and the smallest is Monaco with 1.95 km² (<0.01%). Australia coordinates are: 25.2744° S, 133.7751° E



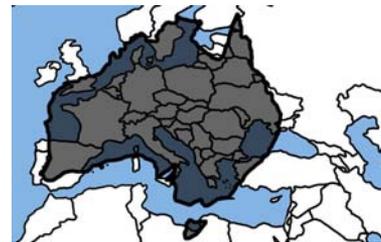
Canada



Brazil



Europe



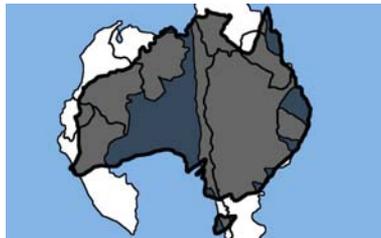
China



United States of America



South America (without Brazil)



Middle East



Russia



Mexico and Central America



Africa (southern countries)



South East Asia



Political World Map





THE AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Australian education system is geared towards research. You will find that even at the undergraduate level education tends to be self-directed and promotes practical learning. Lecturers and professors will be there to guide you and help you if you have issues or problems but it will mainly depend on you, and how much you want to study and explore the subject. This is actually very different from many countries where students receive most (if not all) the information during class.

But why is it like this?

A research focused education is one that is able to move ahead. Research focused education is constantly developing new information, theories, & technologies. This is also why the government tends to provide most of the scholarships towards research degrees and very few for coursework degrees.

Australian institutions have excellent support services. You need to actively look for it, but once you do you will notice that you'll be supported for both academic and personal issues.

Remember to ask!...otherwise nobody will know you need help.

TOP 18 REASONS TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

1. Australia is the 3rd most popular study destination in the world (and growing).
2. Multicultural environment. You will study with people from over 180 different countries
3. International recognition (graduates are sought after)
4. You will be able to work part time (40 hours per fortnight) with a student visa. Work full time during vacation periods.
5. You could work in Australia temporarily after you have finished your studies. (conditions apply)
6. World-class university system. All Australian universities are rigorously quality assured
7. Focused on teamwork, analytical thinking, problem solving
8. Australia has 42 universities in total. 7 (16%) are ranked in the world's top 100
9. 39 Universities are public. Only 3 are private institutions (Bond University, Notre Dame and Carnegie Mellon)
10. Highly regulated education system
11. More than AU\$5 billion dedicated to research & development
12. Over 1.2 million students (40% participation rate in higher education)
13. 450,000 are international students (and growing!)
14. Over 100,000 staff dedicated to the Education sector
15. Australia has 12 Nobel Laureates Mainly in Science and Medicine
16. Safe, prosperous environment and high quality of life.
17. Moderate climates
18. Welcoming Multicultural society.

STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

The first step in your journey is to find the course you want. You can apply directly to the institution or you can make your life easier and apply via an Education agent.

FIND AN EDUCATION AGENT

Education Agents are the nominated representatives of institutions in your country. Agents help students with their decisions and applications for little or no charge. It is very likely that your institution has an agent in your city. You'll find details on approved agents an institution works with on their website.

DOCUMENTATION

You will need to prepare supporting documentation (translated into English) to send with your application.

The documents vary depending on the course (eg. some require a portfolio or interview).

The most important documents include:

1. CV, reference letters & certificates that verify your previous study including qualifications you already have.
2. Evidence of your English language proficiency (IELTS or TOEFL).
3. If you are seeking course credits, produce certificates that verify previous study or work experience.

YOUR LETTER OF OFFER

If your application is successful, you will receive a 'Letter of Offer'. This sets out the course you will be enrolled in, any conditions & fees.

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT

After you have accepted your Offer and paid your deposit you will receive a 'Confirmation of Enrolment' (CoE). This will outline your course start date, total fees and course length.

VISA APPLICATION

You can now apply for a Student Visa (only AFTER you receive the CoE). You need to present your CoE with your visa application. Non degree courses (eg exchange) may differ.

You can now start getting ready to travel!

We recommend you use an Education Agent. They have sent so many applications that they know exactly what, when and how to do things. You only need to collate your documents.

Read the Letter of Offer carefully (make a copy) before you accept it. Make sure that you understand all your rights (including any refund arrangements).

IELTS AND TOEFL

If you aren't a native English speaker, you'll be required to sit an English language proficiency test as part of your application. The two most recognised tests are the International English Language Test System (IELTS) which is British and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test which is US based. These two tests are very similar. Both will test your skills in four bands: writing, reading, speaking and listening.

AUSSIE CITIES & POPULATION

“Unreal Australia” on Instagram
See Australia without having to travel!

According to the last census, 26% of the population was born overseas. Of the population born overseas, 82% lives in the capital cities.

In terms of migration per capita, Australia is ranked 18th ahead of Canada, the USA and most of Europe.

The top ten religions in Australia account for less than 63% of the population.

ADELAIDE

Ranked the 5th most livable city in the world*, this is a compact, quiet city with great food, nice beaches and friendly people. It is easy to get around as it has very little traffic. Adelaide is cheap compared to other cities. If you have a small family or just like a quieter city, this would be perfect for you. A short drive away are the food and wine regions of Barossa Valley and Adelaide Hills, and the incredible Kangaroo Island full of pristine wilderness.

BRISBANE

This city has a fantastic climate. In fact it has the best weather in the country (short mild winters and longer summers), a modern look, and all the cultural activities you would want. Brisbane is also ranked in the top 20 of student cities*. You can access great beaches an hour or so drive north and south (unfortunately, Brisbane city doesn't have beaches). Brisbane is cheaper than Sydney and Melbourne but is still a bustling city.

CANBERRA

This is one of the few major cities in OZ that is not coastal. Centred around a beautiful lake, the city is the country's capital and therefore the political centre. The city is unique in that it was mapped out and purpose built to be the nation's capital. It also has very good education institutions and is a student city.

GOLD COAST (GC)

Experience fun, sun and a relaxed lifestyle in this beach city. The GC (as it is known) is naturally rich with beaches, canals, rainforest and mountains. One hour drive south you arrive to Byron Bay which is a holiday paradise. Drive an hour north and you are in Brisbane City. All the amusement parks are also at the GC ("Hollywood on the Gold Coast"). It is a cheap place to live compared to the big cities and the climate is tropical.

HOBART

Tasmania is a small island off Australia's mainland with Hobart as its capital. Hobart is considered for some the food capital of Australia. You get great fresh produce and the best seafood you'll ever taste. It has beautiful hinterland areas and fantastic sceneries. Hobart is also cheaper than the main big cities therefore it could be a good option to study.

MELBOURNE

Melbourne is, for the fifth consecutive year the most liveable city in the world*. It is also currently ranked as the 2nd best

student city in the world*.

You can only imagine how GREAT this city is. Melbourne is full of culture, music and entertainment. Within an hours drive you could be at the start of the Great Ocean Road (one of Australia's biggest attractions)

PERTH

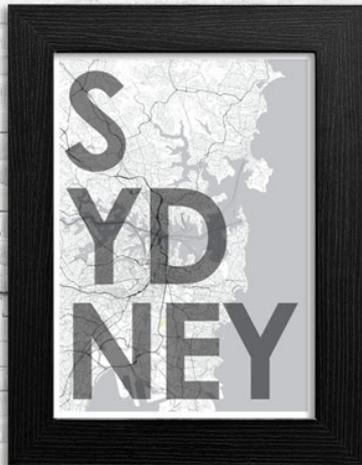
Perth is the biggest city in Western Australia. It is an open expansive city that has a relaxed lifestyle. Perth has great beaches where you can surf nonstop. If you drive one hour away from the city you will find the Margaret River region, famous for beautiful scenery and wines. This city also has fantastic weather all year around. Perth is also the most isolated city in the world! Having said this, Perth is well connected to most cities in Asia.

SYDNEY

Sydney is the biggest city in Australia. It has the most beautiful harbour in the world and it is currently the 7th most liveable city in the world*. It is also ranked as the 4th best student city in the world*. Sydney has more than 70 beaches. It has parks everywhere and beautiful walks everywhere. If you like a busy city with great outdoor activities you will love it here. Within 1-2 hours drive you can be either in the Hunter Valley (wine region), Blue Mountains or Central Coast.

