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Oz Experience Bus Pass

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Oz Experience Bus Pass **Trip Code:** OZEXP **Duration:**

Trip Highlights

- Great value travel all over the east coast and central Australia
- Hop on and hop off as many times as you like- giving you ultimate flexibility
- Travel with like minded people and make some great friends along the way
- Offices all over the country to help you organise accommodation and excursions
- Get amazing deals on accommodation and in bars, nightclubs, tour offers and internet cafes

Overview

This is your Australian adventure, so travel when and where you like! Oz Experience is an awesome way to travel this incredible Australasian country. This hop-on, hop-off bus pass is valid for 12 months, giving you all the flexibility you need to complete your trip in your own time. On top of this you'll get some activities included along the way, and with offices all over the country, you're never far from the Oz Experience support, who can help you book accommodation and excursions.

Oz Experience is not just a boring old bus that gets you from A to B, while missing everything in between – known as one of the best Australia Bus Passes, these passes allow you to see the country at your own pace to do the activities that you want to do along the way.

Destination Info

Australia isn't the most popular gap year destination for nothing! It has wild, open spaces, amazing wildlife, jaw-dropping scenery and a great party scene. Add to that world-beating cusine, endless sunshine and no language barrier, and you've got a recipe for the best year of your life.

Oz Experience Bus Pass

Travelling round the great southern land still feels like exploring, so adventure travel is one of Australia's strengths. Head for the Outback and Uluru (Ayers Rock) and you'll understand the true meaning of "remote". There's plenty of action too – diving off the Great Barrier Reef, camel-riding or croc-watching, and surfing the breaks off the legendary Bondi Beach.

Itinerary

Oz Experience is an awesome way to travel this incredible country. The hop-on, hop-off bus passes are valid for 12 months, giving you all the flexibility you need to complete your trip in your own time.

Oz Experience is a bus network that includes certain activities, allows you to hop on-hop off, goes to the tourist hot spots and off the highways and the cool drivers give you a real experience with their local knowledge. It's not just a boring old bus that gets you from A to B, while missing everything in between – it allows you to do more but take your time when you want to as well.

There are a great choice of passes to choose from which cover a large area of Australia.

If the East Coast is your thing then you should choose a BruceCobber Pass. This can get you from Melbourne to Cairns, Sydney to Cairns, Cairns to Sydney or Cairns to Melbourne. Some people choose to fly into Brisbane and head north on one of our Strewth passes.

Your choice of directions can depend on the seasons, or what you intend doing after your trip. Some people fly to Cairns then travel south to arrive in Sydney for the Christmas celebrations. Or start in Sydney in winter and follow the sun northwards into the wonderful tropical winter.

Wherever you want to travel there will be a pass to fit you, click the 'Book Now' button and to see more information about each of the passes and book with Oz Experience!

Here are just a few reasons:

- Freedom - you are in control!
- Travel off the beaten track
- Meet a great group of like-minded people
- Meet an array of interesting local characters
- Best value for money
- Lots of free activities as well as optional ones
- The easiest way to make loads of mates
- No shortage of fun and adventure

Are activities included?
Some activities are included, such surfing on the way to Byron Bay, guided walks in the Atherton tablelands, and a 1 night stopover in Magnetic Island. Activities such as sky-diving and bungee jumping etc you will need to pay as you go!

Is food and accommodation included?

Thanks to the flexibility of Australia's coach network, you can hop-on and hop-off the bus anywhere you want. To make the passes as cheap and as flexible as possible, food and accomodation aren't included in the price.
This allows you to choose where you eat and where you stay for however long you like, and with so much choice of accommodation it's never hard to find somewhere to stay.

Accommodation

Meals

What's Included

- Hop-on hop-off flexible travel up to 12 months
- VIP wristband giving you deals on the road
- Unique included activities in many locations

What's Not Included

- Accommodation
- Food

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.

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