












Australia - Low



Australia Country Map

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-  MARITIME AND PIRACY
-  HEALTH
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Last Published: 24 January 2026

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Australia is widely considered to be a low-risk country for travellers. Despite being the sixth-largest country in the world, it is sparsely populated and home to large areas of desert.

Environmental disasters, such as bushfires, heatwaves, flooding and cyclones, are common throughout the year and pose a moderate threat throughout the country.

As in most countries, tourist areas, transit hubs, and hotels can be targets for scams and petty theft, though violent crime remains low. Narcotics-related offences, including drug smuggling and dealing, are present but largely do not affect travellers.

Civil unrest occurs frequently in large cities; however, protests tend to be peaceful and seldom result in significant disruptions.

The country is a possible target for international and internationally-inspired terrorists. Several anti-terror operations have occurred in major urban centres in recent years, with multiple arrests. There is also a threat of radicalised militants returning to Australia from abroad and carrying out attacks.

## **CULTURAL INFORMATION**

### **Cultural Tips**

- English is the official language.
- Australia maintains very strict immigration policies; this can make obtaining work permits and travel visas very difficult.
- A handshake is the common greeting. Formal handshakes are generally firm and brief, with a rapid, simple up-and-down motion.
- Tipping is not expected in Australia except under special circumstances. A 10% gratuity may be added when dining in high-end restaurants or when dining for an extended period of time.
- Homosexuality and same-sex marriage are legal in Australia.

<b>KEY FACTS</b>	
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Canberra
<b>CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE</b>	02

## KEY FACTS

<b>COUNTRY PHONE CODE</b>	+61
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Australian Dollar
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	230 V, 50 Hz
<b>GMT</b>	+8 to +11.5
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	No official language, English (de facto)
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	Head of State King Charles III; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese
<b>OFFICE WORK WEEK</b>	M-F
<b>OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME</b>	Commonwealth of Australia
<b>PLUG STYLES</b>	Type I
<b>RELIGION</b>	Roman Catholic 20%, Protestant 18.1% (Anglican 9.8%, Uniting Church 2.6%, Presbyterian and Reformed 1.6%, Baptist 1.4%, Pentecostal 1%, other Protestant 1.7%), other Christian 3.5%, Muslim 3.2%, Hindu 2.7%, Buddhist 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3% (Eastern Orthodox 2.1%, Oriental Orthodox 0.2%), other 2.1%, none 38.4%, unspecified 7.3%
<b>TIME ZONE OFFSET</b>	UTC +8

## KEY FACTS

<b>TYPE OF GOVERNMENT</b>	Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
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## RISK SUMMARY

### Political - Low

Australia is a stable democracy with a functioning and representative political system. The country is a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy, however, the King plays no role in Australia's political system. The Parliament of Australia is a bicameral body that incorporates elements of the Westminster model and other Western political systems. The system is considered two-party, with the majority of the votes being split between the Australian Labour Party and the incumbent, Liberal Party of Australia. Australia is also a federal state, with the power divided between the federal government and the local bodies in states and territories.

Voting is mandatory in Australia; election periods can see some civil unrest and traffic delays, however, this generally has a limited impact on visitors. Australia maintains good relationships with regional countries and is a key Western ally. Frequent leadership changes in both the Liberal and Labour parties have resulted in some political instability across recent years, with eight Australian Prime Ministers between 2010-2022, despite there being no limit on either duration or number of terms for Prime Ministers.

The current Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, first assumed office on 23 May 2022 and secured a second term following the federal election on 03 May 2025. The Australian Labour Party won a decisive majority, achieving its strongest result in decades.

### Armed Conflict - Low

Australia is a stable democracy with no active armed conflicts within its borders.

The country maintains a strong national security framework and has not experienced significant internal armed conflict in modern history.

## **Terrorism - Moderate**

In August 2024, Australia raised its terrorism threat level from Possible to Probable (level 3 of 5), indicating that security services now assess there is a greater than 50 per cent chance of a terror attack occurring.

The primary threat is considered to come from domestic actors. Individuals located within Australia, potentially influenced by extremist groups, have previously carried out attacks.

Australia has been actively involved in international peacekeeping missions, notably in East Timor during the violence following the country's elections. Its military participation in the coalition against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has also heightened the country's vulnerability to terrorism.