Interested in a short history of Australia?
www.australia.com/en/facts/history.html

CITY	POPULATION (JUNE 2015)	NATIONAL POPULATION (%)
Sydney	4,920,970	20.70%
Melbourne	4,529,496	19.05%
Brisbane	2,308,720	9.71%
Perth	2,039,193	8.58%
Adelaide	1,316,779	5.54%
Gold Coast	624,918	2.63%
Newcastle	434,454	1.83%
Canberra	390,706	1.64%
Wollongong	292,388	1.23%
Hobart	220,593	0.93%
Townsville	180,333	0.76%
Cairns	147,993	0.62%



AUSSIE CITY MAPS



MEMORIES OF FAVOURITE PLACES ON YOUR WALL

**7 Australian cities are in the top 75
"Best Student City" Rankings***

(2 Melbourne, 4 Sydney, 17 Canberra, 18
Brisbane, 26 Adelaide, 35 Perth and 69
Gold Coast)

***QS Top Student Cities Ranking**

**4 Australian cities are in the top 10 of
The Economist Ranking for The Worlds
Most Liveable Cities***

1 Melbourne, 5 Adelaide, 7 Sydney & 8
Perth. Other Aussie cities are in the top

100. ***The Economist Most Liveable Cities**

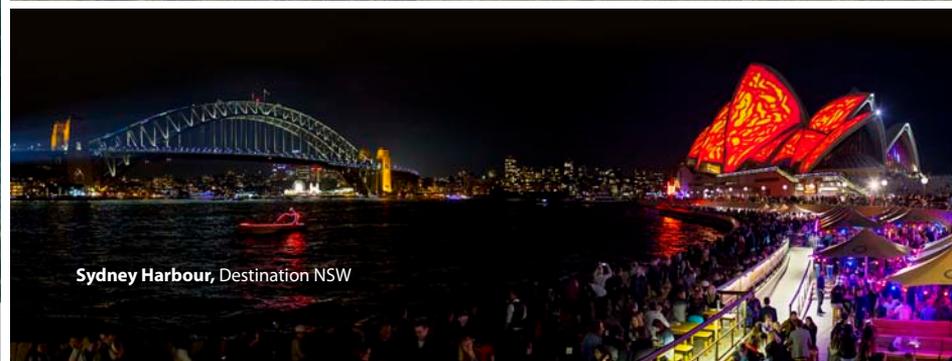
Join our Facebook group called "**Find
How To Study And Live In Australia**"
to get great tips about Aussie cities.



Bondi Beach, Sydney. Sally Mayman; Destination NSW



Perth City Skyline. Tourism Western Australia



Sydney Harbour, Destination NSW

Even though Australia is a huge country 90% of its population lives in the top 10 cities mentioned in the previous pages.

Aussie cities are multicultural. There are more than 230 different nationalities in the its current population.

See Australia without having to travel
[Join "Unreal Australia" on Instagram](#)



Canberra. Visit Canberra



Cottesloe Beach, Perth.
Tourism Western Australia



Brisbane skyline and river. Tourism and Events Queensland



Aerial view of Gold Coast. Tourism Queensland



Adelaide.



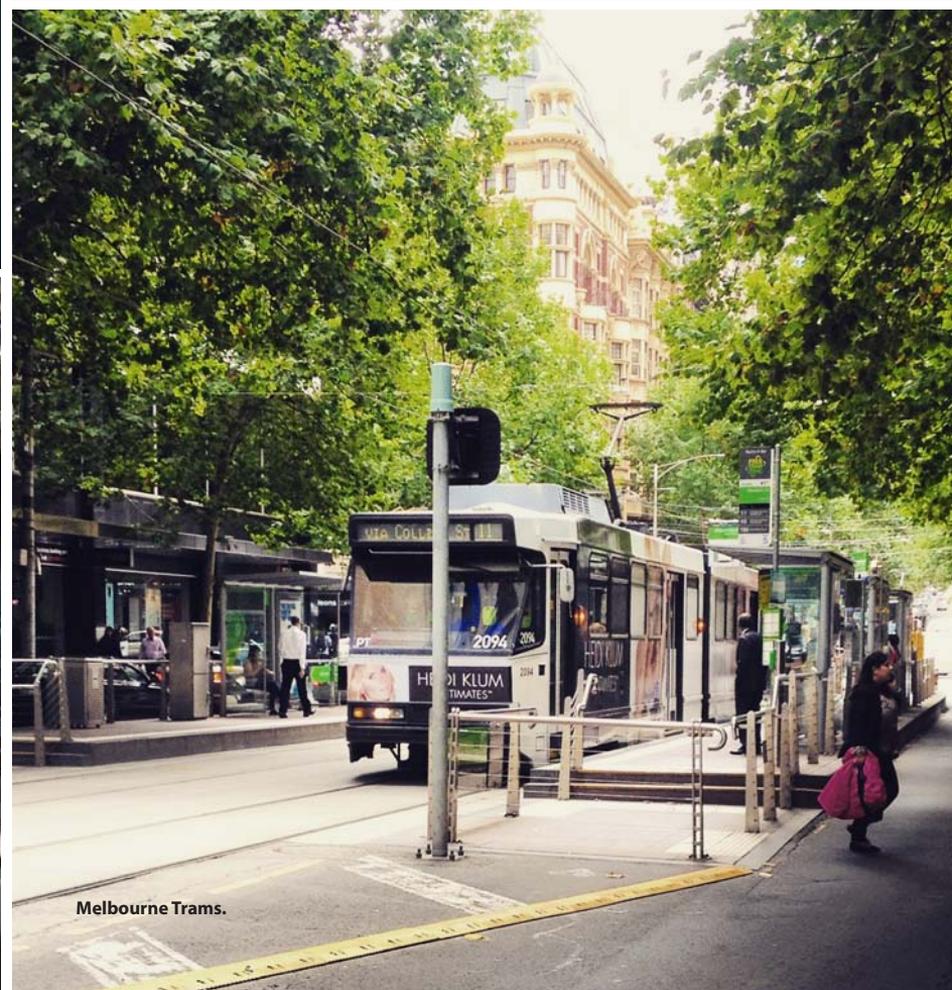
Aerial view of Sydney Harbour. Hamilton Lund; Destination NSW



Panorama of Belmore Basin in Wollongong. Tourism Wollongong



Merewether Surfhouse, Newcastle, Daniel Boud; Destination NSW



Melbourne Trams.



AUSSIE LIFESTYLE

Learn about the Aussie lifestyle by joining our (full of practical info) Facebook Group

You will notice that **Australians are very friendly**, helpful and good-humoured people. It's easy to talk about any subject. However, for personal matters things will take a little bit longer for a real friendship to be formed.

Australia is pretty casual and laid-back. Even though some work places require a good standard of dressing or where presentation and image are important (eg. Lawyers, bankers), we tend to be casual. In many workplaces "smart casual" is the requirement. For men, for example, this consists of a long sleeve shirt, with long pants of a good fabric (not jeans), and leather shoes (in most cases a tie is not necessary).

The majority of Australians live in coastal areas, given that the interior of the country (we call it "the Outback,") is a desert and very dry.

This is why, going to the beach on weekends is very popular. Did you know we have over 10,000 beautiful beaches all over the country? In fact, we spend our Christmas at the beach.

Social interaction is very important. This is why **BBQ's are always popular**. It's almost a national sport!

Australian cuisine is a fusion of a great flavours from around the world. It's truly multicultural. You will be able to try foods from ALL over the world. Enjoy it!

Aussies like and know how to party. This is also a reason why there are so many carnivals, festivals and events in most cities of the country.

Obviously the **great weather** helps. This is why there is no surprise when we say that Aussies take any opportunity to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

But this doesn't limit fun to the cities. You will be able to **experience everything from deserts to rainforests in one single state**. Australia is a nation blessed with unreal natural wonders. The Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, The Blue Mountains, The Great Ocean Road and the Kimberleys are just a few among MANY.

You will notice that **Australians love sports**, we take it seriously and are very competitive about it. Take advantage of the many sporting events happening around the country and attend some of them.

Finally, **The environment is extremely important** to us. This includes natural resources like rivers, forests - we call it "the bush"- and oceans. BUT it includes our cities as well. This is also why many Aussie cities are among the best in the world. We love our country and we are very proud of having clean and beautiful cities that work.

So there you go, you now have a better understanding on how the Australian lifestyle works.

[Visit Australia Website](#)



