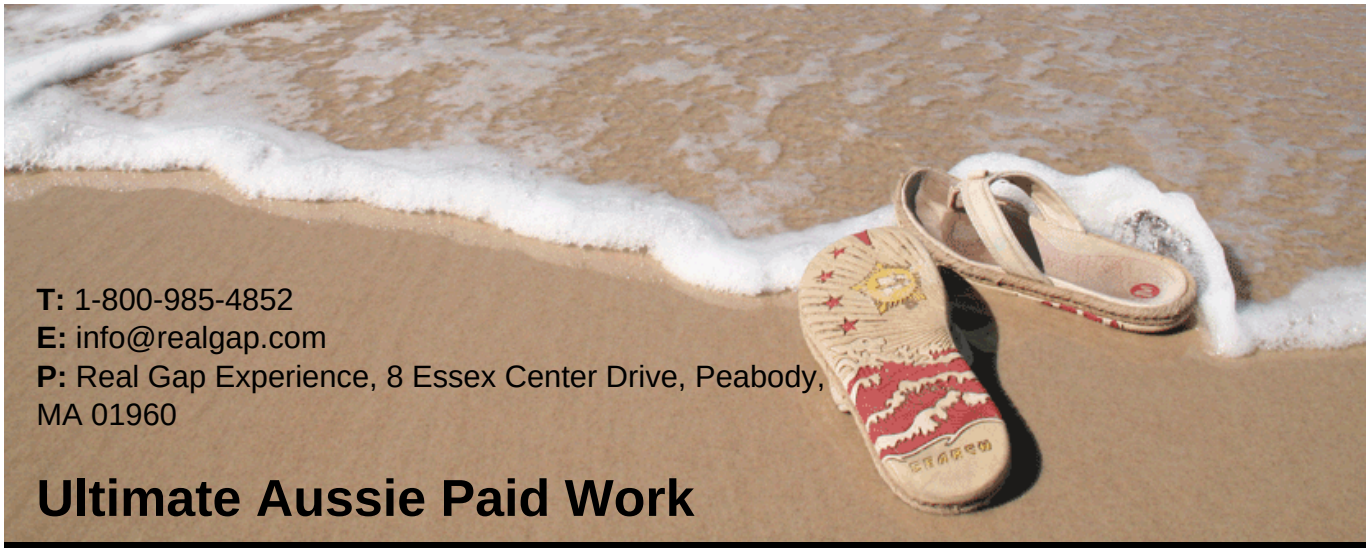

T: 1-800-985-4852
E: info@realgap.com
P: Real Gap Experience, 8 Essex Center Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

Ultimate Aussie Paid Work

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Ultimate Aussie Paid Work **Trip Code:** OZUA **Duration:** From 12 months

Trip Highlights

- The ultimate introduction to help you settle into your awesome new Aussie life
- Perfect for first time travellers, this package includes everything from arrival transfer to help finding a job!
- You'll stay at our epic hostel for three or five nights to kick start your adventure
- 12 months of job offers on the cards with reputable employers (for when you want work!)
- Explore Uluru, the Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays and Cairns in your free time!
- Book the **NEW** seven night option and get a RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) and Barista course so you can hit the ground running!

Got a question about working in Australia? Check out our FAQs**!**

Overview

Fancy working Down Under for a year? (Yes please!). By either staying put in the stunning Sydney or travelling and working as you go, you could earn a buck or two in Australia, and not only gain experience for your good old CV, but get international experience too. Ace!

We'll get you settled into life in the awesome Oz with a bunch of other young travellers so you can kick off your trip in style, the best way to do this is to check out the nightlife in Sydney on your first night! Our introductory packages are available for three or five nights in a backpackers hostel, which is the perfect place to get to know the city. Once you've settled in, we'll then get on the case of securing you a job- you'll get an orientation to explain all you need to know about employment, travelling in country and most importantly, having a good time! Our guys are always on hand to help out too, so you'll have the best team behind you.

Ultimate Aussie Paid Work

Want to know how many jobs were recently available to our Ultimate Aussie travellers? Click here to find out!

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.

Australia attracts many visitors each year due to its broad range of things to see and do. The varying landscape offers many beautiful attractions and fantastic activities, from surfing and white water rafting to trekking and skiing. As well as natural beauty, Australia's cosmopolitan cities offer a wide variety of cultural attractions from sports to art.

