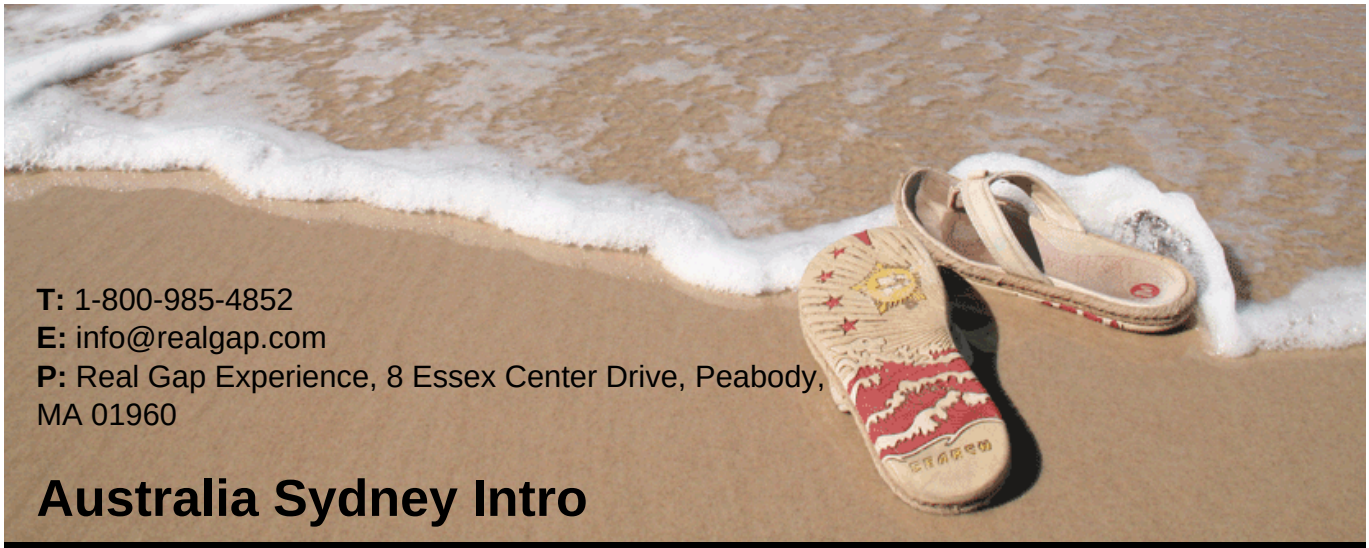

T: 1-800-985-4852
E: info@realgap.com
P: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

Australia Sydney Intro

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Australia Sydney Intro **Trip Code:** OZFF **Duration:** From 8 days

Trip Highlights

- Experience a **totally unforgettable 7 days of Fun Down Under** staying in a **central backpackers hostel**.
- Live the **surf dude** lifestyle and feel the sea spray against your face as you ride your first wave!
- Set your sights on the **Opera House** and **Harbour Bridge** for the first time - wow!
- Enjoy real Aussie tucker with lunch at **Centrepoint Tower** and a **BBQ** on the beach.
- Tickle your taste buds while **wine tasting** at Hunter Valley.
- Check out Australia's unique wildlife at **Sydney Wildlife World**.
- Ease into Aussie life with your fellow like-minded travellers in your group.

Overview

Fancy some fun down under? This fun filled package allows you to ease into Aussie life with your fellow travellers, meet people to party with and to continue your Aussie adventure with. It's the perfect package if you are travelling alone, or for the first time, especially if you plan to start your Gap Year in Sydney.

This exciting package provides you with a memorable first week staying in a fantastic hostel in the centre of Sydney. You'll enjoy pub crawls, tickle your taste buds whilst wine tasting, board a harbour cruise and experience some surfing lessons (during the summer months). We will even send you a contact list of everyone leaving on your flight so you can arrange to meet at the airport and get to know each another before you arrive!