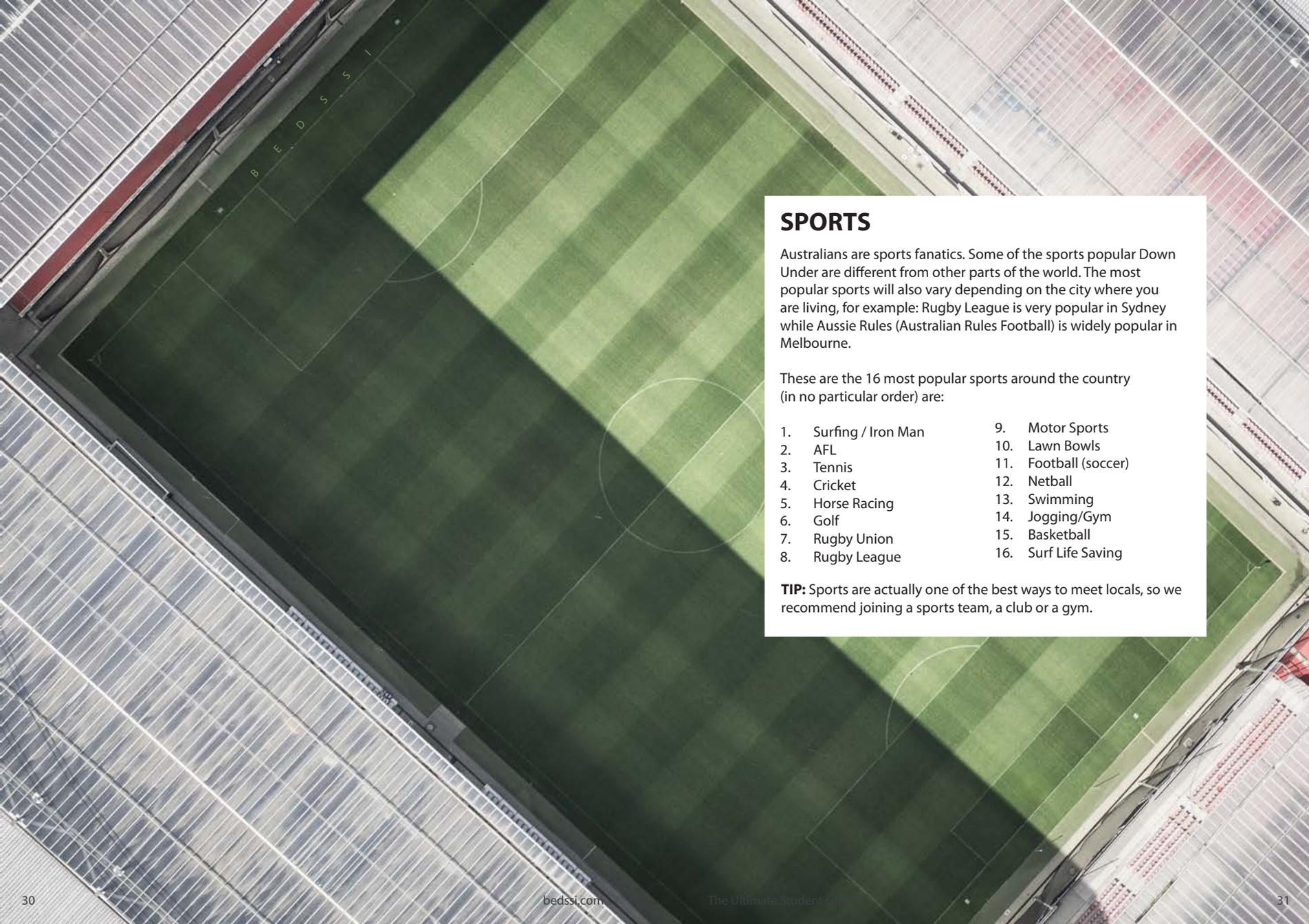


LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE IN AUSTRALIA?

Get our (awesome) Resource Guide:
"The Top 5 Tips To Find a Place to Live Easily".

(You'll Be Surprised by how little stress and work it will be.

Finding a place to live as a Student has never been easier).



SPORTS

Australians are sports fanatics. Some of the sports popular Down Under are different from other parts of the world. The most popular sports will also vary depending on the city where you are living, for example: Rugby League is very popular in Sydney while Aussie Rules (Australian Rules Football) is widely popular in Melbourne.

These are the 16 most popular sports around the country (in no particular order) are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Surfing / Iron Man | 9. Motor Sports |
| 2. AFL | 10. Lawn Bowls |
| 3. Tennis | 11. Football (soccer) |
| 4. Cricket | 12. Netball |
| 5. Horse Racing | 13. Swimming |
| 6. Golf | 14. Jogging/Gym |
| 7. Rugby Union | 15. Basketball |
| 8. Rugby League | 16. Surf Life Saving |

TIP: Sports are actually one of the best ways to meet locals, so we recommend joining a sports team, a club or a gym.

WEATHER & CLIMATE

Australia experiences temperate weather for most of the year. The northern states typically experience warm weather much of the time (having wet/dry tropical weather), with the southern parts of the country experiencing marked seasons with cooler winters and warm summers.

Australia is an island continent that experiences a variety of climates due to its size. There is not one single seasonal calendar for the entire continent. Instead there are six climatic zones and this translates as two main seasonal patterns. For more information about Aussie weather visit: www.bom.gov.au

1. There is a **wet / Dry pattern** in the tropical north which includes the Equatorial, Tropical and sub-tropical zones.

2. **There are seasons (Summer / Autumn / Winter / Spring)** in the temperate -southern- areas. Occupies the coastal hinterland of New South Wales, much of Victoria, Tasmania, the south-eastern corner of South Australia and the south-west of Western Australia. As Australia is in the southern hemisphere, our seasons are the reverse of those in the northern hemisphere. This means our summer runs from December to February and our winter runs from June to August. Australian universities have a long vacation in summer (usually from November to February) and short vacation in winter (usually in July). So, Australians head to the beach in December and to the ski fields in July!

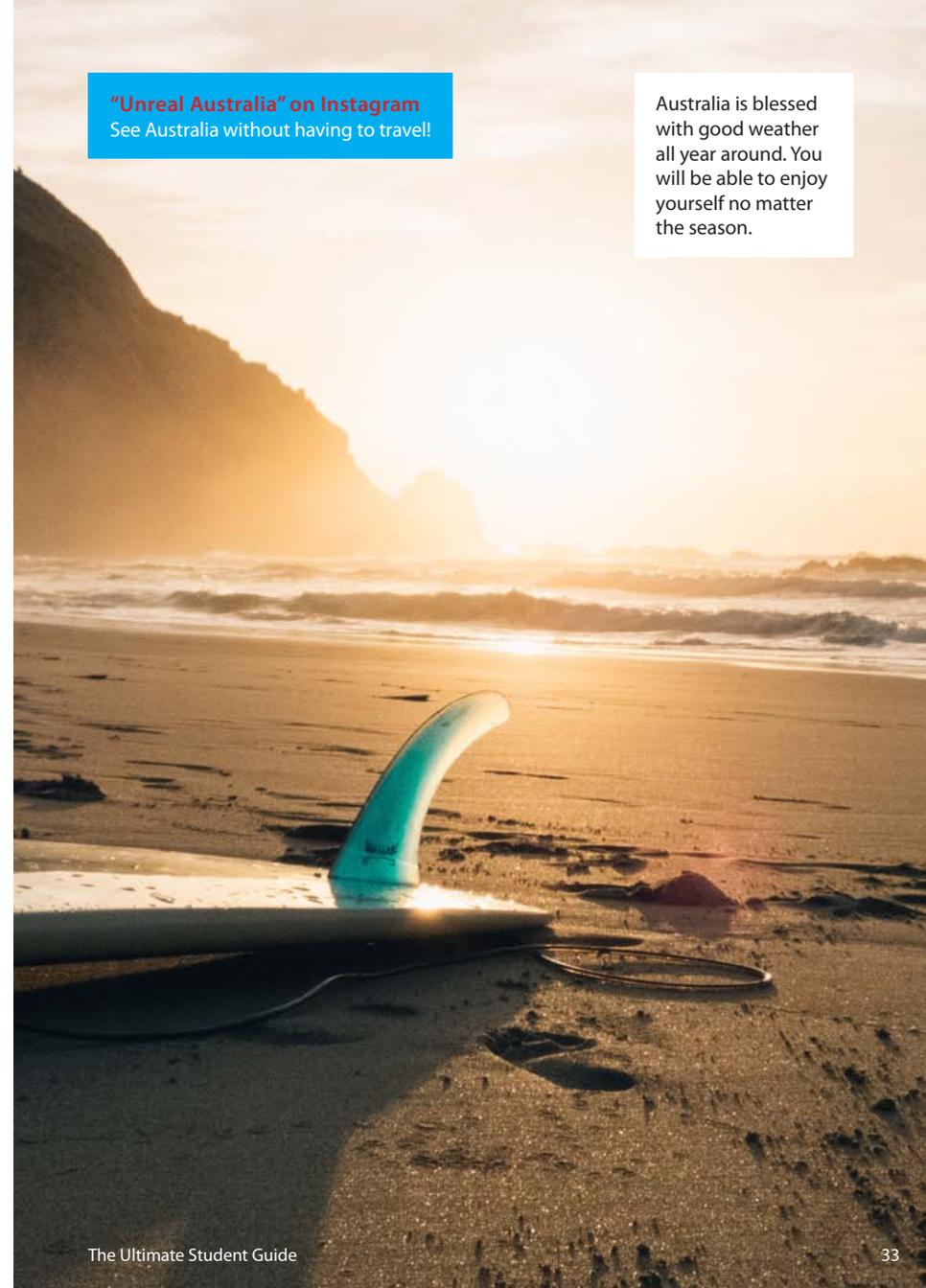
TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGE MAX AND AVERAGE MIN FOR EACH SEASON.