On 14 December 2025, a mass shooting occurred at a Hanukkah celebration near Bondi Beach in Sydney, killing 15 people and injuring dozens. Police reports indicate that the two gunmen, a father and son, parked on Campbell Parade in Bondi at approximately 18:50 local time. Two Improvised Explosive Device (IED) were found in the vehicle they drove from Campsie, where they had rented a property. None of the explosive devices were detonated, but authorities assessed them as viable. Shortly afterwards, the pair began shooting at attendees of the Hanukkah by the Sea gathering. An investigation is currently ongoing, with court documents suggesting the attackers' political and religious views informed their actions. Authorities are treating the attack as terrorism and are currently assessing whether the country's terror level must be changed.

## **Crime - Low**

Crime is generally low in Australia. Although violent crime is rare and typically does not target tourists or foreign business travellers, they may still occur. Petty crime can take place in areas where tourists congregate.

Fraudulent schemes and cybercrime are increasing, with targeted emails and spear phishing being the most significant threats, primarily for financial gain. While card skimming is rare, travellers should remain cautious when using ATMs.

Drug-related crime occurs in Australia. This often is linked to drug trafficking from Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia and specifically Bali. There have been many reports of arson in Australia, which has led to severe bushfires throughout the country.

The risk of kidnapping is low, with most cases involving domestic disputes or parental abductions. While foreign nationals are generally not targeted, individuals in high-profile positions may face a slightly elevated risk.

### **Civil Unrest - Low**

Demonstrations do occur in Australia but are generally peaceful and well-policed. Previous protests have concerned the issue of immigration, which is a sensitive issue in Australia and occasionally leads to counter-demonstrations that escalate into small-scale violence.

Demonstrations on the subject of climate change have become increasingly common nationwide since the 2019-20 bushfire crisis in the country's southeast, with previous demonstrations in Sydney by activist group Blockade Australia causing localised traffic disruption.

In Melbourne, large-scale protests have been held at State Library of Victoria, while Sydney has seen gatherings at Sydney Town Hall.

Several cities have also seen protests linked to the treatment of members of the Aboriginal community. Little to no violence was recorded in these instances.

### **Maritime and Piracy - Low**

Australia upholds a strong maritime security framework, working closely with regional and international partners to guarantee the safety and security of its maritime operations. Consequently, the risk of piracy, robbery or violence in Australian waters is minimal to non-existent.

Several Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs) are extant in Australia. TSSs require vessels to observe specific rules, such as entering or exiting maritime channels at predetermined points. Areas that have TSSs include: the Bass Strait oil fields (due to the presence of oil infrastructure that may pose an environmental hazard if disrupted), south of Wilsons Promontory, Cape Leeuwin and Chatham Island.

Maritime travel may be disrupted or limited in the Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait, and Coral Sea as these are designated as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) in order to ensure environmental protection.

## Health - Low

Health provision is excellent in Australia, but upfront cash payment can sometimes be expected. Some medical care may be difficult to find in rural areas, due to the remote nature of some parts of Australia. Australia has a reciprocal health-care system with many European countries, so citizens from these respective nations should have access to state-funded healthcare. Nevertheless, travellers should ensure that they have appropriate travel insurance. Travellers should call 000 for an ambulance.

Australia has some of the highest levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation, and excessive exposure to the sun, especially during the summer months (December to February) and at high elevation, can pose a risk.

There is some risk of tick-borne diseases, including Murray Valley virus, Ross River virus, and West Nile virus. While the risk of Dengue fever is rare for travellers, outbreaks have been reported, particularly in northern Queensland. Yellow fever is not a risk in Australia, but travellers coming from affected countries are required to show proof of vaccination. Vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, and tetanus are recommended as general precautions.

Australia has many dangerous animal species, including crocodiles, jellyfish, sharks, venomous snakes and spiders. If bitten by an animal, seek medical attention.

In rural and remote areas without available health services, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) provides free emergency aeromedical evacuations and healthcare services.

## **Environmental - Moderate**

Australia experiences frequent natural disasters throughout the year, such as heavy rainfall, bushfires, flooding, heatwaves, and tropical cyclones, which impact different regions at various times. Australia is equipped with robust infrastructure and early warning systems, but environmental disasters can result in infrastructure damage, transport disruptions, power outages, and pose risks to human life.

Bushfires are especially common during the peak of the Australian summer (December to February), with smoke pollution contributing to poor air quality and worsening respiratory conditions. In recent years, rising temperatures have made heatwaves longer and more intense, further exacerbating fires. In the past, mass evacuations and large-scale damage have been reported as a result of bushfires.

