

Australia Trip Scheduler - User Manual

Welcome to your Australia Trip Planning Companion! This app helps you plan, organize, and track your caravan or RV adventures across Australia.

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Getting Started

Accessing the App

Website: <https://petehep.github.io/interactive-Aus-map/>

The app works on:
- Desktop computers (Mac, Windows, Linux)
- Tablets (iPad, Android tablets)
- Smartphones (iPhone, Android)

Best Experience: Use on a tablet or computer for easier map navigation.

System Requirements

- Modern web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge)
 - Internet connection (required for maps and data)
 - Your friend has created an account for you!
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Signing In

First Time Login

1. Open the app in your web browser

2. You'll see a blue login screen
3. Enter your email and password (provided by your friend)
4. Click "Sign In"

Creating Your Own Account (Optional)

If you want your own account: 1. Click "Don't have an account? Sign Up" 2. Enter your email address 3. Choose a password (minimum 6 characters) 4. Click "Sign Up" 5. You're ready to go!

Signing Out

When you're done: 1. Look in the left sidebar 2. Find the red "Logout" button at the bottom 3. Click it to sign out

Your data is saved automatically - you can close the browser and come back anytime!

Understanding the Map

Map Controls

Zooming: - **Zoom In:** Click the + button (top-left corner) or pinch out on touchscreen - **Zoom Out:** Click the – button or pinch in - **Mouse wheel:** Scroll up to zoom in, down to zoom out

Moving the Map: - Click and drag with your mouse - Swipe with your finger on touchscreen

Full Screen: - Click the full screen button (top-right corner) to expand the map

What You'll See on the Map

Place Markers

The map shows different places across Australia: - **Major Cities** - Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, etc. (visible when zoomed out) - **Towns** - Smaller towns appear as you zoom in - **Villages & Small Towns** - Tiny settlements visible at high zoom levels - **Tourist Attractions** - Points of interest

Tip: Zoom in closer to see more detail and smaller places!

Campsites

- **Purple Markers**  - Free campsites and rest areas
- **Green Markers**  - Paid campsites and caravan parks

Your Route

- **Blue Line** - Your planned driving route

- Blue Dots - Stops on your itinerary

Visited Places

Places you've marked as visited show: - ✓ Checkmark before the name - **Strikethrough text** - Faded appearance

Planning Your Route

Step 1: Set Your Starting Point

1. Look at the **left sidebar**
2. Find "**Start Location**"
3. **Type a city or town name** (e.g., "Sydney")
4. Press **Enter** or click "**Geocode Start**"
5. The map will center on that location

Step 2: Build Your Itinerary

Adding Places: 1. Click on any **marker** on the map 2. A popup appears with place information 3. Click "**Add to Itinerary**" button 4. The place is added to your trip!

Your Itinerary Appears: - In the "**Itinerary**" section (left sidebar) - Shows all your stops in order - Lists distances and driving times between stops

Step 3: Calculate Your Route

Once you've added 2 or more places: 1. A **blue line** appears on the map automatically 2. This shows your **driving route** 3. The route **updates automatically** when you add/remove places

Managing Your Itinerary

Removing a Stop: 1. Find the place in your **Itinerary list** (left sidebar) 2. Click the "**Remove**" button next to it 3. The route recalculates automatically

Clearing Everything: 1. Click "**Clear Itinerary**" button 2. Removes all stops and the route

Starting a New Trip: 1. Clear your itinerary 2. Set a new start location 3. Begin adding places again!

Finding Campsites

Viewing Campsites

Toggle Campsites: 1. Look in the **left sidebar** 2. Find the “**Campsites**” toggle 3. **ON (green)** = Campsites visible 4. **OFF (gray)** = Campsites hidden

Default: Campsites are shown when you zoom in past a certain level.

Types of Campsites

Free Campsites (Purple Markers): - Free overnight camping - Rest areas - Roadside stops - Wild camping spots

Paid Campsites (Green Markers): - Caravan parks - Holiday parks - Campgrounds with facilities - Powered sites available

Campsite Information

Click on any campsite marker to see: - **Name** of the campsite - **Add to Itinerary** button - ❤️ **Heart icon** - Add to favorites - ✓ **Visited status** - If you've been there

Tip: Many free campsites have minimal facilities. Always check conditions before visiting!

Managing Favorites

Favorites let you save places you want to remember or visit later.

Adding to Favorites

Method 1: From Map 1. Click on **any marker** (place, campsite, fuel station, etc.) 2. Look for the ❤️ **heart icon** in the popup 3. Click the heart 4. Place is added to favorites!

Method 2: From Itinerary - Favorites button available in itinerary items

Viewing Your Favorites

1. Look in the **left sidebar**
2. Find the “**Favorites**” section
3. Your favorites are **organized by Australian state**:
 - New South Wales
 - Victoria
 - Queensland
 - South Australia
 - Western Australia
 - Tasmania
 - Northern Territory
 - Australian Capital Territory

Using Favorites

Find on Map: 1. Click the **place name** in favorites list 2. The map **zooms to that location**

Weather Forecast: 1. Find the place in your favorites 2. Click “**Weather**” link 3. Opens 14-day forecast in a new tab

View in Google Maps: 1. Click “**Google Maps**” link 2. Opens the location in Google Maps 3. Great for street view, directions, or photos!