SEASON	Brisbane/ Gold Coast	Sydney/ New Castle/ Wollongong	Melbourne/ Geelong	Canberra	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Townsville/ Cairns
SUMMER- Dec-Feb	30 (86) - 21 (70)	26 (79) - 19 (67)	25 (78) - 13 (58)	12 (54)- 27 (81)	15 (59)- 26 (79)	27 (81)- 30 (86)	17 (62)- 23 (73)	24 (75)- 31 (88)
AUTUMN Mar-May	27 (81) - 17 (62)	23 (74) - 15 (60)	20 (69) - 10 (51)	7 (45)- 20 (68)	12 (54)- 22 (72)	25 (77)- 29 (84)	10 (50)- 16 (61)	20 (68)- 27 (81)
WINTER Jun-Aug	22 (72) - 10 (51)	18 (65) - 9 (49)	13 (57) - 6 (43)	1 (34)- 12 (54)	8 (46)- 16 (61)	18 (65)- 12 (54)	3 (37)- 11(52)	14 (57) - 26 (79)
SPRING Sep-Nov	15 (59)- 25 (77)	13 (55) - 23 (73)	7 (45) - 21 (70)	6 (43)- 19 (66)	12 (54)- 22 (72)	20 (69)- 14 (57)	7 (45)- 16 (61)	20 (68)- 29 (84)

Celsius (Fahrenheit)

"Unreal Australia" on Instagram
See Australia without having to travel!

Australia is blessed with good weather all year around. You will be able to enjoy yourself no matter the season.



SUN SAFETY

Unfortunately the sun in Australia is harsher than in other parts of the world. The good news is it can be handled. By minimising your exposure to the sun's damaging ultraviolet radiation (or UV rays), you can protect your skin.

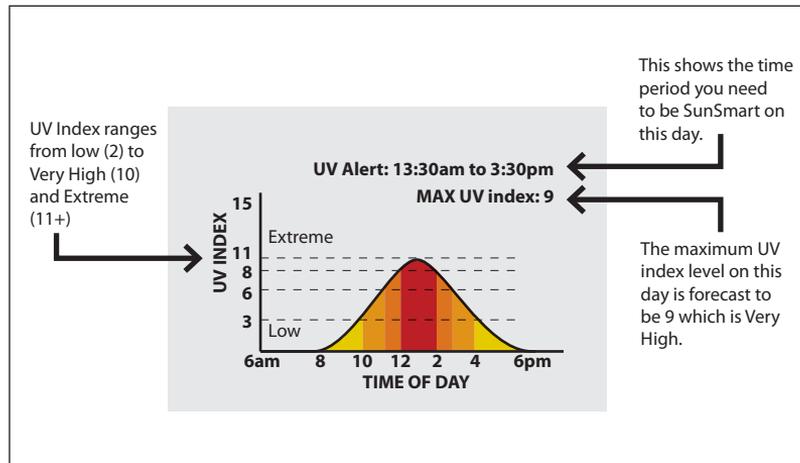
Sun Protection Times vary during the year and across Australia depending on the season. It is not only on hot days that the sun can cause damage (in fact cloudy days tend to have higher UV levels), so pay attention to the Sun Protection Times even on cloudy or partly cloudy days and use a combination of sun protection measures.

There are 5 simple steps you can follow:

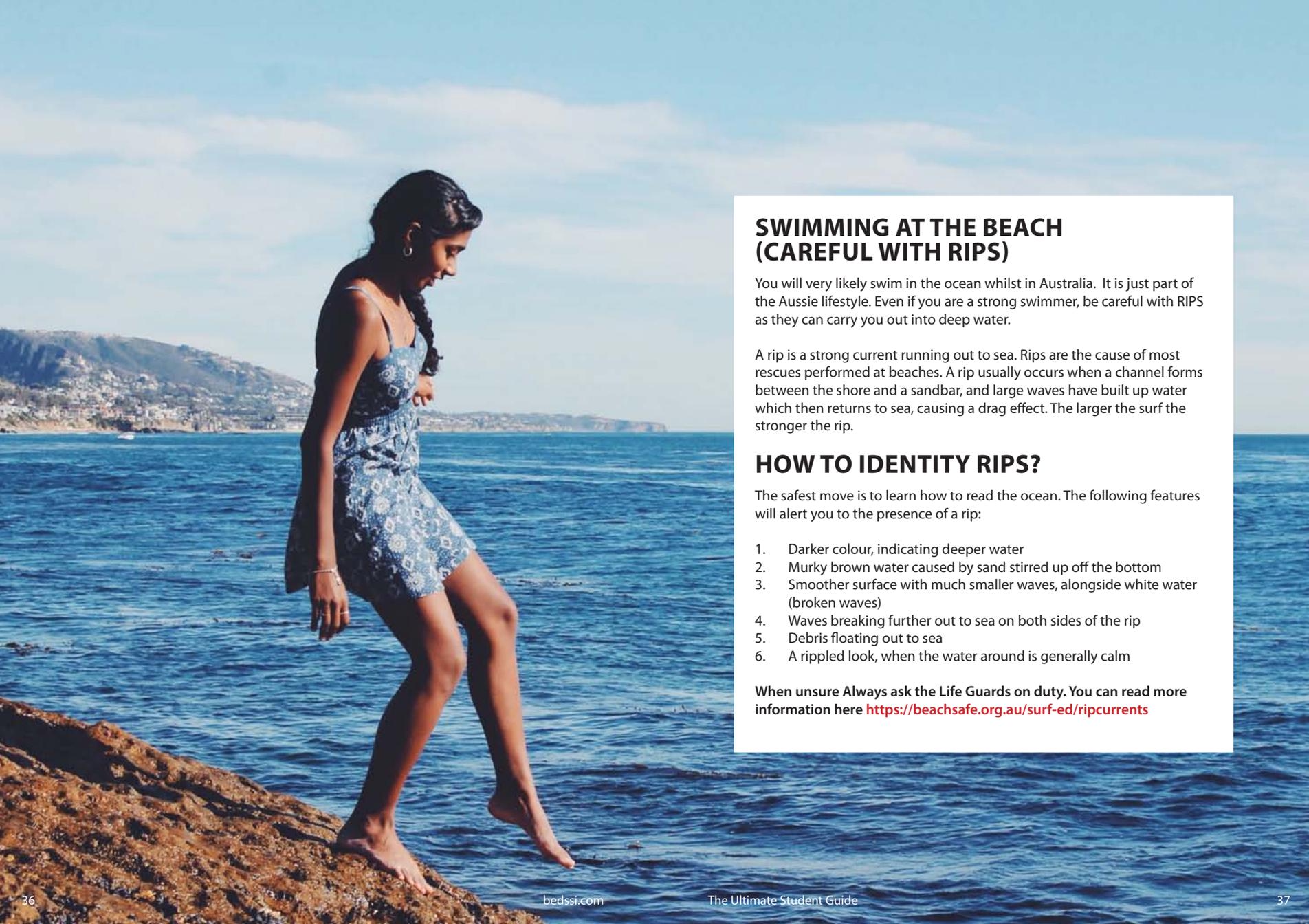
1. Apply SPF 30+ sunscreen 20 minutes before you go out into the sun.
2. Re-apply sunscreen every couple of hours.
3. Minimise your time in the sun between 10am and 3pm.
4. Wear a hat and suitable clothing that provides good sun protection.
5. Seek shade.

UV Index reports are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology

- www.bom.gov.au/uv
- www.yoursummerskin.com



UV INDEX	READING	PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DAMAGING UV RAYS
Low	0-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal sun protection required for normal activity Wear sunglasses on bright days. If you're outside for more than one hour, cover up and use sunscreen. Reflection off snow can nearly double UV strength. Wear sunglasses and apply sunscreen.
Moderate	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take precautions. Cover up, wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Especially if you're outside for 30 minutes or more. Look for shade around midday when the sun is strongest.
High	6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need protection - get out the sunscreen, hats and cover up. UV damages the skin and can cause sunburn. Try and stay out of the sun between 11am and 4pm. Take full precautions: seek shade, cover up, wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
Very High	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra precautions required - unprotected skin will be damaged and can burn quickly. Avoid the sun between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Take full precautions: seek shade, cover up, wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
Extreme	11+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A UV index of 11 or more is very rare. However, the UV index can sometimes reach 14 or more. Take FULL precautions. Unprotected skin will be damaged and can burn in minutes. Avoid the sun between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Cover up, wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. White sand and other bright surfaces reflect UV and increase UV exposure. Follow the full precaution steps.



SWIMMING AT THE BEACH (CAREFUL WITH RIPS)

You will very likely swim in the ocean whilst in Australia. It is just part of the Aussie lifestyle. Even if you are a strong swimmer, be careful with RIPS as they can carry you out into deep water.

A rip is a strong current running out to sea. Rips are the cause of most rescues performed at beaches. A rip usually occurs when a channel forms between the shore and a sandbar, and large waves have built up water which then returns to sea, causing a drag effect. The larger the surf the stronger the rip.

HOW TO IDENTITY RIPS?

The safest move is to learn how to read the ocean. The following features will alert you to the presence of a rip:

1. Darker colour, indicating deeper water
2. Murky brown water caused by sand stirred up off the bottom
3. Smoother surface with much smaller waves, alongside white water (broken waves)
4. Waves breaking further out to sea on both sides of the rip
5. Debris floating out to sea
6. A rippled look, when the water around is generally calm

When unsure Always ask the Life Guards on duty. You can read more information here <https://beachsafe.org.au/surf-ed/ripcurrents>

MOBILE PHONES

If your mobile phone works with Australian mobile networks (most new models do) and is unlocked (not locked into your home network) then you can simply buy an Aussie prepaid SIM card and stick in your phone. You can then buy credit and use it until you run out of credit. You can still receive calls when you have no credit on your phone. If your phone is locked, then make sure you ask your current phone company to unlock it before you travel. You can, of course, also buy a phone in Australia if you need to. DO NOT use your current SIM and pay international roaming rates!

