

The Land Down Under

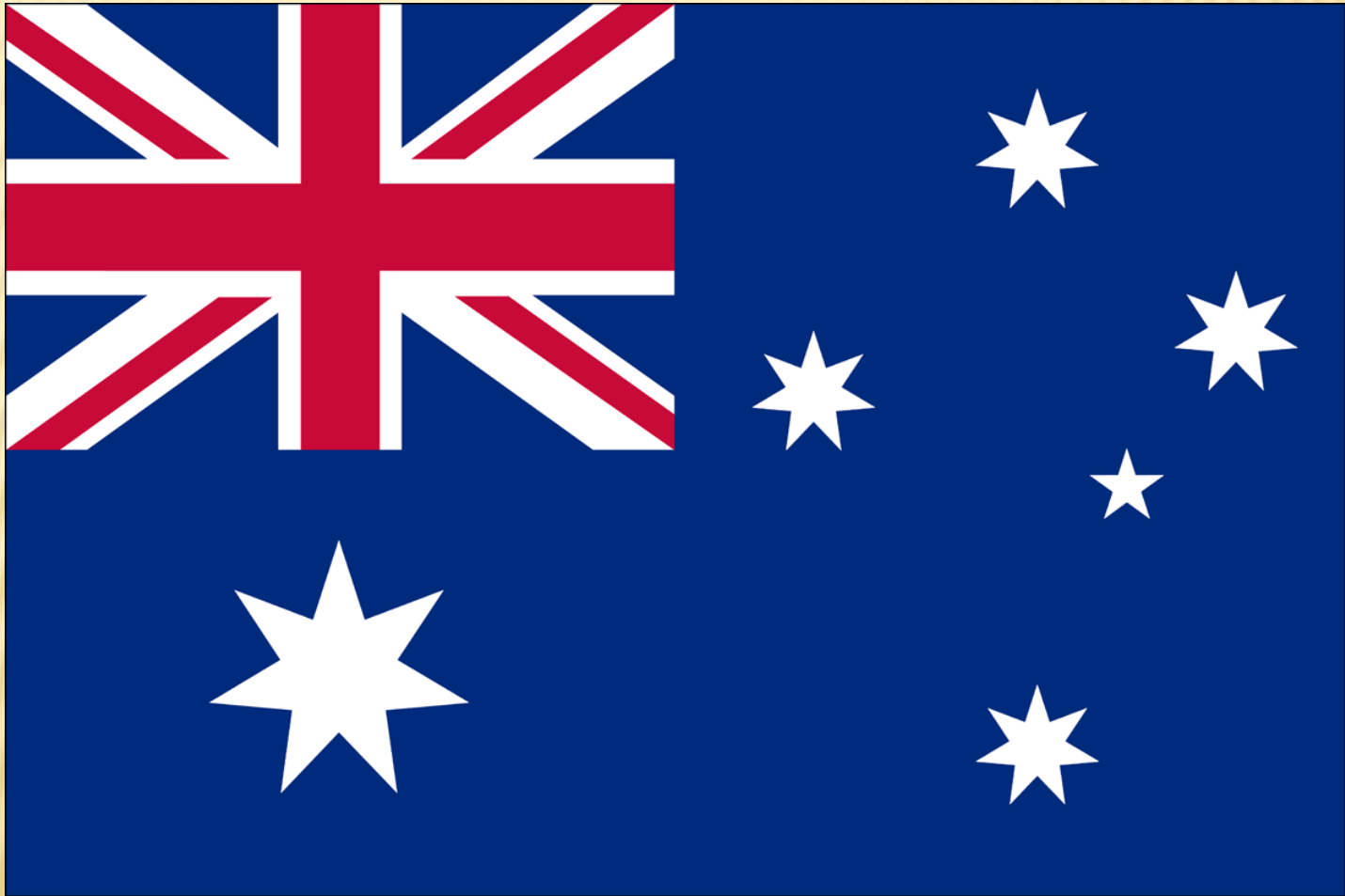
# AUSTRALIA

# MAP OF AUSTRALIA



# AUSTRALIAN FLAG

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# POPULATION QUICK FACTS

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- ✘ Population: 20.2 million
- ✘ Area approx: 3.0 million square miles, about the size of the southern 48.
- ✘ Demographics: approx 4 million citizens have immigrated from countries around the world, largest number come from South East Asia, Italy and Greece.
- ✘ About 500,000 are of aboriginal heritage.
- ✘ English is the national language

# MORE POPULATION FACTS

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- ✘ Most of the population lives along the east coast.
- ✘ Most of the population lives in urban areas.
- ✘ Life expectancy is around 80 years.
- ✘ Approximately 50/50 male to female ratio
- ✘ 100 % literacy.

# EDUCATION

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- ✘ Universal free and public education begins at 4 years.
- ✘ There are both state (public) schools and private schools, First form to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ✘ Some private schools are so exclusive children are registered as soon as they are born.
- ✘ All students (1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) wear uniforms.
- ✘ Tertiary education is highly competitive and not free.

# SCHOOL YEAR

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- ✘ Each state determines their own school calendar for state schools.
- ✘ Private schools determine their own calendar.

e.g. 2011 school year

January 24 - April 6

April 27 - June 17

July 11 - September 14

October 3 - November 29

# HOLIDAYS

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✘ Holidays - Vacation and special event days

On these days many services shut down.