The rainy season, from November to April, brings severe flooding, particularly in the inland areas of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and Victoria. Tropical cyclones are also likely to occur during this period, especially along the coasts of Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia. Moreover, maritime environmental conditions vary considerably. Rip currents are common at beaches and can be dangerous at any time, leading to approximately 20 drownings annually. While lifeguards are present at many beaches, the large number of tourists often leads to understaffed areas.

Australia is home to a range of potentially dangerous wildlife, both on land and in coastal waters. Shark incidents occur annually, with increased risk observed following periods of heavy rainfall, which may result in temporary beach closures in affected areas. Additional risks include venomous snakes, spiders, marine stingers (including box jellyfish and Irukandji jellyfish in northern waters), and crocodiles in northern Australia. Interactions with wildlife can pose a serious risk to travellers, particularly in remote areas.

## **Transportation - Low**

Australian international and domestic airports meet International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards. Flight operators are of a high standard with

planes regularly maintained. All international airports are policed by the Australian Federal Police.

Driving laws and regulations differ in each state/territory but are generally adhered to. Speed limits are enforced via cameras and police traffic patrols. Holiday weekends typically see a rise in roadside fatalities. Drunk driving checks are conducted frequently, and travellers should be prepared to submit to random Breathalyzer testing. Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is illegal. The penalties can be severe. You must wear a seat belt at all times.

Prepare thoroughly if driving in remote areas, which can present unexpected hazards. Ensure you have a roadworthy vehicle fitted with GPS and at least two spare tyres. Take maps, extra food, water and fuel. Plan your route carefully and seek local advice before you leave. Leave your route details and expected time of return with the local tourist authorities, police, your hotel/hostel, or friends and relatives and let them know when you have arrived safely.

In protected areas and other remote regions, strict regulations govern the use of vehicles to ensure safety and preserve the environment. Vehicles are typically required to adhere to maximum speed limits, often lower than urban areas, and the number of passengers, including the driver, must not exceed the vehicle's approved capacity.

Travellers are advised to check road conditions and the weather forecast before beginning their journey. Avoid travelling in extreme heat conditions. Sudden storms and strong winds can make driving conditions difficult. Take particular care when driving on unsealed roads, 4WD tracks, and desert/beach roads.

Public transport in metropolitan areas is to a high standard, however, there is an inherent increased risk of opportunistic crime when travelling via bus or rail.

## EMERGENCY DETAILS

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL 24/7 OPERATIONS CENTRE AT +44 (0)1202 795 801. LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN BE REACHED BY DIALLING 000.**

<b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b>	
<b>POLICE NUMBER</b>	112
<b>AMBULANCE NUMBER</b>	112
<b>FIRE NUMBER</b>	112
<b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b>	To call for fire/police/ambulance services throughout Australia, dial "000"

## TRAVEL

### TRAVEL ADVICE

Entry to Australia generally requires a visa. These should be applied for prior to arriving in the country. Travellers over the age of 75 may be required to undergo a health examination. Immigration officials may require proof of onward travel and evidence of funds to support the traveller for the duration of their stay. The customs laws in Australia are very strict. Imports and exports need to be cleared by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. This includes most food and drinks, including packaged and fresh items. Failure to declare such items can result in high fines, travel delays, and potentially detention. Cash must also be declared in Australia.

Travellers using medications should carry a prescription on them, in order to prove to customs that their medication is legitimate. Australia has strict quarantine rules to keep out pests and diseases that could impact plant, animal, or human health. Travellers must fill in an incoming passenger card and either declare goods considered to be a risk or dispose of them at the airport.

To enter Australia, travellers must have a certificate to prove they have had a yellow fever vaccination if arriving from a country listed as a transmission risk.

Same-sex marriages are legally recognised in Australia and is the country is generally accepting. There have been isolated incidents of homophobic crimes however.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

**FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

- **Valentine's Day:** Australia - Observance

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

- **Ash Wednesday:** Australia - Christian

**MARCH 02, 2026**

- **Labour Day:** Australia - Western Australia - Local holiday

**MARCH 03, 2026**

- **Purim:** Australia - Hebrew

**MARCH 06, 2026**

- **Foundation Day:** Australia - Norfolk Island - Local holiday

**MARCH 09, 2026**

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **Canberra Day:** Australia - Australian Capital Territory - Local holiday
- **Eight Hours Day:** Australia - Tasmania - Local holiday
- **Adelaide Cup:** Australia - South Australia - Local holiday

### MARCH 15, 2026

- **Laylatul Qadr (Night of Power):** Australia - Muslim

### MARCH 17, 2026

- **St Patrick's Day:** Australia - Observance

### MARCH 19, 2026

- **National Close the Gap Day:** Australia - Observance

### MARCH 20, 2026

- **Eid ul Fitr:** Australia - Muslim
- **Hari Raya Puasa:** Australia - Cocos and Keeling Islands, Christmas Island - Local holiday