Note: most phones in Australia are connected to GSM networks which operate on 900MHz and 1800MHz frequencies.

CALLING HOME / OVERSEAS

With VoiP technology there is need to spend money on international calls anymore (unless you aren't connected and there is an emergency). There are several options which we are sure you know already but here they are anyway:

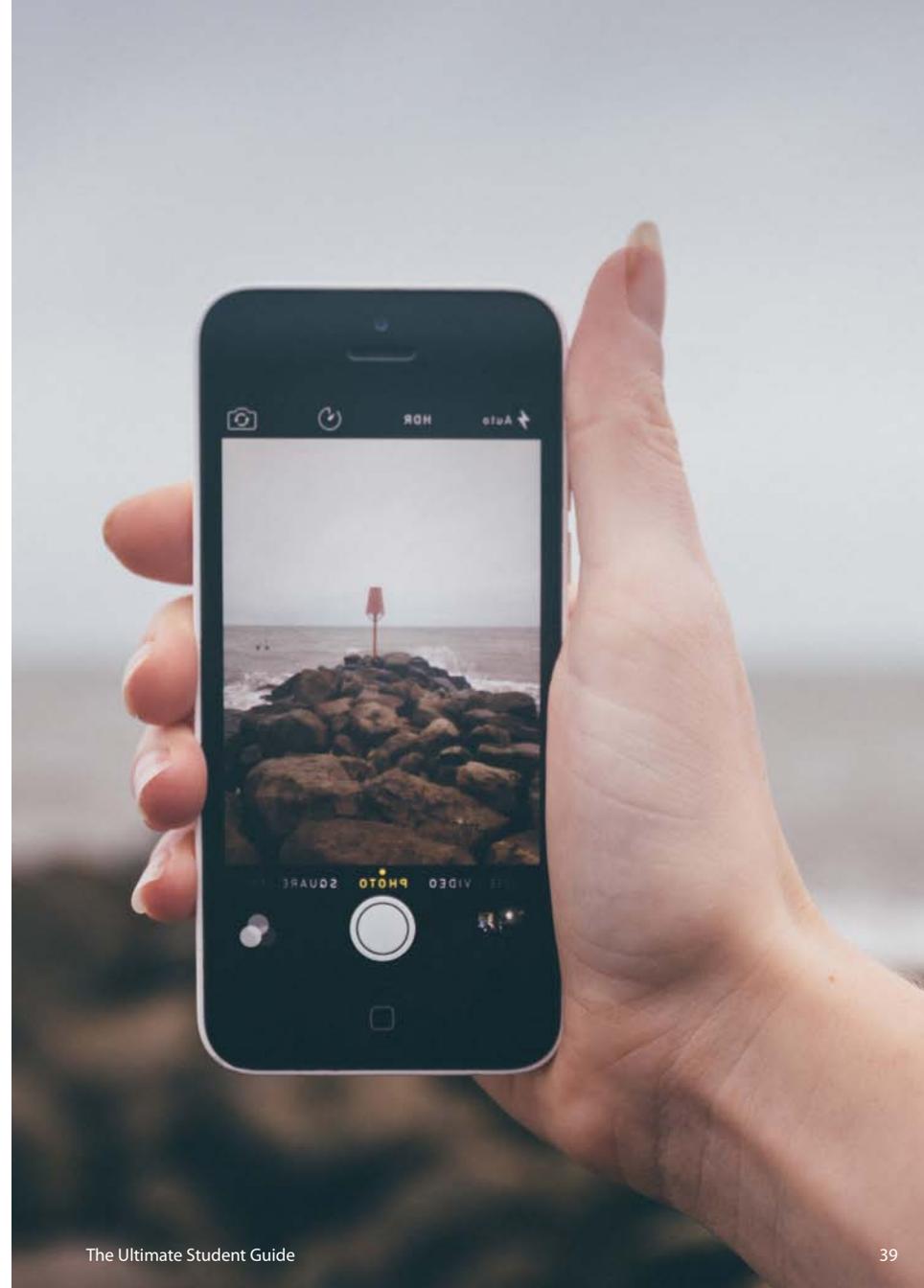
APPLICATION	WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH IT
Whatsapp	Chat and Call friends & family
Facebook Messenger	Chat, Call & Video-call friends & family
Skype	Add credit and call friends that don't have Skype
Google Hangouts	Great group video chat (up to 10 people)
Viber	Connect to WiFi and make calls using you mobile number.
Wechat (mostly China)	Record messages and send them to friends

HAVING YOUR OWN AUSSIE NUMBER MEANS THAT:

- family and friends can call you (which will save you a fortune in phone calls).
- It is also essential if you're looking for work

ACTIVATING YOUR AUSTRALIAN MOBILE PHONE

Mobile networks in Australia are required by law to collect identification on their customers before activating your service (you need to show your passport in the shop that sells you your SIM card); and a valid Australian address (which can be your hotel. This however has to be updated as soon as you move out).





Most of the companies in Australia limit the amount of data you can download per month. There has been many instances where students download their entire monthly data in one single day.

INTERNET SPEEDS & CONNECTIVITY

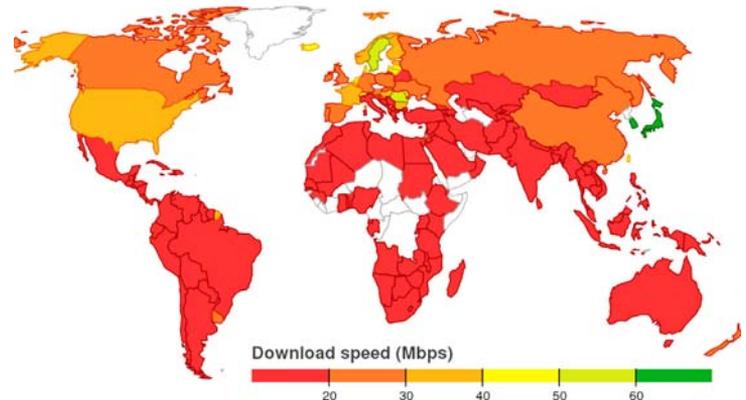
If you're used to high speed, good quality internet that is also free in a lots of public areas, Australia will be a bit of an adjustment. While improvements are constantly made, Australia has one of the slowest speeds in the developed world. Having it setup can be arranged without to much of a hassle, however "internet" is a consistent complaint with international students.

Downloads

It is unusual to find unlimited download amounts.

Take this into account when using internet in Australia and make sure all these issues are clear before signing anything!

Australia is ranked 31 in the world with internet speeds (which is not bad). There is however high Internet penetration in the country with 97% of the population without children having access to the internet compared with 82% of households with children under 15. We recommend TPG for internet



CURRENCY - AU\$ (AUSSIE DOLLAR)

The Australian dollar (AU\$) is the fifth most traded currency in the world, accounting for 7.6% of the world's daily share.

It trades in the world foreign exchange markets behind the US dollar, the Euro, the Yen and the Pound Sterling. The Australian dollar is popular due to the general stability of Australia's economy and political system, and because of its exposure to Asian economies.

You will find both coins and notes: The coins are €5, €10 and €50 cents (in silver), and \$1 & \$2 dollars (gold coins).

Notes come in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 dollars (the last ones are not that common). It's very easy to recognise the notes as they are clearly colour marked.

For general living costs in Australia visit [Austrade's website](#).

Did you know that Australia invented the (almost indestructible) polymer bank notes? These were issued in 1988 by the Reserve Bank of Australia.





EMERGENCIES

Australia's emergency phone number is **000**. It is a free call from every phone in Australia, including mobile phones.

Call **000** if you're in a life-threatening situation and need the help of the police, fire brigade or ambulance service. This includes if you are witnessing a crime in progress.

Do not call 000 if it is NOT an emergency.

When you call **000**, you will be connected to an operator who will help progress your request for help. You will need to tell them which service you need—police, fire or ambulance.



AUSSIE ENGLISH

Australian English began in the early days of colonial settlement (1788) and was recognised as being different from British English by 1820. It started due to the mix and great variety of dialects & languages spoken by the settlers (especially English, Irish, Aboriginal and German) and quickly developed into a distinct variety of English.

Aussie English is different from other varieties of English not only by the accent and pronunciation but also in vocabulary, grammar and spelling. Truth is, Australians have a tendency to shorten words.

Check this very funny video on [How to Speak Australian](#)

Download the Resource Guide on [“The 52 Australian Words That Will Make Your Life Easier”](#).

Your
trip



ELECTRICITY

The electricity supply in Australia is 230-250 volts.

Students from most nations in Asia, Africa and Europe should have appliances that work on the same mains voltage as Australia - therefore you will not need a voltage converter.

Exceptions to this are Japan and American countries which use 100/120V 50/60Hz and usually need a convertor/ adaptor.