January 25 Australia Day

April 22-25 Easter Weekend

April 26 ANZAC Day

May 2 Labour Day \*

June 13 Queen's Birthday

August 17 EKKA Show day \*

# ANZAC DAY

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- ✘ Similar to Veterans' Day as a major national holiday.
- ✘ Frequently there are parades and dawn ceremonies.
- ✘ ANZAC bikkies are made without eggs and initially were sent to the 'diggers' in care packages.



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- ✘ Specific to the Australia and New Zealand Army Corp soldiers who in April to December of 1915 joined forces with the British and Canadian forces to attack the Turks who had joined forces with the Germans.
  - ✘ Battle of Gallipoli where 8,000 soldiers died.

# GALLIPOLI



# SLANG



She's apples

It's all okay

Beyond the black stump

Australia is a large place, somewhere out there ...

Have a cuppa

Have a cup of tea, coffee

Morning tea/afternoon tea

Mid morning/mid afternoon tea or coffee break

Dinky-di/true blue/fair dinkum

Something that is genuine.

G'day

Hi/hello

Footy

Aussie Rules/Rugby Union/Rugby League

Jumpa

Sweater

Knock off time

End of the work day

Lolly

candy

Okka

A true Aussie, sense of humor, laid back, have fun

Prang

Car crash

Thongs

Rubber 'slaps' you wear on the beach

# MOVIES

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- ✘ Gallipoli
- ✘ Picnic at Hanging Rock
- ✘ Rabbit- Proof Fence
- ✘ Babe
- ✘ Mad Max
- ✘ Crocodile Dundee
- ✘ Walkabout

# MORE MOVIES

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- ✘ Little Fish
- ✘ Australia
- ✘ Muriel's Wedding
- ✘ Two Hands
- ✘ The Thornbirds\*
- ✘ The Piano
- ✘ Shine
- ✘ Man from Snowy River

# AUTHORS AND LITERATURE

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- ✘ Bill Bryson In a Sunburned Country
- ✘ A.B. Patterson A.K.A. Banjo Patterson, famous poet who wrote Waltzing Matilda, Man from Snowy River.
- ✘ Robert Hughes The Fatal Shore
- ✘ A.W. Reed Aboriginal Stories of Australia
- ✘ Marlo Morgan Mutant Message Down Under

# WEATHER

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- ✘ April is a fall month

Currently Northern Queensland is facing very wet weather with cyclone Yasi.

- ✘ Northern Queensland temperatures may range between 79F – 61F.

- ✘ Sydney temps. may range between 72F – 57F

Temperatures and speed signs and other measurements are reported in Celsius.

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- ✘ Dress in layers, with windbreaker always available. Temperatures will change during the course of the day.
  - ✘ A sunny day may be reported as ‘a fine day’.
  - ✘ But when it is 61F outside it probably will be about that temp inside too. It can be quite cool when the winds blow.

# GREAT BARRIER REEF



# GREAT BARRIER REEF

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- ✘ Largest coral atoll in the world, you will not believe the colors and sea life. Go snorkeling!!
- ✘ Wear shoes when exploring the reef. Coral cuts heal very slowly and frequently leave scars. You will need to throw out the shoes after this use.
- ✘ This is a national park, and so everything in it is protected. You may not remove shells, coral etc from the park.

# FOOD TO EAT

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- ✘ SEA FOOD ..... SEA FOOD .... SEAFOOD  
Barramundi, Moreton bay bugs, prawns
- ✘ Beef (grass fed), lamb
- ✘ In season vegetables and fruit
- ✘ Scones or lamingtons with afternoon tea
- ✘ Pavlova
- ✘ Vegemite
- ✘ Australian wines and beers are some of the best in the world.

# SOUVENIRS

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Be careful shoppers.

- ✘ Aboriginal art work
- ✘ Opals, both set in jewelry and loose.
- ✘ Pearls, large Japanese tourist population.
- ✘ Photos/prints/calendars

# HEALTH CARE

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- ✘ Check with your health insurance carrier about coverage. Australia has excellent health care which covers all Australians and is paid for by a health care tax. If you need health care you will be expected to pay for it and then you will be given a receipt.
- ✘ Dr. office visit may be \$40.00, medication less than \$20.00.

# OTHER STUFF

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- ✘ BE VERY CAREFUL CROSSING STREETS  
Cars drive on the LEFT hand side of the road.
- ✘ Many products including hygiene, food, snacks, over the counter medications are similar or may even have the same name brand.
- ✘ To minimize jet lag drink large amounts of non alcoholic fluids, rest as much as you can in flight, adhere to the local time of day when landing.

# OTHER STUFF

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- ✘ Tipping is not expected. Minimum wage is about \$40,000.
- ✘ ATM's are easy to find and use. You can get the exchange rate at the time of the transaction. Currently the exchange rate is about even, dollar for dollar. Australia has it's own currency, and is quite colorful. There are no pennies although you might see them in price labels. Rounding up/down will occur.
- ✘ Most credit cards are accepted.
- ✘ Bank hours are very limited 10am – 3pm Monday to Friday

