



Australia



Australia

Capital

Canberra

National Symbols

The Flag

The blue Australian flag, known as the Blue Ensign, contains the Union Flag in the upper left quarter, a large white seven-pointed star known as the Commonwealth Star in the lower left quarter, and a representation of the Southern Cross constellation, made up of five white stars (one small five-pointed star and four, larger, seven-pointed stars).

In addition to the Blue Ensign, there are several additional Australian flags, including the Aboriginal flag, the Torres Strait Islander flag and the flags of the Defence Forces.



Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms of Australia is the official symbol of Australia. The initial coat of arms was granted by King Edward VII on May 7th, 1908, and the current version was granted by King George V on September 19th, 1912 and displays the most representative native

animals, the Kangaroo and the Emu, surrounded by an Acacia tree with a small coat of arms with the emblem of the 6 States.



National Plant

The Eucalyptus is the national tree of Australia. There are more than seven hundred species of Eucalyptus, mostly native to Australia, with a very small number found in adjacent parts of New Guinea and Indonesia. Different types of Eucalyptus can be found in almost every region of the Australian continent, because they have adapted to all of its climatic conditions.

National Animals

The Koala is a thickset arboreal marsupial herbivore native to Australia. The Koala is found in coastal regions of eastern and southern Australia.

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regions of eastern and southern Australia. Populations also extend for considerable distances inland in regions with enough moisture to support suitable woodlands. The Koalas of South Australia were largely exterminated during the early part of the 20th century, but the state has since been repopulated with Victorian stock. The Koala is not found in Tasmania or Western Australia.

The kangaroo is an Australian icon: it is featured on the Australian coat of arms, on some of its currency, and is used by many Australian organizations as a symbol. A kangaroo is a marsupial with about 63 living species. The largest species are the Red Kangaroo, the Antilopine Kangaroo, and the Eastern and Western Grey Kangaroo. The smaller species include the wallabies, tree-kangaroos, wallaroos, pademelons and the Quokka, among others. In general, larger kangaroos have adapted much better to changes of the Australian landscape. Kangaroos are endemic to the continent of Australia and though many of their smaller cousins are endangered, they are plentiful. They are not farmed to any extent, but wild kangaroos are shot for meat, over which there is controversy.



History

The history of Australia began when people first migrated to the Australian continent from the north, at least 40,000 years ago. The written history of Australia began when Dutch explorers first sighted the country in the 17th century. The interpretation of the history of Australia is currently a matter of contention amongst some, particularly regarding the British settlement and early treatment of Indigenous Australians.

Independence Day

January 1st, 1901.



First President Of The Republic

The first president of Australia was Ben Chifley, who already had held the position of Prime minister from 1945 to 1949.

Government

Australia is the smallest continent in the world. The population of the nation is around 20,6 millions of inhabitants

Australia

Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide.

The Commonwealth of Australia is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government. Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Australia, a role that is distinct from her position as monarch of the other Commonwealth realms. The Queen is represented by the Governor-General at Federal level and by the Governors at State level. Although the Constitution gives extensive executive powers to the Governor-General, these are normally exercised only on the advice of the Prime Minister.

There are three branches of government:

- * **The Legislature:** The bicameral Commonwealth Parliament consists of the Queen, the Senate (the upper house) of 76 senators, and the House of Representatives (the lower house) of 150 members. The Queen is represented by the Governor-General, whose powers are limited to assenting to laws.
- * **The Executive:** The Federal Executive Council (the Governor-General as advised by the Executive Councilors). In practice, the councilors are the Prime Minister and Ministers of State.

* **The Judiciary:** The High Court of Australia and other federal courts. The State courts became formally independent from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council when the Australia Act was passed in 1986. Elections for both chambers are held every three years; Senators have overlapping six-year terms, and only half of the seats are put to each election unless the cycle is interrupted by a double dissolution. The party with majority support in the House of

Representatives forms government, and its leader becomes Prime Minister.

Members of the lower house are elected by a group of voters belonging to the official areas of the country commonly known as 'electorates' or 'seats'. Seats in the House of Representatives are designated to every state on the basis of population (A minimum of five seats is guaranteed to each state). In the Senate, each state is represented by twelve senators and the territories (the ACT and the NT) by two.

Political Parties

There are three major political parties: the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the National Party. Independent members and several minor parties (including the Greens and the Australian Democrats) have achieved representation in Australian parliaments, mostly in upper houses. Since the 1996 election, the Liberal Coalition led by the Prime Minister, John Howard, has been in power in Canberra. In the 2004 election, the Coalition won control of the Senate. This is the first time in more than 20 years that a party or coalition has done so while in government.