Destination Info

Sydney ticks off everything a cosmopolitan city should have, with its cracking nightlife, laidback outdoor lifestyle, stunning harbour and some of the best beaches and surf spots - it's no wonder that this city is one of the world's easiest and most pleasant places to visit. Catch the sunset at Sydney Harbour, cook a shrimp on the Barbie down Bondi Beach, or be inspired by a magical performance at Sydney Opera House. Whatever you choose to do in this

fantastic city, you'll always remember your time spent in the gateway to Australia.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival and free time
Welcome to Sydney! After checking into the hostel the day is free for you to spend sightseeing, sleeping, shopping chilling out or whatever else takes your fancy!

Day 2 - Sydney Harbour Cruise
Depart Darling Harbour on a hop on / hop off Harbour Boat Cruise heading out to Watson's Bay, swim at Camp Cove and enjoy beach games and tasty Fish and Chips! Jump back on the cruise boat late afternoon back to Circular Quay to check out the sights of Sydney's Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Day 3 - Hunter Valley Wine Tasting
Check out Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park in the morning, the park is rich in Aboriginal history and home to many Australian native flora and fauna. Next stop Hunter Valley, famous for it's vino! Stop for lunch before tickling your taste buds with the ultimate wine tasting experience.

Day 4 - Learn to Surf
Surfs up! At last – your chance to become an Aussie surfer! Enjoy a surf lesson with Australia's No 1 Surf School for Beginners where the qualified instructors will teach you how to catch waves, stand up and ride them all the way to the beach!

Day 5 - Sydney Centrepoint Tower and Bar Crawl
Try real Aussie tucker as you enjoy a buffet style lunch in Australia's highest revolving restaurant - the tower takes around 70 minutes to complete one rotation and provides amazing views over the city. In the evening, we'll take you to 4 of Sydney's most popular bars and drinks are on us as we'll get you a free drink in each venue!

Day 6 - Sydney Wildlife World
Finally, your chance to come face to face with some of Australia's most unique wildlife at Sydney Wildlife World. From Kangaroos to Koalas you'll be sure to meet the native animals from down under.

Day 7 - Bondi Beach BBQ
What better way to end your first week in Sydney than to spend the day at the fabulous Bondi Beach. Relax, soak up the sun, practice your surfing and enjoy an all-you-can-eat Aussie BBQ.

Please note: Activities may be subject to change due to weather conditions and the itinerary may change depending on day of arrival.

Accommodation

You will receive 7 nights dorm (mixed gender) accommodation in a fantastic hostel in the heart of one of the best cities on earth! You can easily extend your stay at the hostel or take advantage of our accommodation service in the Sydney office after your initial introduction to the city.

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

The Internet will be available to you in the hostel, as well as the majority of hostels around Australia.

Telephone

The international telephone access code for Australia is +61.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

In the cities and more populated areas there will be mobile phone signal, however, as Australia is such a big place there is not service everywhere, and you may not get phone signal in some of the more rural areas.

Please remember to check with your provider that you can use your phone abroad.

Laundry

There are laundry facilities in the hostel, or there is the option of using a local laundrette, both come at a small charge.

Meals

A total of 5 lunches are included in the first week. You are responsible for all other meals not included. You can either eat out at one of the many restaurants in Sydney, or you can visit the local supermarket and prepare your own meals in the self catering kitchen at the hostel.

Australia Sydney Intro

What's Included

- Airport pick up and transfer on arrival
- 7 night's accommodation in a centrally located hostel
- 5 lunches
- Sydney Harbour cruise
- Hunter Valley Wine Tasting
- Learn to Surf lesson
- Sydney City Bar Crawl
- Beach BBQ

What's Not Included

- Flights
- Travel Insurance
- Visa
- Meals other than those included

What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

Personal Admin

- Documents
- Passport.
- Driving Licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance Policy document or card
- Credit Card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Alarm Clock
- Torch
- Sleeping bag

Clothing

- Causal clothes

- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costume
- Comfortable footwear
- Something smart
- Something warm

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent

Minimum Age

Minimum age 18

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Sydney Airport on your programme start date, and your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

Please note: If you are flying to Australia via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD$14 to register. To register, please visit: www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

1. **What time do I need to land on the start date?**
   You can arrive anytime on the start date. During the day is recommended.

2. **How many people are usually on the Fun Week?**
   The maximum group size is 20.