### MARCH 21, 2026

- **Harmony Day:** Australia - Observance
- **March Equinox:** Australia - Seasonal

## RECENT ALERTS

### **SMOKE ALERT ISSUED FOR EASTERN PARTS OF DAWESVILLE, MANDURAH**



**Category:** Caution - **Risk:** Moderate

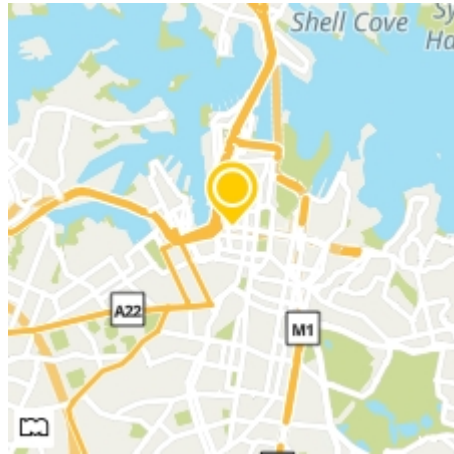


09-Feb-2026 23:55

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has issued a smoke alert for the eastern parts of Dawesville, Mandurah due to an active bushfire near Harvey Estuary. The alert was issued at 0702 local time on 10 February. Further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates accordingly.

**UPDATE: AT LEAST 27 ARRESTS AMID DEMONSTRATIONS  
OUTSIDE SYDNEY TOWN HALL**

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



09-Feb-2026 12:56

Local media sources report that at least 27 people have been arrested amid pro-Palestine demonstrations outside Sydney Town Hall. Ground sources have reported that some of these arrests were made due to scuffles between security officers and demonstrators; however, the extent of these scuffles remains unclear as videos show them dispersing promptly. At this time, there have not been any reports of casualties as the full extent of the demonstration remains unclear. Further sources report that there are ongoing efforts to disperse the crowd in the affected area. We will continue to monitor the situation and will update accordingly.

**TRAFFIC BLOCKED DUE TO PRO-PALESTINE  
DEMONSTRATORS GATHERING AT INTERSECTION OF  
SWANSTON AND FLINDERS STREETS**

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

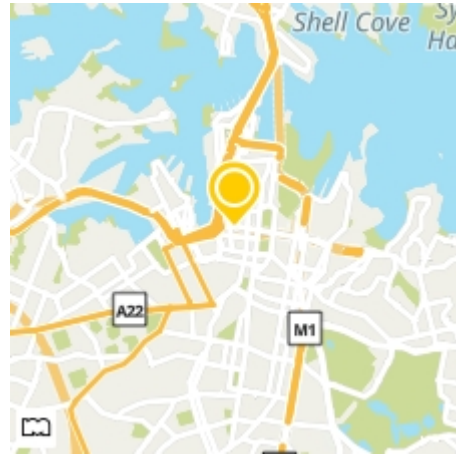


09-Feb-2026 07:09

Local media sources report that traffic is blocked due to Pro-Palestine demonstrators gathering at the intersection of Swanston and Flinders streets. Ground sources report that traffic has been blocked in all directions. Images circulating on social media show large crowds gathering in the affected area with signs and flags. At this time it is unclear whether there are any clashes; however, the demonstration has been reported to be peaceful. There have not been any reports of casualties.

**PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTEST ONGOING OUTSIDE OF SYDNEY TOWN HALL, GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY**

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

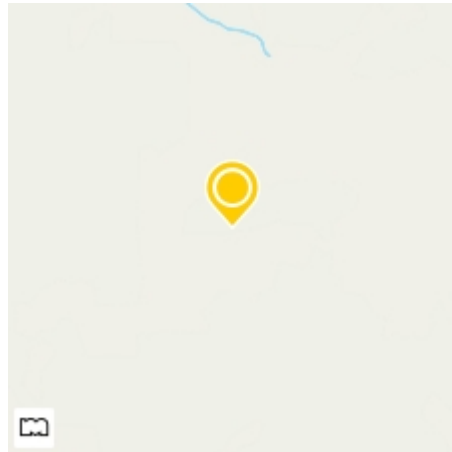


09-Feb-2026 06:25

Local media reports that hundreds of protesters have begun to gather outside of Sydney Town Hall on George Street, in Sydney. Protesters are demonstrating against Israeli President Isaac Herzog visiting the country, as well as in support of Palestinians. Footage circulating online shows some protesters waving Palestinian flags and chanting "arrest Herzog". There have been no reports of violent clashes at this time. Officers from New South Wales Police's public order and riot squad are in attendance, along with general duties officers and members of the mounted police unit. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates where necessary.

