



# AUSTRALIA



Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a sovereign country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands. It is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area. The population of 26 million is highly urbanised and heavily concentrated on the eastern seaboard. Australia's capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney. The country's other major metropolitan areas are Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide.

**Capital:** Canberra

**Prime Minister:** Scott Morrison

**Population:** 24.64 million (2017)

**Currency:** Australian dollar

## Background History

The history of Australia is the history of the area and people of the Commonwealth of Australia with its societies. Aboriginal Australians arrived on the Australian mainland by sea from Maritime Southeast Asia between 40,000 and 70,000 years ago.

The first known landing in Australia by Europeans was by Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon in 1606. Twenty-nine other Dutch navigators explored the western and southern coasts in the 17th century. Other European explorers followed until, in 1770, Lieutenant James Cook charted the east coast of Australia for Great Britain and returned with accounts favouring colonisation at Botany Bay (now in Sydney), New South Wales.

A First Fleet of British ships arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788 to establish a penal colony.

Gold rushes and agricultural industries brought prosperity.

Australia fought on the side of Britain in the two world wars and became a long-standing ally of the United States when threatened by Imperial Japan during World War II.

## Island of Tasmania



Tasmania is an island state of Australia. It is located 240 km to the south of the Australian mainland, separated by Bass Strait. The state encompasses the main island of Tasmania, the 26th-largest island in the world, and the surrounding 334 islands. The state has a population of around 535,500 as of September 2019. Just over forty percent of the population resides in the Greater Hobart precinct, which forms the metropolitan area of the state capital and largest city, Hobart.

## Aboriginal Australians

Indigenous Australians are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia, descended from groups that existed in Australia and surrounding islands before British colonisation.



## Australian Wildlife

Famous animals found in Australia include marine animals such as cone snail, sea snake, blue-ringed octopus and land animals. Such as Gang-gang cockatoo, Emu, eastern brown snake, tiger snake, wolf spider, wedge-tailed eagle, banjo frog and Blue-tongued skink.

Most famous ones that I know are Kangaroos and Koala- Bears.



## The People of Australia

The people of Australia are called Australians. Australians are friendly, generally optimistic, outgoing, and confident. They love their sports, family barbecues and the beach. Most Australians live in large cities along the coast.

Australia today is a multicultural society composed of different ethnic groups that originated from over 200 countries around the world. They live in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic society that respects the cultures, religions, and customs of all its citizens.

Australians are one of the most urbanised societies in the world. Almost 80% of the workforce are employed in service industries such as offices, banks, etc. in the major cities.

About 16% work in manufacturing

About 3% are farmers or graziers (ranchers). Wool is one of Australia's major exports.

About 1% work in the mining industry. We mine and export alumina, iron, coal, copper, gold and uranium.

## Sports

Australian football. Known affectionately as 'footy'.

Cricket is the most common summer spectator sport in Australia.



Rugby. Two different types of rugby are played in Australia: Rugby League and Rugby Union. Also, Water sports.

## Famous People

They include actors and Sports Personalities.

Hugh Jackman is an actor, Keith Urban, Olivia Newton-John Actress/singer and Kylie Minogue.

## Famous Television Programmes



## Fun Facts about Australia

World's largest straight section of railway track

Largest cattle station in the world

Sixth largest nation in the world

Driest inhabited continent

Biggest island and smallest continent

## **Australia and Tourism**

Australia is the only continent covered by a single country with truly unique landscapes, natural wonders and extraordinary experiences for travellers. Each week 70 tourists overstay their visas!!

### **Bondi Beach**



### **Ayers Rock**



### **Sydney Harbour Bridge**