Add to Itinerary: 1. Click “**Add to Itinerary**” button 2. Adds the place to your route

Mark as Visited: 1. Click the **circle icon** (○) next to the place 2. It changes to a **checkmark** (✓) and turns green 3. Place is now in your visited list!

Remove from Favorites: 1. Click “**Remove**” button 2. Place is removed from favorites 3. (Stays in visited list if you marked it visited)

Tracking Visited Places

The app keeps a **permanent record** of everywhere you've been!

How It Works

Visited vs. Favorites: - **Favorites** = Places you want to remember - **Visited** = Places you've actually been to - They're **completely separate!** - You can clear favorites without losing your visited history

Marking Places as Visited

From Favorites: 1. Find the place in **Favorites list** 2. Click the **circle** (○) next to the name 3. It turns into a **green checkmark** (✓) 4. Done!

From Map: - If a place is in your favorites, use the visited toggle in the popup

Visual Changes: - Place name shows **✓ checkmark** prefix - Text has **strikethrough** - Name appears **faded/gray** - These indicators appear **everywhere** (map, favorites, itinerary)

Viewing All Visited Places

1. Look in **left sidebar**
2. Click “**Visited Places**” button
3. A **modal window** appears showing:
 - All places you've visited
 - Organized by state
 - Date you marked each place as visited

In the Visited Places Modal: - **Click place name** → Map centers on that location and modal closes - **Click “Unvisit”** → Removes from visited list - **Click “Close”** or click outside → Close the modal

Why This Matters

Even if you: - Delete a favorite - Clear your itinerary - Start fresh

Your visited places list remains intact! Perfect for: - Tracking your journey over years - Never forgetting where you've been - Planning future trips to new places

Finding Essential Services

Fuel Stations

Show Fuel Stations: 1. Find “Fuel Stations” toggle in sidebar 2. Turn it **ON (green)** 3. Orange markers appear on the map 4. Fuel stations are shown within 10km of your itinerary stops

Hide Fuel Stations: - Toggle back to **OFF (gray)**

Fuel Station Info: - Click any orange marker - Shows station name (if available) - Add to itinerary or favorites

Dump Points

For emptying your RV waste tanks.

Show Dump Points: 1. Find “Dump Points” toggle 2. Turn it **ON (green)** 3. Blue markers appear 4. Within 10km of itinerary stops

Features: - Often at rest areas or campgrounds - Some are free, some paid - Check popup for details

Water Points

For filling fresh water tanks.

Show Water Points: 1. Find “Water Points” toggle 2. Turn it **ON (green)** 3. Cyan/light blue markers appear

Types: - Public drinking water taps - Designated RV water fill points - Community water stations

Important Notes About Services

 **Services only appear when:** - You have an **itinerary with stops** - The toggle is **turned ON** - You're **zoomed in** close enough

 **Best Practice:** 1. Plan your route first 2. Then enable service toggles 3. Find services along your route

Filtering What You See

Small Towns Filter

Purpose: See only small towns and villages, hiding major cities.

How to Use: 1. Find “**Small Towns**” toggle in sidebar 2. Turn it **ON (green)** 3. Major cities disappear from the map 4. Only small towns, villages, and hamlets remain

Great for: - Finding hidden gems - Avoiding crowds - Exploring rural Australia - Discovering tiny outback communities

Turn **OFF** to see all places again.

Weather Information

Getting Weather Forecasts

From Favorites: 1. Open your **Favorites** list 2. Find the place you want weather for 3. Click the “**Weather**” link 4. Opens **MeteoBlue** 14-day forecast in new tab

Weather Information Includes: - Daily high/low temperatures - Precipitation chance - Wind speed and direction - Cloud cover - 14-day outlook

Tip: Check weather before heading to remote areas. Conditions can change quickly in the outback!

Tips & Tricks

Planning Your Trip

Start Small: - Plan 2-3 days at a time - Add more as you go - Flexibility is key for RV travel!

Check Distances: - Look at driving times in itinerary - 4-5 hours driving per day is comfortable - Factor in breaks and sightseeing

Mix Camp Types: - Alternate free camps with paid sites - Paid sites offer showers and facilities - Free camps are great for beautiful locations

Using the Map Effectively

Zoom Levels: - **Far out** - See major cities and plan route shape - **Medium** - Find towns along the route - **Close in** - Discover campsites and small villages

Marker Clusters: - See a circle with a number? That's multiple markers clustered - **Click the cluster** to zoom in and spread them out

Mobile Users: - Use two fingers to zoom - Rotate with two fingers if needed - Tap and hold to see place details

Saving Your Work

Automatic Saving: - Favorites save automatically ✓ - Visited places save automatically ✓ - Itineraries save automatically ✓

BUT: Your data is stored on **each device separately** - Phone favorites ≠ Computer favorites - Use the **same device** for continuity - Or copy places to your other devices