100 volt appliances (shavers, hair dryers etc) cannot be used without a voltage converter and a power adapter (see images on right side).

We recommend buying the appliances in Australia as it is much easier. Sometimes its hard (and expensive) to buy the voltage converters).

Voltage Converter: Device that transforms the voltage from the power outlet into one your appliance can use).

Power Adaptor: Device that allows you to plug your device into an Australia power outlet).



Aussie power point.



Voltage Converter



Power Adaptor



18 APPS STUDENTS (YOU) SHOULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT

You can download this awesome resource guide anytime.

You can thank us later!



TIME ZONES

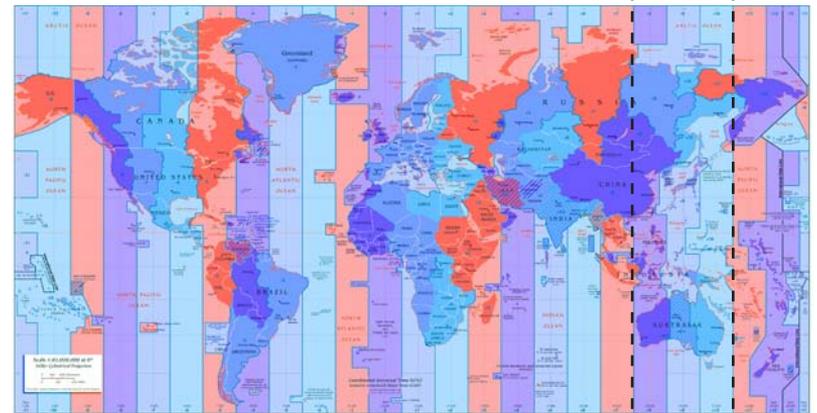
If you are not from New Zealand or East Asia you will have to get used to the Australian Time Zone. This is one of the challenges American, African, European and Middle East students face when coming to study in this wonderful country.

Luckily there is an app that makes it all easy. Need to call your family back home? Want to have a chat with your friends? No problem! You will know what the time difference is, in no time.

Download **TIME BUDDY**.
It is available for Android and IOS.

If you don't want to download the app you can always check the difference online:
www.timeanddate.com

RESOURCE GUIDE:
The top Apps all students should have (It will make your life easier)



WHAT TO PACK

We've put together a list of things you could possibly want or need when you study/travel to Australia (hopefully it applies to both guys & girls). Remember you'll find all of these items in Australia thus if you forget something its not a big drama.

ESSENTIALS (DON'T FORGET ANY)

- Travel documents (passport, visa, itinerary, plane tickets, Australian home address & details, credit cards, Drivers License, ISIC card, etc)
- AU\$500 (Enough for 1-2 week)
- Enough prescription drugs (including dr. documentation) for the length of your stay (check you are allowed to bring them into Aus).
- Backpack (for daily use) – use as carry-on when travelling to OZ.
- Wallet (with ID)
- Gifts for your host family (when applicable). Try to get gifts typical from your home country
- Laptop & charger
- Mobile phone, cords and charger
- Power adapters (refer to page 46)
- Noise cancelling headphones
- Earplugs

CLOTHING/SHOES

The amount depends on the length of your studies. We recommend you have enough for 1-2 week's worth of clothing.

- Jeans/Khakis (3) -[girls inc 2 skirts]
- Belt (1-2)
- Jumpers/Hoodies (3-4)
- T-shirts (7-10)
- Long sleeve (non iron) shirts (2-3)
- Underwear (7-10)
- Pajamas (2). Wear one/wash one
- Shorts (2-3)

- Swimmers (at least 2 of them)
- Warm slippers (it gets cold during winter)
- Socks (7-10) Perhaps take a couple of thick ones for winter time.
- Exercise clothing (2-3)
- Thermal underwear (just in case)
- Coat (1-2)
- Rain jacket (1)
- Formal outfit (dress pants/skirt/dress) For interviews/special occasions.
- Formal shoes (1)
- Walking shoes/runners (2-3)
- Thongs /flip flops) (1-2)
- Beanie/scarf (for the cold seasons)

TOILETRIES (JUST IN CASE)

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Disposable razors (and other shaving supplies)
- Brush/Comb/hair ties
- Tissues
- Feminine Products
- Contact lenses and solution
- Nail clippers and nail file
- Sunscreen
- Makeup

OTHER

- Travel books (loaded in your phone)
- Music (loaded in your phone)
- Load offline Google Maps in your mobile
- Uber app (in case you get lost)
- Umbrella (small)
- Watch
- Sunglasses
- Thin lightweight (dry microfiber) towel

Check this awesome video on how to pack for your upcoming trip (this applies to both a backpack or travel luggage).



Join "Unreal Australia" on Instagram
Start enjoying Australia before arriving!

Avoid bringing more than one big suitcases (max 23kg) and a carry-on (airlines may charge you extra otherwise). Remember you will be able to buy most (if not all) of these things in Australia.

Try to bring clothes that do not need ironing, can be drip-dried, and are comfortable and durable.

Make sure that all of your clothes are interchangeable. This will provide you with many more "outfits". Also, dark clothes don't show stains and dirt as much as light-coloured clothing do.

Keep your money, important documents, valuables, prescription medications, a change of clothing and some toiletries in your carry-on in case your luggage gets lost.

HOW TO SURVIVE A LONG HAUL FLIGHT

- 1. Choose an aisle seat.** This is our preferred seat. You can stand up without bothering anybody. However the window seat gives you a nice, solid wall to rest your head plus you won't be disturbed by passing beverage carts.
- 2. Avoid the middle seat.** Don't forget to do your web check-in 48-24 hours before departure (believe us, you don't want to be stuck in the middle).
- 3. Sit by the plane's wing.** Experts & frequent flyers claim that these seats experience less turbulence, given that they're closer to the plane's centre of gravity.
- 4. Pack earplugs and noise cancelling headphones:** you won't hear the kids crying and it's more likely you will be able to sleep.
- 5. Download relaxation music or meditation sounds:** Sounds can block our ambient noise, as well as help you relax and sleep better.
- 6. Charge all of your devices** Don't leave this to the last minute. There's nothing worse than being stuck in an airport with a dead phone. Make sure you do this the night before & bring a power pack (for extra battery)
- 7. Stay hydrated:** Make an effort to drink water during the entire flight even if that makes you go to the toilet. In fact this is actually good for you because it's recommended that you move often to avoid deep vein thrombosis.
- 8. Avoid coffee and alcohol:** These will dehydrate you further, and make you irritable.
- 9. Wear comfortable clothing:** A pair of jeans & T-shirt is always a good idea.
- 10. Pack a nose spray:** You'll be in a closed space with lots of people for many hours. These sprays avoid germs and it's less likely you'll get sick (plus they smell nice)
- 11. Pack a couple of protein-rich snacks** that will keep you feeling full longer. Think almond protein bars.
- 12. Avoid eating heavy food:** Research says that it's harder to digest while in the air, so although it's okay to eat, you might want to eat just before boarding. Try to eat only salads while on the plane.
- 13. Request a special meal** Don't forget to do this especially if you are a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements. The other perk is that you will be served first.
- 14. Wear layers:** Air conditioning in Long flights is always on and cold. Make sure you don't forget your a warm jumper.
- 15. Bring an eye mask:** Blocking out light helps you sleep, especially when they turn on lights for the early breakfast wake up.
- 16. Wear compression socks:** These will help you avoid swollen feet and ankles, leg pain, and even blood clots and deep vein thrombosis (happens when you've been seating down & in the same position for too long.
- 17. Bring lotion & lip balm.** Dehydration (as we already mentioned) happens in every flight. This is the result of being stuck in recycled, pressurized air (which has almost 0% humidity). The way you can counteract this is by applying hand lotion, face spray, and lip balm.
- 18. Try to sleep in the plane.** You'll get used to the new time faster (avoiding jet lag as much as possible).

You will be jet lagged and tired after the long trip. This may affect how you feel about your new surroundings. It's important to keep a positive attitude and make the most of your new experience.

There are certain items that you must not take in your carry-on baggage because they present a security risk. If unsure always check with your airline, pack it in your checked baggage or leave it at home.

You will be required to surrender any prohibited items you are carrying before you board the flight. Airports and airlines are under no obligation to store or return surrendered items.

- **Visit the Australian Government site to access a list of prohibited items**
- **List of dangerous goods not allowed on an aircraft**

When you land in Australia, Grab a copy of "The Official Guide" of your city".

These are available at all major Australian airports.

These are produced by local governments and they are full of useful information and tips related to your new city!

FIND HOW TO STUDY AND LIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Join the [Life & Lifestyle In Australia](#) Facebook Group today and get all the information related about cool things to do in your city, new restaurants, etc..



OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER (OSHC)

As an international student you and your dependents (eg. children under 18 years old) must obtain OSHC & maintain it for the duration of your time in Australia. This will cover doctor visits, some hospital treatment, ambulance and limited medicines. OSHC insurers can provide a range of different extra products (these will be specified under the particular policy). You should research the different providers and costs on the Department of Health website. Please note: Belgian, Norwegian and some Swedish students are not required to purchase OSHC.