Itinerary

Two weeks prior to your arrival in Sydney you'll be sent two emails. One will have your login details for the your profile and the other email will let you know that your bank details have been added to your profile and are ready to be viewed. It's up to you whether you want to update your online profile before you arrive, but it's useful to get it done as it can be easily forgotton when you arrive.

Once you've arrived into Sydney, settled in and got to know a load of new travel buddies, we'll give you an orientation from our recommended recruitment agency, who will be able to assist you in finding work. They will cover useful information about jobs and travelling around Oz. The agency is one of the most successful recruitment agencies in Sydney and will provide immediate access to a huge variety of jobs! You will also be given access to an online jobs board that will list jobs for all around Australia.

There are loads of opportunities available to those on a working holiday visa, (but please bare in mind you can only be employed in casual work). The agency will work their magic and put together a list of jobs which will suit you and your skills... and this could be anything from fruit picking to labouring to being a temp in an office

environment.

After your initial three or five nights (depending on the option you choose), you'll start your new life in Aus! Whenever you need a hand with finding a job, get in touch with the agency and of course we're available whenever you need us too!

So if you're looking for an awesome experience Down Under, this is definitely the way you get it!

Book the NEW seven night option and get a RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) and Barista course included

The seven night option includes a NSW (New South Wales) RSA course so that you are legally ready to get bar work as soon as you can. Please note this is only applicable to bar work in NSW and you will have to complete another course to be able to serve alcohol in other Australian states.

Also included in the seven night option is a barista course which will teach you all the coffee skills you need to work in one of Australia's many, many cafés. Meaning you will soon enough be happily preparing all the tall skinny hazelnut macchiato's the customers desire!

A group orientation will be held on the first business day after you arrive into Sydney. It lasts around 3 hours. The session is packed with loads of useful information including info about jobs; tax refunds, superannuation, travelling around Oz and for some the most important advice – where the best bars and clubs are in Sydney! There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. We organize loads of social events and parties – always making meeting new friends really easy. Activities include wine tasting, bush walking, sport events, beach walks and BBQs.

You will also receive loads of useful stuff during your orientation including a welcome kit, advice on applying for your tax file number, free internet at selected stores, free travel talks and one month luggage storage.

Ultimate Aussie Paid Work

Upon your arrival, our priority is to find you a job as quickly as possible so you can get your Aussie life sorted! All you need to do is complete the quick and easy Online Registration and let our ace team know when you want to work, then you can leave it up to them to search for job for you.

For your first job offer you will be made a priority and will be given the first choice of the positions available. You will then be safe in the knowledge that you have access to all job services for up to 12 months including regular email and text job updates.

Most of our job offers do lie in Sydney, but if you fancy working in another part of Australia we can help you with that too!

There are loads of different jobs available to those who are working abroad on the 'Working Holiday Visa' in Australia. The visa states that you can only be employed in casual employment during your stay- but that doesn't mean you can't rack up some great experience along the way!

You may be offered jobs in a number of industries including hospitality, retail, call centre, factory/warehouses, labouring and fruit picking. Jobs can range from 1 day through to 6 months and anything in between, which is really cool for backpackers who want to travel around at the same time! The more flexible you can be, the more work will come your way.

Rates of pay
As a general rule, the casual work we get ranges from $13-$18 per hour. Skilled temping positions pay more – around $20-30 per hour.

With the right motivation and attitude your working experiences in Australia will be positive and fulfilling. Be flexible. You never know where your job will take you unless you give it a go. People often refuse jobs because they don't like the sound of the work or that it isn't what they are used to doing at home. However, you never know when the next job will come along so make the most of every opportunity to learn and make some dollars.

And just think how much more you will appreciate those dollars when you are sitting on a tropical beach somewhere in Oz enjoying a cold beer and watching the sun set on another perfect days travelling. Here are a few tips to help get a job quickly:

If you already have plain black trousers, a white long sleeve business shirt and plain black leather/leather look shoes, bring them to Oz with you - they are always useful for job interviews and are required for some types of work.

Please note: Different jobs require that you have relevant experience or qualifications, such as bar work, construction industry etc. Various qualifications are required by employers, for example, the 1 Day RSA course (Responsible Service of Alcohol) teaches you the Australian laws and regulations of serving alcohol and is required to work anywhere that sells alcohol. The NSW version of this course is included in our seven night accommodation option. Full details about these courses and the fees involved will be provided by the team at your orientation.

Accommodation

You will receive 3 or 5 nights dorm accommodation (depending on which option you choose) in a fantastic hostel in the heart of one of the best cities on earth! The hostel boasts the most sought after backpacker facilities including a self-catering kitchen, dining room, laundry, games room and internet access.