Troubleshooting

"Nothing's happening when I click markers"

Check: 1. Are you clicking directly on the marker icon? 2. Wait 1-2 seconds for popup to appear
3. Try zooming in closer 4. Refresh the page if stuck

"I don't see any campsites"

Solutions: 1. **Zoom in more** - Campsites appear at higher zoom levels 2. Check **Campsites toggle** is ON (green) 3. Try a different area - some remote regions have fewer campsites in the database

"Fuel/dump/water stations aren't showing"

Requirements: 1. You must have an **itinerary** with at least 1 stop 2. The relevant **toggle must be ON** 3. **Zoom in closer** to see details 4. Services must be within 10km of your stops

"The route isn't calculating"

Try: 1. Make sure you have **at least 2 stops** in itinerary 2. Check your **internet connection** 3. Wait 5-10 seconds (routing takes time) 4. Remove and re-add the last stop 5. Refresh the page

"I can't see places I added"

Check: 1. Are they in **Favorites** section? (Scroll down in sidebar) 2. Did you add to **Itinerary** or just favorites? 3. Try **clicking the place name** to center map on it

"The map is loading slowly"

Tips: 1. **Close other browser tabs** to free memory 2. **Zoom out** then zoom back in 3. **Turn off** service toggles you're not using 4. **Refresh the page** to restart 5. Some areas have more data and load slower

"I lost my favorites!"

Possible Causes: 1. **Different device** - Each device stores separately 2. **Cleared browser data** - Favorites are in browser storage 3. **Different browser** - Chrome ≠ Safari ≠ Firefox

Prevention: - Use the same device and browser consistently - Export important places to a note (future feature!)

"Login isn't working"

Check: 1. **Correct email** - No typos? 2. **Correct password** - Case-sensitive! 3. **Internet connection** - Must be online 4. Try "**Sign Up**" if you need a new account

"Can my friend see my favorites?"

No - Each user has completely separate data. - Your favorites are private - Your visited places are private - Your itineraries are private

In the future: Sharing features may be added!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does this work offline?

A: No, internet required for maps and data. Download offline maps with another app if needed.

Q: Can I print my itinerary?

A: Not yet, but you can screenshot the itinerary section or manually write it down.

Q: Are the campsites updated?

A: Data comes from OpenStreetMap, updated by the community. Always verify with recent reviews!

Q: Can I add my own places?

A: You can favorite any existing place on the map. Custom places not yet supported.

Q: How accurate are the distances?

A: Driving distances use real roads and are quite accurate. Actual time may vary with traffic/conditions.

Q: Do I need to pay for this?

A: No! Completely free. Just sign in and start planning.

Q: Can I change my password?

A: Not in the app yet. Contact your friend who set up the account.

Q: My question isn't here!

A: Ask your friend who shared this app with you, or report issues on GitHub.

Quick Reference Guide

Essential Actions

What You Want	How To Do It
Add place to trip	Click marker → "Add to Itinerary"
Save a place	Click marker → ❤️ heart icon
Mark as visited	Favorites list → Click O circle
See visited places	Click "Visited Places" button
View weather	Favorites list → "Weather" link
Find on map	Click place name in favorites
Show campsites	Turn "Campsites" toggle ON
Show fuel stations	Turn "Fuel Stations" toggle ON
Clear route	"Clear Itinerary" button
Sign out	Red "Logout" button at bottom

Marker Colors

Color	What It Is
Red/Pink	Standard places (cities, towns, attractions)
Purple 	Free campsites
Green 	Paid campsites
Orange 	Fuel stations
Blue 	Dump points
Cyan  	Water points

Sidebar Sections (Top to Bottom)

1. **User Email** - Shows who's logged in
2. **Start Location** - Set trip starting point
3. **Itinerary** - Your planned stops and route
4. **Filters** - What to show on map
5. **Favorites** - Saved places organized by state
6. **Visited Places** - Button to see everywhere you've been
7. **Logout** - Red button to sign out

Making the Most of Your Journey

Before You Leave

- Plan your first few stops
- Check weather forecasts
- Mark fuel stations along route
- Find dump points at major stops
- Mix free and paid campsites
- Verify current road conditions externally

On the Road

- Mark places as visited as you go
- Add unexpected discoveries to favorites
- Update itinerary based on how you feel
- Check weather for next destination
- Note fuel stations before remote stretches

After Your Trip

- Review your visited places list
- Keep favorites for return trips
- Clear itinerary to start planning next adventure
- Share recommendations with friends (outside the app)

Support & Feedback

Having issues? Ask your friend who shared the app with you.

Found a bug? Report it on GitHub: <https://github.com/petehep/interactive-Aus-map>

Love it? Share the URL with other RV travelers (once they're set up with accounts)!

Happy Travels! 

Explore Australia at your own pace. From the red center to tropical coasts, from bustling cities to tiny outback towns - this app is your companion for discovering this incredible country.

Remember: - No trip is perfect - embrace the detours - Check local conditions and restrictions
- Respect Indigenous lands and local communities - Leave no trace at free camps - Stay safe and have fun!

The journey is the destination. Enjoy the adventure!

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