**BUSHFIRE WARNING ISSUED FOR CARDIFF AND  
MCALINDEN IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

## RECENT ALERTS



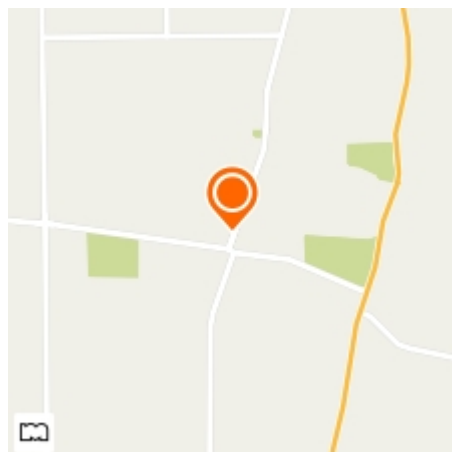
**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



09-Feb-2026 02:24

Western Australian authorities have issued a "watch and act" warning for bushfires in the vicinity of Hart Road and Collie South East Road in parts of Mcalinden and Cardiff in the Shires of Boyup Brook and Collie. The fire has burnt through approximately 360 hectares of national park and private property. People on Hart Road should leave in an easterly direction along Hart Road towards McAlinden Road. There have been no casualties reported at this time.

## LEAVE NOW BUSHFIRE WARNING ISSUED FOR MUNDIJONG AND WHITBY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## RECENT ALERTS

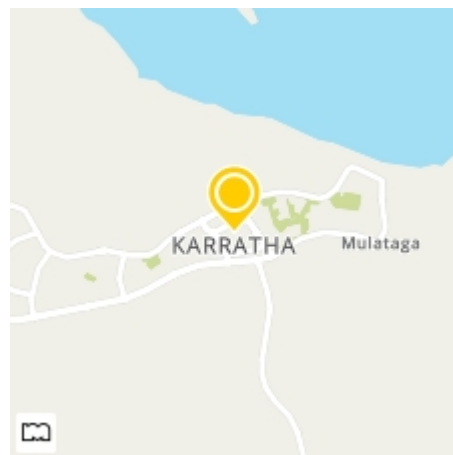
**Category:** Armed Conflict - **Risk:** High



08-Feb-2026 19:59

The Western Australia bushfire authority has issued a "leave now" warning for Mundijong and Whitby. If it is safe to do so, leave in an westerly direction. Issued at 0330 local time 09 February. Take your emergency kit with you. If you become stuck in your car, park away from bushes, cover yourself with a woollen blanket, get onto the floor as the windows may break from the intense heat. Firefighters are actively fighting the fire. When leaving, keep in mind that the South Western Highway is closed between Keirnan Street and Jarrahdale Road. Motorists are asked to avoid the area, reduce speed and drive carefully.

**UPDATE: SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE MITCHELL (21U)  
UPGRADED TO CATEGORY 3**



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

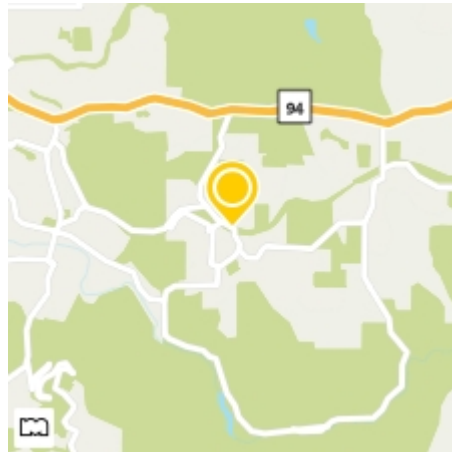


07-Feb-2026 15:23

## RECENT ALERTS

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has upgraded Cyclone Mitchell to category 3 strength at 2300 local time. Authorities have warned that wind gusts may reach up to 205 kilometres per hour over coastal parts of the Pilbara area, particularly around Karratha, Dampier and Wickham. The cyclone is forecast to result in widespread heavy rainfall and abnormally high tide, which may result in flash flooding. Areas in the warning zone include: Whim Creek to Coral Bay, Karratha, Onslow, and Exmouth, and Pannawonica. Coral Bay to Carnarvon remain in a watch zone. Authorities have forecasted that the cyclone is moving southwest to the north of Dampier. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