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

The Internet will be available to you in the hostel, as well as the majority of hostels around Australia. As part of the price of the programme you are entitled to free Internet access in Sydney (at the office) and in partner offices all around Australia, which you will find out about in your orientation meeting.

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.

As part of the programme conditions you will need to bring an UNLOCKED mobile phone handset, as a Lebara Mobile SIM Card and $10 value free credit is included on activation. Employers will require an Australian number to contact you on with regards to jobs etc. Upon arrival to Australia you will collect your SIM card from our office in Sydney and you can start using your phone straight away.

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 launderette, both come at a small charge.

Tax

It is a legal requirement that all people working in Australia have an Australian tax file number. This tax file number cannot be applied for until you arrive into Australia. Upon arrival at the orientation you will simply need to provide a member of the team with a copy of your passport and visa and the rest will be done for you! We will apply for a tax file number on your behalf and will manage the application process until the Australian Tax Office issues a tax file number. Our in-country partner will keep a record of the reference number that confirms the application. The tax file number will arrive via post within 28 days. You can collect their number by visiting the office or request it is posted to you if you are elsewhere in Australia.

The tax file number will allow you to work and get paid at the lower tax rate of 29%. In good faith employers will hire and pay at the lower rate with the understanding that you have applied and will receive a tax file number within 28 days. If you fail to collect your number and/or report it to your employer within 28 days, you will paid at the higher

tax rate of 45%.

Mail forwarding and holding service

We will set up a mailbox for you before you arrive. The mailroom is located in our Sydney office. You will be shown the mailroom during your orientation. The mail service is very simple: You get your mail from overseas sent to our office then we will forward it to any address at any location within Australia for a small charge. So, no matter where you are, your mail can reach you. All you need to do is use our Internet Mail Service, tell us where you want your mail sent, make sure there is money on your Paypal account and then your mail is on the way. The Internet Mail Service will be explained to you at your orientation. If you can't get to the Internet to use the service, then we will also give you a telephone number for the mailroom so you can call us to get the mail sent to you.

The mailroom is open 6 days a week Monday to Saturday.

Please note:

- Everyone sending you mail should always put the sender address on the back of the envelope;
- Always let our in-country partner know before leaving Australia if you would like mail forwarded to your home country.

To make sure the Mail Forwarding and Holding service functions optimally it is necessary for all mail to have the correct address. Further details of this service will be given to you during your briefing.

Luggage Storage

As part of this package you will also receive one month's free luggage storage (standard size suitcase or backpack or overnight bag), which you will be informed about at your orientation. Additional months storage can be purchased locally as required.

Please Note: Real Gap, our in-country partner and the hostel cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged goods in storage.

Health Care Services

Travellers from certain countries are entitled to some free health care services in Australia such as visiting the doctor, and in order to be able to access this service travellers need to provide certain information.

Members from the following countries that have a reciprocal healthcare agreement with Australia, and are entitled to these benefits are:

- UK

- Finland
- Sweden
- Italy
- Malta
- Norway

The information required to get the Medicare card is your passport from home country PLUS a Health card from the home country OR a bank statement or bill showing the persons home address.

Previously a passport from one of the relevant countries was the only requirement but as Medicare have changed their rules, travellers are now required to produce the additional information as noted above.

The Medicare card allows members to go to the doctors for free, and receive some hospital services for free.

Please note: Even if you are entitled to healthcare benefits in Australia, we strongly recommend that you still get travel insurance for the duration of your stay.

Meals

Meals are not included. You are responsible for your own meals - you can either eat out at one of the many restaurants in Sydney, or you can visit the local supermarket (only 20 metres from the hostel) and prepare your own meals in the self catering kitchen at the hostel.

What's Included

- Arrival airport transfer
- Working Holiday Visa (if you pick the option including the Working Holiday Visa)
- 12 months of job offers from our centre in Sydney
- Personal job consultation
- Access to an on-line jobs board
- Full welcome orientation arrival
- 3, 5 or 7 nights hostel accommodation in a shared dorm (depending on option selected)
- Aussie Bank Account set up prior to arrival (including MasterCard Debit card)
- Australian SIM card/phone number provided on Day 1 in Australia
- NSW RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) course (NEW 7 night option only)
- Barista course (NEW 7 night option only)
- Tax File Number application completed on arrival
- 12 months FREE internet access in the Sydney job office
- Advice on Tax/Tax returns and Superannuation
- Long term accommodation advice and assistance
- Toll free emergency assistance number
- Short term luggage storage
- Private mailbox with mail holding and forwarding to anywhere in Australia
- Access to our teams work/safety clothing and equipment loan or buy facility

What's Not Included

- Flights and Travel insurance
- Working Holiday Visa (if you don't pick the option including the Working Holiday Visa)
- Meals
- Accommodation after the first 3, 5 or 7 nights (depending on option selected)

Is This Trip For You?

