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Your Australia Mini Gap

Adventure



Relaxation



Culture



Trip Name: Your Australia Mini Gap **Trip Code:** QAMG **Duration:** From 3 months

Trip Highlights

- See the sights of Sydney including the famous Zoo and a harbour cruise
- Learn how to ride the waves on the beautiful Australian coast
- Volunteer and help protect Australia's amazing flora and fauna
- Catch the rays along the stunning East Coast



Overview

This great mini gap trip will mean that you can see and experience some of the best things that Australia has to offer in a shorter time. With the sights and sounds of Sydney, a chance to learn to surf to name just a few of the exciting activities you can do, this will be an exciting adventure you will always remember.

Destination Info

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.

Australia is a huge country in size, and therefore offers a diverse population and landscape, creating a perfect environment for travelling.

Itinerary



Fun Down Under – week in Sydney

Head for a traditional Barbie on the beach, take a spin on Centre Point Tower and spot wildlife on a trip to Hunter Valley National Park!

Learn to Surf Camp – 5 days

Perfect your boarding style as you learn to ride Australia's highest waves, catch a movie at the outdoor cinema and work up an appetite for an Australian style barbie!

East Coast Tour - 14 days

Starting in Sydney, you'll travel up the east coast to Cairns stopping in some of the most popular and beautiful places.

OR

7 day PADI diving course in Cairns

Dive into the depths of the Great Barrier Reef, gain an internationally recognised scuba diving qualification, and get up close to an array of fascinating marine life!

Conservation Volunteers – 2 weeks

Work at one of 10 amazing locations, play an important role in innovative conservation work and help out with a range of activities including tree planting, habitat restoration and track construction!

Accommodation

You will be staying in a variety of accommodation where included during your trip. These will range from hostels and beachside cabins to bunkhouses and camping.

Meals

Some meals are included for certain parts of your time in Oz. Please refer to specific programme information to find out what's included.

What's Included

- Flights: London – Australia – Bangkok – London
- Learn to Surf Camp
- East Coast Tour OR 7 day PADI diving course in Cairns & Conservation Volunteering



What's Not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Any necessary visas
- Extra activities not on itinerary



Minimum Age

18 years

FAQs

1. **Will I be travelling as part of group?**
On each individual program you will be part of a group, but you are unlikely to be with the same people throughout the entire trip.
2. **Can I go for less time?**
Yes you can, although 3 months is our recommended duration.
3. **Can I start anytime, or are there set departure months?**
You can go whenever you like, as long as we have availability.
4. **Can I change the itinerary?**
Yes, you can tailor make it to suit you. It is your trip afterall.
5. **How do I book?**
Once you know what you want to do and when, give us a call and we start working on the package for you and get a cost including flights.

Police Check

This trip requires a Police Check to be carried out - please contact us for further information on how to do this.

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 recommended 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

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