### **DFES HAS ISSUED A BUSHFIRE WATCH AND ACT ALERT FOR PARTS OF DARLINGTON, BOYA AND HELENA VALLEY**



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



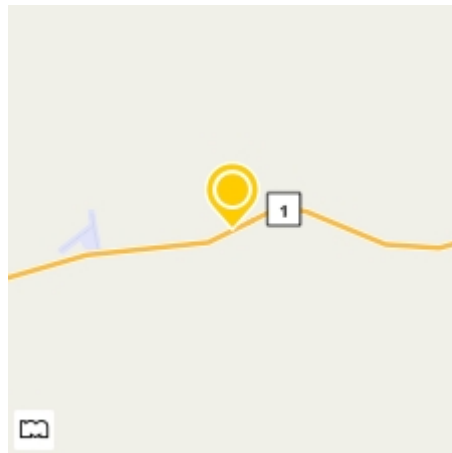
07-Feb-2026 02:19

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DEFS) has issued a bushfire watch and act alert for parts of Darlington, Boya and Helena Valley. The bushfire is stationary but not contained or controlled. The fire department are working to

## RECENT ALERTS

contain the fire. There remains a possible threat to lives and property as the fire continues to burn.

### DFES HAVE ISSUED A WATCH AND ACT ALERT FOR CYCLONE MITCHELL FROM WHIM CREEK TO MARDIE



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



07-Feb-2026 02:08

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has issued a cyclone watch and act alert for Whim Creek to Mardie, including both Barrow and Montebello islands. Tropical Cyclone Mitchell is forecasted to reach a category 3 cyclone overnight, moving toward the Pilbara coast. Wind gusts of up to 170 kilometres/hour are expected along with heavy rainfall. There is a possible threat to property and life. The watch and act alert may be raised to an emergency warning later this afternoon. An evacuation centre will be open at the Karratha Leisureplex.

### ALERT PLUS - PLANNED AUSTRALIA PROTESTS

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Solace Intelligence - **Risk:** Moderate



06-Feb-2026 14:56

Please navigate to the Solace Secure app/desktop to find our latest Alert Plus attached to the recent Solace Intelligence Alert covering the Planned Australia Protests. It is also accessible via the News and Reports section.

# FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 01/27/2026 16:48:53

## Warnings and insurance

### Bushfires in Australia

There is a higher risk of bushfires in Australia during the spring and summer seasons, from October to February. For advice, visit the bushfires section on the [safety and security page](#).

### Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

### Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

### About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

### Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)

- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

## **Entry requirements**

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Australia set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Australian High Commission in the UK](#).

## **Passport validity requirements**

To enter Australia, your passport must be valid for the length of your planned stay.

If you’re travelling through or transiting another country on your way to or from Australia, check the entry requirements for that country. Many countries require at least 6 months validity remaining on your passport, even if you’re just in transit and do not pass through immigration.

## **Dual nationals**

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

## **British- Australian dual nationals**

If you’re a British-Australian dual national, you must leave and enter Australia on your Australian passport. You could face difficulties and delays if you do not. See [Australian government advice for dual nationals](#).

## **Visa requirements**

You must have a visa to visit Australia.

## **Applying for a visa**

British citizens can usually get the following types of electronic visitor visa:

- [eVisitor visa](#) – there is no visa application charge or service fee
- [Electronic Travel Authority \(ETA\)](#) through the [iOS app](#) or [Android app](#) – there is no visa application charge, but there may be a service fee

The Department of Home Affairs has [information on all other types of visas](#).

## Vaccine requirements

To enter Australia, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a [country listed as a transmission risk](#). See the Australian Department of Health's [information on yellow fever for travellers](#).

For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Australia guide](#).

## Customs requirements

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of Australia](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

## Quarantine rules

Australia has strict quarantine rules to keep out pests and diseases that could affect plant, animal or human health.

You must fill in an [Incoming Passenger Card](#) and either:

- declare goods considered to be a risk, such as food, animal products and plant material (including wooden articles)
- dispose of goods in bins at the airport or seaport

You must also declare if you have 'been in contact with farms, farm animals, wilderness areas or freshwater streams/lakes etc in the past 30 days'.

The Australian authorities X-ray luggage. They inspect, treat and, if necessary, confiscate and destroy items of concern. You can get a heavy fine if you break quarantine.

The Department of Agriculture has [more information on quarantine rules](#).

## Safety and security

# Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

## Terrorism in Australia

Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Australia.

Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreign nationals. You should be vigilant, keep up to date with local media reports and follow the advice of local authorities.