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 3 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.

If you are concerned about this, then please do not hesitate to contact our travel advisors for additional advice.

Reality Check

As with any recruitment agency, it will be your responsibility to stay in regular contact with the agency in Sydney regarding job opportunities; the more interest you show, the more they will know you are keen to get a job! Jobs can be one-off positions for a couple of days or for longer periods of time. The more flexible you can be, the more work will be available to you.

Additional Information

Bank Account

An Australian bank account will be opened for you. You will receive all the details and your bankcard within the first days of arrival. The Bank we use is the second largest bank in Australia with over 700 branches and 3000 ATM machines around the country.

Your bank details will be emailed to you within two weeks prior to your arrival into Australia. The email will advise you that your bank details have been added to your online profile and can be viewed.

The Bank will then bring your Bank Card to the orientation. You will need to show them your passport and sign to say that you agree to the terms and conditions of the account. Once this is done then your account is ready to use.

The account does not charge you a monthly fee for the first 12 months and gives you unlimited monthly transactions at any of the bank's ATM around Australia. Be aware if you use another banks ATM, you will be charged $1.50 per transaction. Your Bank Card can also be used in New Zealand.

Please Note: Bank charges apply and are subject to change. It is your responsibility to close your bank account before you leave the country.

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
- Working Holiday Visa notification
- Digital copy of your CV
- Credit Card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Alarm Clock
- Torch
- Sleeping bag
- Mobile phone (unlocked so it can accept an Australian SIM Card)
- Padlock for hostel lockers

Clothing

- Job specific work clothes (e.g. smart shirts for office, long trousers for manual labour)
- Causal clothes
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costume.
- Comfortable footwear
- Something smart
- Something warm

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit

Minimum Age

Minimum age 18, maximum age 30 (due to working holiday visa restrictions).

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Sydney International Airport on your programme start date before 21:00 in order to get the included shuttle bus. 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 happens after the first 3 or 5 nights?**
   The guys in the Sydney office will give you loads of advice as to whether you wish to rent a flat/house, extend your stay in the hostel or go off travelling!

2. **Do I have to work for a set amount of time?**
   No! Our work programmes are really flexible which means you choose when you want to work and when you want to travel.

3. **Can I go by myself?**
   Definitely! About 90% of the people travelling to Australia are doing so on their own so if you are a solo traveller you most definitely won't be the only one!

4. **Can I get in touch with other travellers before I go?**
   Yes! We provide a 'buddy list' of others email addresses joining you in Sydney on the same start date.

5. **Is it true that I must have a certain amount of money in the bank when I travel?**
   Yes. Immigration require you to have approx AUD$5000 funds to support yourself on this visa, so this is a good amount to have for spending money!

6. **Will I need any specific clothing for work?**
   You will need to have the appropriate clothing for the work you do. This may involve purchasing new clothes if you do not have them with you. In general you will need the following: Steel toe-capped boots for labouring, Closed toe black shoes, black trousers/skirt, white shirt for hospitality work, Smart office clothing and closed toe, polished shoes for office and call centre work, Kitchen whites for cook/chef work. Apart from labouring/manual work, most jobs require that you have neat hair and clothing. Facial piercing and outrageous hair are usually not accepted on hospitality and office positions.

7. **Do I need to have a CV?**
   It's essential to have a CV or Resume, as its known in Oz. It should be kept to a minimum of 2 pages and should include your contact details in Australia and your past work experience.

8. **How does the priority placement work?**
   As a new arrival, you will be treated as a priority and quickly placed into work. To take advantage of this, you must actually come into the office every day. If we offer you a position and you choose to turn it down, the priority work placement service is considered as having been met. Please make sure that the jobs team have accurate contact details for you so that they can contact you when something suitable comes in. If you

do not have a mobile phone, we cannot let you know what work is available so you must come into the office! After the priority work placement service has been met, we will continue to find you work when you require it. Group emails will be sent to inform you of jobs in your chosen areas, and SMS messages will be sent about work outside Sydney. You will also have access to a website which will list all the available jobs you can apply for.

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

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