3. **How much spending money will I need?**
   You will need to budget for most of your meals, so a MINIMUM of £60 for the week.

4. **What happens after the week?**
   You are free to travel Australia! The most commonly travelled part of Australia is the East Coast.

5. **What is the best way to travel up the East Coast to Cairns?**

Our most popular way to travel the coast is the Oz Experience - Cozzie Pass

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

The unit of currency is the Australian Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout Australia or at licensed moneychangers.

Australia is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.37 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 5.04 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.40 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 2.14 $

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

All visitors to Australia need a visa – only New Zealand nationals are exempt, however you will receive a 'special category' visa on arrival.

For entry into Australia you will require an eVisitor visa. UK passport holders can apply for a 90-day tourist visa online at www.immi.gov.au All other nationalities should consult the relevant embassy.

If you intend to work after your week in Sydney you will be required to apply for a working holiday visa.

Working Holiday Visa

To take part in this programme you will require a working holiday visa. The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30. The emphasis is on casual employment: you are meant to work for no more than six months at any one job. If you want to stay in Australia for up to 24 months, this is now possible for some nationalities. Speak to one of our sales advisors for more information.

To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of application
- Have a valid passport for one of the countries listed at Australian Immigration, www.immi.gov.au
- Have no dependant children
- Have not previously entered Australia on a working holiday visa
- Meet health and character requirements
- Be outside Australia at the time of visa grant

To be granted a working holiday visa you must also agree that:

- Your main reason for coming to Australia is to holiday
- You must not undertake studies or training for more than 4 months
- You will leave Australia at the end of your authorized stay
- You must have sufficient funds to support yourself for the initial part of your stay. AUD$5000 minimum is regarded as sufficient. You may have to provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement.

For the most up to date information on visa requirements, please visit http://www.immi.gov.au/

Cultural Considerations

Australia is a melting pot of different cultures. It has a population of over 21 million people with most of the population living on the east coast between Adelaide and Cairns. High waves of immigration from England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta and Eastern Europe have occurred during Australia's brief history, particularly after World War II, and the later waves from the Middle-East, East, and South-East Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, have created a truly diverse population.

Although Australia has no official language, English is spoken by 80% of the population. Chinese, Italian and Greek are respectively the next most common languages, reflecting Australia's cultural diversity and concentration of nationalities. Australians have very strong attitudes and belief systems which are reflected in their culture. Australians traditionally have a very ironic sense of humour.

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK and American customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: www.fco.gov.uk
USA: www.travel.state.gov

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

Language Guide

Here are some Australian terms and phrases that you might find useful:

Bottle Shop - *Off-licence/Liquor store*
Bonzer - *Good*
Bush - *Unsettled country area*
Dag - *Nerd*
Esky - *Portable insulated box to keep food/drink cold*
Fair Dinkum - *Honestly, truly*
Pokies - *Gambling machines*
Pom - *Person of English descent*
Singlet - *Sleeveless cotton vest*
Smoko - *Tea break*
Thongs - *Flip flops/Sandals*
Ute - *Utility vehicle/pick-up truck*

Food & Drink

You will find food in Australia to suit all taste buds, with the larger cities in particular offering a great range of places to eat. Due to the large amount of British settlers, Australian food is reasonably similar to that in Western Europe, but if you are feeling particularly adventurous get involved in some bush tucker (kangaroo, emus) or the infamous vegemite. For less scary Aussie food, look out for fresh seafood and of course, a typical Aussie barbecue!

Please let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Australia, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/

Weather

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere.

The summer months in Australia (November to March) can get very hot. Up north, in Queensland for example, the summer period brings the rainy season and the weather can be very hot and humid with lots of rainfall. The winter

months (June to August) in Queensland bring much dryer weather but still heat. The further south you go the colder and wetter winter becomes and in some mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania skiing is possible.

Time

Australia is such a big country that it has three time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (Queensland) – 10 hours ahead of GMT depending on Daylight Savings
Central Time – 9.5 hours ahead of GMT
Western Time - 8 hours ahead of GMT

Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.

Sockets in Australia are V-shaped flat prongs.

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

Phone: 1-800-985-4852
Email: info@realgap.com
Post: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960
Web: www.realgap.com