

Live the dream now!



## Life in Australia

Australia is a land of contrasts from the diversity of climate, culture and it's people – Australia offers something for everyone. Covering a geographical area similar to North America with a population of only 21 million, Australians have an enviable lifestyle. Whether you enjoy water sports, snow sports, team sports or merely relaxing and taking in the scenery, life in Australia offers plenty of recreational choices. [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)

### climate



There are 6 states and 2 territories in Australia and the climate and lifestyle varies considerably in each area.

#### States and their capitals:

New South Wales - Sydney  
Victoria - Melbourne  
South Australia - Adelaide  
Western Australia - Perth  
Northern Territory - Darwin  
Tasmania - Hobart  
Queensland - Brisbane  
Australian Capital Territory – Canberra

See "websites of interest" for further information

### government



Canberra is the capital city of Australia and the seat of Federal Parliament.

Australia is governed under the Westminster system and is totally responsible for its own laws and judicial system.

The States are responsible for state laws and taxes and their parliaments have a house of representatives and senate.

### currency



Australia's currency is the Australian dollar - AUD. The current exchange rate for the AUD to the USD\$ is 0.90 to the Euro is 0.62

The Reserve Bank of Australia sets Australia 's monetary policy.

For more information, please go to :

<http://www.rba.gov.au>

### housing



The rate of home ownership in Australia is very high with each state having its own distinctive style to suit the particular climate.

Inner city living has gained recent popularity and beach side properties show the greatest capital gain.

<http://www.toop.com.au>

### taxation



Australians have goods & services tax (GST) & a Medicare levy for the healthcare system (Australian residents only).

A Pay As You Earn tax system applies for wage earners.

<http://www.ato.gov.au>

### healthcare services

Australian residents pay a Medicare levy for the provision of public health care. High income earners are encouraged to have private health insurance or pay an additional levy. A rebate applies to private health premiums and lower rates apply to people joining the healthcare funds before the age of 30 years. Healthcare is available through public and private hospitals, day procedure units and general practitioners.

Non-residents are advised to have appropriate insurance cover for medical expenses.

### websites of interest

Immigration Services - [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)  
Australian Medical Council - [www.amc.org.au](http://www.amc.org.au)  
Australian Medical Association - [www.ama.org.au](http://www.ama.org.au)

#### State and Territory Links:

New South Wales - [www.visitnsw.com.au](http://www.visitnsw.com.au)  
Victoria - [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com)  
South Australia - [www.southaustralia.com](http://www.southaustralia.com)  
Tasmania - [www.discovertasmania.com.au](http://www.discovertasmania.com.au)

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council - [www.anmc.org.au](http://www.anmc.org.au)  
Food - [www.woolworths.com.au](http://www.woolworths.com.au)  
General Information - [www.about-australia.com/](http://www.about-australia.com/)

Western Australia - [www.westernaustralia.net](http://www.westernaustralia.net)  
Northern Territory - [www.australiasoutback.com](http://www.australiasoutback.com)  
Australian Capital Territory - [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)  
Queensland - [www.destinationqueensland.com](http://www.destinationqueensland.com)