In December 2025, 15 people were killed in an antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach, Sydney.

In April 2024, several people were injured in a terrorist incident at a church in Wakeley, Sydney.

See the [Australian government's national terrorism threat level](#).

# Crime

## Protecting your belongings

Take precautions to protect yourself from petty crime, including:

- not leaving your bag or luggage unattended
- keeping luggage out of sight in cars
- keeping valuables and passport in a hotel safe
- leaving copies of important documents with family and friends in the UK
- carrying a photocopy of your passport for ID
- being particularly careful at night in busy tourist areas

## Scams

There are many different types of scams targeting people in or travelling to Australia, including dating and romance scams, websites offering fake services or building repair scams. You can check current scams or report your concerns about a scam on the [government's scamwatch website](#).

## Laws and cultural differences

### Personal ID

You can reduce the risk of losing your passport by carrying a proof of age card – this could be a driving licence or a student ID. This is accepted ID for many services like opening a bank account or entering licensed premises.

### Smoking and e-cigarette laws

Laws on smoking and e-cigarettes (vapes) differ between states. The Australian government is reviewing laws, so the rules may change. You must have a prescription to buy e-cigarettes containing liquid nicotine. There are [strict rules on importing vaping goods](#).

In all states it is illegal to smoke in enclosed public spaces. Get local advice on any restrictions, and see [smoking and tobacco laws in Australia](#).

### Alcohol

Some drinks served in bars in Australia can be stronger than those in the UK. Alcohol and drugs can lead to you being less alert, less in control and less aware of your environment.

### Illegal drugs and prison sentences

The Australian authorities act against anyone who imports or traffics illegal drugs. Prosecution can lead to a lengthy prison sentence and deportation.

### LGBT+ travellers

Same-sex marriages are legally recognised. Australia is generally open-minded about homosexuality, but there are isolated incidents of homophobic crime. [Visit](#)

[Gay Australia](#) is a useful travel planning resource alongside [LGBT+ information from the Australian Human Rights Commission](#).

Read more [advice for LGBT+ travellers](#).

## Mobile phones

The mobile phone network generally works well in cities and large towns, but coverage elsewhere can be very limited or non-existent. If you're travelling to remote areas, check with your phone provider about coverage. You can use your UK mobile phone in Australia if global roaming has been activated, but making and receiving calls can be expensive. Many visitors prefer to buy an Australian SIM card on arrival.

You can use any Telstra public payphone to make free phone calls to Australian numbers. Free wifi is also available at some payphones around the country.

## Working holidays

If you're in Australia on a working holiday visa, the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) website has information about:

- your rights as an employee in Australia
- how to report any concerns about unfair or unlawful treatment online – you can also call 131 394

Different tax rules and rates apply to residents and non-residents. Working holidaymakers are usually regarded as non-resident for tax purposes. This means they do not qualify for any tax-free personal allowance on earnings. Get guidance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).

See [information for people working in Australia](#).

## Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

### Swimming safety

Rip currents are the main hazard for all swimmers and surfers. They can happen at any beach and can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

Follow guidance on [beach safety in Australia](#) and tips from [Surf Life Saving Australia](#).

British nationals have been injured diving into water that was too shallow. Make sure there is sufficient depth of water before diving, and always follow warning signs.

## **Diving and snorkelling safety**

Snorkelling accidents can happen and have sometimes been fatal.

You are required by law to complete a medical declaration for diving or snorkelling at a resort. For your own health and safety, you must be truthful about any medical conditions you have.

## **Dangerous wildlife**

Australia has many dangerous animal species. There are crocodiles, jellyfish, sharks, venomous insects, spiders and snakes in many parts of the country.

See Beachsafe's [information on dangerous marine creatures](#).

## **Walking and hiking**

If you're planning to walk or hike, research the area you're visiting and prepare for the terrain and weather, including intense heat. It can take hours to get help in an emergency in the bush or national parks. There is advice on bush safety on each state or territory's government website. See:

- [New South Wales](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

## **Transport risks**

### **Road travel**

If you are planning to drive in Australia, see [information on driving abroad](#).

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in Australia if you remain a temporary overseas visitor. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need

to [update it to a photocard licence](#) or get the [1949 version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well.

If you plan to stay in Australia and have a permanent visa, you can drive using your UK licence for up to 3 months. To continue driving, you must get an Australian licence within this 3-month period.

Driving laws and regulations differ in each state and territory. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. The penalties can be severe. You must always wear a seat belt. See the [Australian Road Rules](#).

