



LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has it all!

Australia is a modern, welcoming and affordable country, which enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world. Australia is the **fourth happiest country in the world** (Prosperity Index 2012) and we have **five of the 30 best cities in the world** for students (Top University Rankings 2012), you are sure to enjoy your time here. Australian residents enjoy a high quality of life, a superb education and health system, a stable economic and political environment, clean and safe surroundings, freedom of cultural and religious expression, and technologically advanced infrastructure and transport systems.

This is objectively confirmed in the World Competitiveness Handbook 2002 and by the Economist Intelligence Unit in London which recently evaluated 130 cities worldwide, in terms of their "liveability". **Five of Australia's state capitals appeared in the top 10, with Melbourne occupying first position.**

Diversity

Our native Australians - Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders - have inhabited the continent for the past 60,000 years. In the late 18th century Australia was colonised by the British. By World War II the population of 7 million comprised mainly of Northern Europeans. In the mid-forties, a migration program was established. Since then, over 6 million migrants from more than 200 countries, including Greece, Italy, China and Vietnam now call Australia home. Of the current population which exceeds 21 million, about 25 per cent were born overseas. More than one third have either one or both parents born outside the country.

Food

Markets and supermarkets sell a variety of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables as well as rice, breads, spices and other ingredients. Melbourne's restaurants and cafes offer a wide variety of foods from around the world, including Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Greek, Indian, Thai, Vietnamese, French and Indonesian.

Government & Democracy

Australia has a system of government based on the liberal democratic tradition, which embraces religious tolerance and freedom of speech and association.

Following Australia's federation in 1901, the six former colonies (now states) opted for a written constitution with a relationship between national and state governments similar to that of the United States. At the same time, they chose to retain the Westminster model as the basis for the legislature, executive government and judiciary. This blend of two democratic traditions is now uniquely Australian.

Shopping

In every major city and its suburbs are many large shopping centres, department stores, discount stores, markets and supermarkets that can be reached easily by public transport.

Healthcare

With an average life expectancy in Australia of 80 years and a low infant mortality rate of 4.83 deaths per 1,000 live births, Australians enjoy some of the best health standards in the world! In addition, Australia has stringent measures in place to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as SARS and tuberculosis.

There is a comprehensive immunisation program to minimise the risk of childhood diseases such as measles, polio and whooping cough; and the elderly are protected by annual flu vaccinations.

Transport

Australia has an extensive public transport system of buses, trains and trams. Cars travel on the left side of the road. Drivers can use their home country licenses for three months from the date of entry to Australia. An international license may be used if the license from the country of origin is valid.