[Department of Health](#)

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (PHI)

You might also want to consider purchasing PHI to cover items that your OSHC does not cover. PHI can cover just you or your family as well. Benefits, membership costs and eligibility vary. You can find more information at:

www.privatehealth.gov.au

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Even though Australia has a very reliable travel industry, cancelled flights, lost luggage or other unplanned issues can happen.

If you are travelling with valuables or are on a tight schedule with connecting flights, travel insurance can help cover any mishaps.

One example is www.onecover.com

You have choice in your Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) provider. You can meet your visa requirements to study in Australia without paying too much.
www.health.gov.au

"Unreal
Australia"

Find your next
Aussie
destination!





ATTENDING ORIENTATION & ENROLMENT

Attending orientation is important because this is the time when you will meet other international students and fellow classmates. Most institutions will give you campus tours and show you the surrounding. The purpose is for you to become familiar with your institution and the city before classes start. If you are studying English it is very likely you will have to sit an English during this week.

MONEY

The exchange rate for the Australian dollar (AU\$) fluctuates, depending on the foreign exchange market. We recommend you do not carry large amounts of cash around with you in Australia. \$100-200 should be enough to cover incidental expenses on your first week. There are money exchange facilities at all major International Airport, and you can also exchange money at banks in all cities (banks are normally opened 9:30am-4pm Monday to Thursday & 9:30am-5pm Friday).

We like **OANDA** currency exchange engine.

Travel with a credit card or international debit card. The biggest four banks in Australia are: Commonwealth, Westpac, National Australia Bank and ANZ.

Get
started
in OZ





STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

As a student, you have a large range of accommodation options from which to choose from. However, you need to be aware that Australian universities provide very few university housing (different to unis in other countries) and it is not non-existent with colleges. This is why it is likely that you will live off-campus (this is how 90% of the students live).

We suggest you arrive in Australia two weeks before the start of classes in order to get settled. Please note: There is high demand for housing, particularly student housing situated close to campus. **We suggest you start looking for accommodation as soon as you receive your Letter of Offer.** In this way you will avoid a lot of stress when arriving in Australia.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Homestay	You will live with a family in their home. This is a good way for international students to fully integrate themselves into Australian life. Homestays are popular with younger students (e.g. high school students) or English Language students. Single or shared rooms are generally available, and costs vary by type of room, but are usually between AU\$250 and AU\$300 per week depending on the city and type of room (there is also a placement fee involved). Meals are generally included (breakfast & dinner during the weekdays and three meals during weekends). *Please note homestays hosts need special verification documents (e.g. police check or equivalent) as they receive under 18 year olds.
Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA)	There are a variety of companies that specialise in student accommodation. They vary from purpose built buildings with 40+ rooms to 2-3 bedroom apartments fully furnished where you will share the social areas. These option tends to be more expensive as they include all utilities are fully furnished and have lots of facilities, and can include services such as gym, pool, etc.
Rental Property (houses and apartments)	Many students in Australia choose to share the cost of a rental property with several housemates. Students who choose this type of housing may either move into a pre-established household, or they may rent the place with friends. With empty rental properties you will have to connect and pay all services, buy the furniture and all appliances. Prices for rental accommodations vary depending on the city and suburb.
On-Campus Housing (university run student halls)	Some universities provide on-campus housing options through residential colleges, halls of residence, or apartments. Prices and availability of accommodations vary according to the university and the services offered. Some of them also provide students with meals, cleaning, and a range of services for social and academic needs. Students should apply early, as these accommodation options are limited.
Serviced Apartments	This is a popular choice for students who come with their families and dependents (e.g. PhD student). This option tends to be a bit more expensive given that it is serviced on a regular basis BUT the whole family wont have to worry about a thing. These apartments tend to be centrally located as well, thus it will provide students with independence of fully self-catered living.
Hostel, Backpackers	Some international students may choose to stay in hostel or Backpackers. Kitchen and bathroom facilities are shared, and students cook for themselves in this type of accommodation. This option is mostly used for very short stays (a few days only) as hostels tend to charge per night thus they are more expensive than renting a room for a few weeks/months.
Hotels	Some International students like to arrive to a hotel for 1-2 weeks whilst they get to know the city, explore the suburbs and decide which one would be the best option for them. This option tends to be the most expensive of them all.

Visit [Bedssi.com](https://www.bedssi.com) for all your accommodation needs.



DOWNLOAD THE BEST
GUIDE YOU WILL FIND ON

**HOW TO
RENT A ROOM
IN AUSTRALIA
AS A STUDENT**

MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

JET LAG IS REAL. LEARN HOW TO MANAGE IT.

The time difference between Australia and American, European, Middle Eastern and African countries is intense. If you arrive in the morning, force yourself to stay up all day. If you arrive at night, go to bed. The sooner you dive into your new time zone, the better.

This also means that you may be very tired, oversensitive and basically negatively charged. There's been cases of students arriving into a great place and complaining about small things. We suggest you arrive, shower, and sleep, and if in the next few days things are not OK then make a formal complaint. But always give things a chance. Remember you are in a completely different country where things work differently!

REMEMBER YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW

Chances are this is the first time you live for an extended period of time in a foreign country. This means everything is different to what you are used to. Different city, different language, different food. You will be without your family and friends. It's tough at the start. BUT you (same as many others before you) will adjust and will get used to how things are done. This is why you need to have an open mind, be patient, flexible and learn and experience new things. Embrace the change and learn how to adapt and grow. You will see that in no time you will be used to everything and will be having a great time.

THINGS DON'T ALWAYS WORK AS THEY SHOULD, OR AS YOU WANT THEM TOO

Things not always work the way you want them to. Instead of being negative, think openly about how to find a remedy to the problem. You will

see that every single issue has a solution. Your attitude towards things will dictate if you bring stress into your life.

WHEN FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

Make sure you sign a lease agreement and that a bond/security deposit is paid. In this way you are protected and everything is within the local laws.

AUSTRALIAN BUGS & INSECTS

You will undoubtedly come across cockroaches and ants when you first move in. These are just part of the Australian lifestyle! This doesn't necessarily mean places are dirty. In fact, the closer you are to the ocean/water, the more you will find them. They will also come out more during warmer seasons (September to May). This can be a bit of a shock to the system, but not to worry because they are harmless!

Best advice for dealing with bugs in Australian households is to relax. Relax and have some bug spray at hand. There is NO need to panic.

AUSTRALIA IS EXPENSIVE

Sydney and Melbourne regularly make the top ten lists of the world's most expensive cities. From rent, to transport, to food. Be prepared to experience some shock and make sure to have a good amount of money saved. In terms of living costs, **Sydney is the most expensive, followed by Melbourne and then Brisbane.**

For example: A single room with shared bathroom will cost around \$340-365+ per week in Sydney. This same room will cost \$285-\$300+ in Melbourne and \$235-\$270+ in Brisbane. You will find cheaper rooms, but always remember the saying: "You get what you pay for". Please also note the above prices are for student room, so don't expect anything fancy.

TOP TIPS WHEN RENTING A ROOM

GOOD NEWS! AUSTRALIA HAS THE HIGHEST MINIMUM WAGE IN THE WORLD

The good news is that Australia has officially the highest minimum wage in the world. This means that you should receive at least \$17.50 per hour. This will obviously change depending on your type of job.

DON'T EXPECT TIPS IN AUSTRALIA

In Australia you don't have to tip – ever. But you can if you want to. This is a big difference with other countries (like the U.S.)

THE GRADING SYSTEM

Chances are you are currently being graded in letters D (Fail) to A (Highest mark) or numbers 1 (Fail) to 10 (Highest mark) or 1 (Fail) to 5 (Highest mark).

Most Australian institutions use the following grading system: F (Fail), P (Pass), C (Credit), D (Distinction) and HD (High Distinction)

LOOKING FOR A JOB

Australia has generous working conditions for students, with only a few restrictions. Getting a job is the best way to save money, meet new people in your city, and make friends! Remember that finding a job depends 100% on you. It all depends on your levels of English, how hard you look for available jobs, how many job applications you submit, etc.

We suggest certain short courses (some take days some only hours) for you to be able to get certain jobs quicker and easier. Some examples are:

- Get a certificate Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) if you would like to work in places where alcohol is served such as restaurants, bars, night clubs (\$120)

- You need a Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) certificate if you want to work at Casinos and operate gambling machines. (\$120)
- You require a white/green card to work on a building site (\$100)
- In order to work in a cafe and make coffee a Barista course is recommended (basic/master skills) (\$120 - \$200)
- Finally you could get a full local Drivers Licence to perhaps drive a taxi or UBER (check local laws in your Aussie city)

IT GETS COLD IN WINTER!

Students rarely think about the weather and climate before leaving their country. We think it is essential to think on the weather and climate in order to maximise a good experience (we don't want you to get sick!). Despite the images of sunshine and beaches it WILL get cold (especially in Adelaide, Melbourne and Hobart). Make sure you pack accordingly because very few places have centralised heaters.