Social Recognition

Nicole Kidman
(June 1967)



Australia

Nicole Kidman is an Australian actress. Kidman is also a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, a singer, and a recording artist. In 2006, she became the highest paid actress in the film industry. That same year, Kidman was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, Australia's highest civilian honor. After making various appearances in film and television, Kidman received her breakthrough role in the 1989 thriller *Dead Calm*. Since then, Kidman's acting career has developed greatly. Her performances in several films, such as *To Die For* (1995), *Moulin Rouge* (2001), and *The Hours* (2002), have won her not only critical acclaim but also many film awards. In 2003, Kidman received her Star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California.



Olivia Newton-John
(September, 1967)

Olivia Newton-John is a Grammy Award-winning and Golden Globe-nominated English-born Australian pop singer, songwriter and actress. Her highly acclaimed vocal, musical, and acting talents have made her a globally recognized name. She is also a small business entrepreneur, as well as an avid activist in both environmental issues and breast cancer awareness.

Kylie Minogue
(May, 1968)



She is a Grammy award-winning Australian pop singer, songwriter, and actress. Minogue became famous through her role in the Australian television soap opera *Neighbours*, before she started her career as a pop artist in the late 80's. According to Warner Music Australia, Minogue has sold over 40 million records worldwide.

Her popularity began to decline during the early 1990's and attempted to establish herself as a credible and independent performer and songwriter. Her projects were widely publicized, but her albums failed to attract a substantial audience and resulted in the lowest sales of her career to date. She returned to popularity in 2000 and became well-known for her provocative music videos and expensively mounted stage shows.

Minogue has established one of the longest and most successful careers as a performer in contemporary pop music. In Europe and Australia she has become one of her generation's most recognizable celebrities and sex symbols.

Tourist Sites

Sydney

Sydney is located on Australia's south-east coast. The city is built around Port Jackson,

Australia

which includes Sydney Harbor, leading to the city's nickname, "the Harbor City". It is Australia's largest financial center and is home to the Australian Stock Exchange. Sydney's leading economic sectors include property and business services, manufacturing, tourism, media, and health and community services. Sydney is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world which reflects its role as a major destination for immigrants to Australia. According to the Mercer cost of living survey, Sydney is Australia's most expensive city, and the 21st most expensive in the world.



Sydney is a major international tourist destination notable for its beaches and twin landmarks: The Sydney Opera House and the Harbor Bridge. The metropolitan area is surrounded by national parks, bays, and rivers. The city has hosted numerous international sporting, political, and cultural events, including the 1938 British Empire Games, 2000 Summer Olympics, and the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

If you visit Sidney, you can begin in The Rocks, where the first settlers in the XVIII century were based. This zone lodges numerous colonial buildings turned into restaurants, stores, or pubs like the famous "Hero of the oldest Waterloo". Argly Center is formed by old warehouses also recovered

and turned into stores, boutiques, and bars in the middle of a very special atmosphere. In this zone you will find the Cadman's Cottage, the oldest construction of the city, built in 1816. During this tour, you cannot leave behind the Museum of Contemporary Art, Pier Four, the house of the famous Company of Dance of Sydney, the Sydney Observatory, and finally the National Trust Centre, with its old military constructions that became galleries, bookstores, and coffee-shops.

Melbourne



Street Swanstation is the heart of the city. Here you will find the Cathedral of San Pablo with its Renaissance gothic style, City Square, and the National Museum of Victory. You can also visit Chinatown, a place where the Chinese community coexists from 1850 where you can find Asian restaurants, markets, a Chinese museum, and a very special atmosphere. There are also excellent architectural pieces as the Shot Tower, the Rialto, the old Cathedral of San Jaime, and Rippon Lea, a Victorian mansion that includes the Grand Fernery, a lake with islands, bridges and cascades. You can also visit Old Melbourne Gaol, the old prison and today museum where the history of the prisoners in the XIX century is described.

Australia

Canberra



In order to know the city, the best thing is to begin by the House of the Parliament, a recent and modern building. Across from it, is the Old House of the Parliament, located in the King George Terrace. It was the seat of the government until the year of 1988 and, nowadays, it lodges the National Portrait Gallery that includes exhibitions from the Australian Archives and the National Museum. Then, you can continue your tour with The National Gallery of Australia, that exhibits the best things of Australian art, from the native to the most contemporary proposals, in addition to beautiful sculptures, engravings, drawings, photography, ceramics, and textiles. You can also visit the National Library, one of the prettiest buildings of the city, with more than 4 million books and manuscripts, and a scale model of the boat of Captain Cook.