In fact many people coming from Canada and Scandinavian countries mention that they feel colder in Australia than back home because their buildings are designed for very cold weathers. Aussie houses are not. If you come from tropical countries (like south east Asia, North Africa, Central and South America), you should pack warm clothes for the winter times.

AUSTRALIANS DRIVE ON THE LEFT SIDE

Learn the Official (and Unofficial) Rules of the Road. Australians do follow road rules (also because there are traffic cameras everywhere thus this could be a VERY expensive exercise).

- [youtube.com/watch?v=TMSzIn0T9ZI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMSzIn0T9ZI)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=_un5doSUfmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_un5doSUfmA)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=sCXtcXD17qU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCXtcXD17qU)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=l2RdSz_VHPe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2RdSz_VHPe)





WHAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO FIND A ROOM TO LIVE?

the easiest way to look for a room is to let others do the work for you. There are three very simple steps:

1. Fillout the **FIND ME A ROOM** form (it will take 1 minute).
2. **Let Bedssi professionals find the room that fits your requirements.**
3. Choose & book the room.

Its that easy!

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

It's very important that you get to know your rights and responsibilities as a tenant. In this guide you will also find useful information related to accommodation in general and how to be a good flatmate.

Find out what is expected from you as a guest.

HOW TO GET A JOB IN AUSTRALIA

We have prepared a separate e-book where we share all our **"7 best tips to get a job in Australia"**. You'll be surprised by how simple (but effective) these tips are.

We will show you how to network, maximise those opportunities, upgrade your linkedin profile, fillout job application forms and how to prepare interviews among other things. It's Awesome!

Simply **download the ebook for free**. You'll love those tips as well.

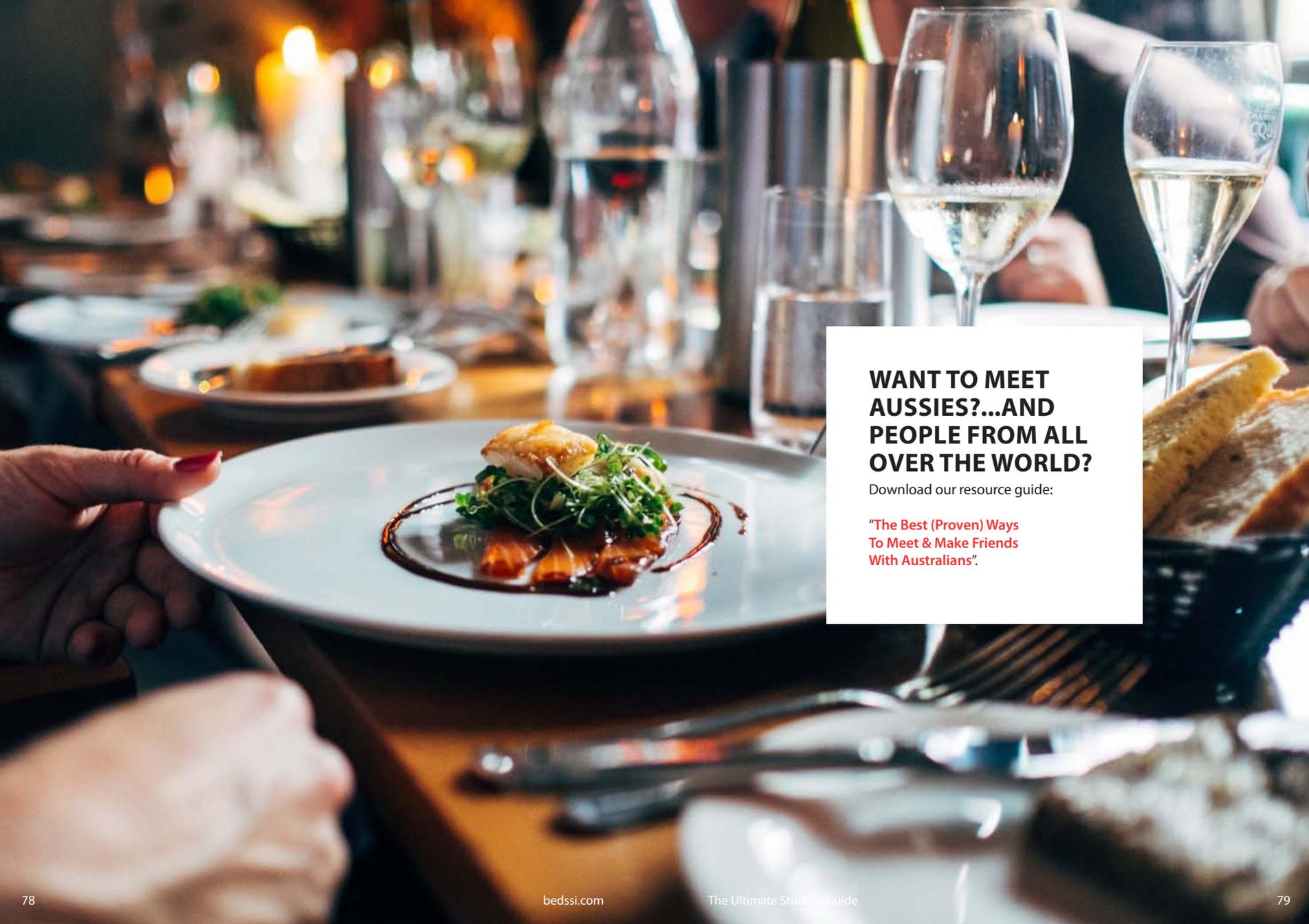
HOW TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

You have to get paid so you'll have to open a bank account. **Find detailed information regarding banks here.**

HOW TO GET A TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN)

You have to get a TFN in order to get a job. **Find detailed information regarding the TFN here.**





**WANT TO MEET
AUSSIES?...AND
PEOPLE FROM ALL
OVER THE WORLD?**

Download our resource guide:

**"The Best (Proven) Ways
To Meet & Make Friends
With Australians".**

TIPS ON HOW TO SAVE MONEY

Ok, so you have managed to save money, enrol in a university, a college or English school, travel hundreds or thousands of kilometers and find a great place to live.

Suddenly, you realise you don't have that much money left and want to make it last as much as possible.

When you arrive to a foreign country everything is new, and finding where the bargains are is very difficult task.

We have prepared a very useful **ebook** where we share all our tips on **how to save money whilst studying in Australia**.

You will learn how to save in relation to food, clothes, home appliances and other items, health and beauty and everything else.

Download the ebook for free.





Start planning
your next trip!
Join
"Unreal Australia"

BEST PARTY PLACES IN AUSTRALIA

There are lots of places in OZ where you will be able to meet new people, relax, change your routine, unwind or go dancing. In fact, each city has its own awesome and unique places.

Whether you're a party animal or the reserved type, these are the top sites for your [relaxation time] after a hard working day.

Our recommendation is to check the city websites and **Timeout** magazine.

- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Brisbane
- Adelaide
- Perth
- Gold Coast

IMPORTANT NOTE:

It's against the law to consume illegal drugs in Australia. You can only consume alcohol if you are over 18 years of age. Most premises don't allow smoking inside.

Before it all ends (sniff sniff)



AUSSIE GIFTS & PRESENTS

So thinking in taking some Aussie souvenirs and gifts back home? These are the recommendations we have. They go from cheap presents, to average priced, to expensive gifts. You will get on the shopping malls. All of these will be unique and your friends and family will love them.

On the cheap side (AU\$5-15)

- Kangaroo and koala toys
- Australian road signs key rings

Medium price (AU\$25-50)

- **Australia Tshirts**
- Painted Aboriginal rocks
- Painted boomerangs
- **Australia City Posters**

Expensive range (AU\$50+)

- Painted didgeridoo
- Mixed timber cutting board

Credits



This booklet has been produced by
BEDSSI: BEDS for Students International
Bedssi.com

WHO WE ARE:

- **Bedssi** is 100% Aussie.
- We are education and housing nerds. We have been involved in Education for close to 20 years.
- We genuinely enjoy helping students fulfil their dream of living and studying in Australia.
- We are the sort of people that enjoys a "Thank You" note from a student. This makes our day.
- We know and understand students (we have talked to tens of thousands of students).
- We were also international students. We understand your needs.

WHAT WE DO

- We help students find accommodation in Australia.
- We live and breath student housing.
- We provide students with useful information on a constant basis through social channels:
 - [Blog](#)
 - [Facebook group](#)
 - [Facebook page](#)

Images from Death To Stock & unsplash



An aerial photograph of a surfer riding a wave. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the surfer is positioned near the base of the wave, leaving a white wake. The overall scene is dynamic and captures the energy of surfing.

**ENJOY
LIFE IN
AUSTRALIA
MATE!**

**GET TO
SEE ALL OF
DOWN UNDER
UNREAL
AUSTRALIA**

While all care has been taken, some information in this guide may have changed since its publishing (Jan 2017). Readers are advised to verify costs and information before applying to anything. Bedssi reserves the right to amend, cancel or modify without notice, the content of any matter in this publication, and may withdraw any information, financial or impose limitations on any promotion offered. Please note this booklet is to be used as a guide only.
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