You must carry your driving licence and passport when driving. Make sure you have sufficient insurance, including if you borrow a car from a friend or relative.

## **Hire cars**

Hire car companies often have stricter requirements for their customers, such as a year of driving experience, a higher minimum age and holding an IDP.

If you're hiring a car immediately on arrival, be cautious about driving. You might be jetlagged and tired from your flight. Take regular rest breaks at the many rest stops on the roads.

Hire car insurance often does not cover driving on unsurfaced roads. Check your policy before you set off.

## **Road conditions**

Australia is known for having large distances between towns and amenities.

To reduce your risk:

- make sure you have enough water before travelling
- tell someone about your plans
- check road conditions before starting
- stay with your vehicle if it breaks down
- check the weather forecast – avoid travelling in extreme heat or severe weather

Sudden storms and strong winds can make driving difficult.

Take particular care when driving on unsurfaced roads, 4-wheel-drive tracks and desert or beach roads. Northern Territory Police have warned tourists to stay off unsurfaced tracks in remote areas of Central Australia, following reports of stranded motorists.

## **Driving in the outback**

Prepare thoroughly if driving in remote outback areas, which can present unexpected hazards. To reduce your risk:

- take a roadworthy vehicle fitted with GPS and 2 spare tyres
- take good maps and extra food, water and fuel
- plan your route carefully and get local advice before you set out
- leave your route details and expected time of return with the local tourist authorities, police, your hotel or hostel, or friends and relatives, and let them know when you've arrived safely

## **Driving on K'gari (Fraser Island)**

Following a number of serious accidents, all vehicles on K'gari (Fraser Island) must not drive faster than 80km/h on beaches and 30km/h in towns. Four-wheel-drive vehicles must have no more than 8 occupants, including the driver. You must store all luggage inside the vehicle.

Avoid driving at night and be aware of beach hazards like ditches created by the surf. K'gari is remote and emergency services can take many hours to reach an accident. Carry a well-stocked first-aid kit and personal medication as there is no pharmacy on the island. The Queensland government has more [information on keeping safe in K'gari](#).

## **Extreme weather and natural disasters**

Find out what you can do to prepare for and respond to [extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

### **Bushfires**

Bushfires can occur in any part of Australia, including areas close to towns and cities.

Be aware of the risk of bushfires, especially at the height of the Australian summer from November to February. Bushfires can start and change direction and become a risk to life very suddenly.

Australia regularly battles devastating bushfires. Previous fires resulted in the loss of lives and property with many residents and visitors advised to evacuate.

Australian authorities have a range of online information and apps to help citizens and visitors keep track of weather and bushfire warnings. You should consider downloading weather and emergency information apps from the Australian or State governments:

- [‘BOM Weather’](#) – all-Australia weather forecast and warnings .
- ‘Hazards near me’ – New South Wales
- [‘VicEmergency’](#) – Victoria
- [‘AlertSA’](#) – South Australia
- [‘EmergencyWA’](#) – Western Australia

If you’re in or near an affected area, follow the advice of local authorities:

- [Australian Capital Territory Fire and Rescue](#)
- [New South Wales Rural Fire Service](#)
- [Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- [Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](#)
- [South Australian Country Fire Service](#)
- [Tasmania Fire Service](#)
- [Victoria’s Country Fire Authority](#)
- [Western Australia Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

Bushfires can cause poor air quality and aggravate respiratory conditions. Smoke can accumulate far from a fire, including in urban areas and major cities. If you’re unable to avoid smoke affected areas, state and territory governments monitor air quality and give advice:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

## Heatwaves

Extreme heat is a serious risk in Australia. See the Australian Red Cross's [information on heatstroke and heat exhaustion](#).

## Flooding

Heavy rain and tropical cyclones can cause flooding, including flash floods in some areas. You can get [flood warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology](#).

Check [local media reports](#).

Significant weather events can happen suddenly. Spillways, flood plains and drains can quickly become submerged.

The local authorities may issue stay-at-home or leave-now orders. Always follow the advice of local authorities.

More information can be found on the relevant state and territory websites:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

## Earthquakes

While rare in Australia, earthquakes can happen. Follow the advice of the local authorities and emergency services in the event of a natural disaster.

## Tropical cyclones

Tropical cyclones affect some parts of Australia, mainly Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. The cyclone season normally runs from November to April.

Monitor local and international weather updates from the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and the [Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#).

If you are in or near an affected area, follow the advice of local authorities.

## Dust storms

Dust storms happen regularly in Australia, usually only in outback areas. Follow the advice of local authorities.

## Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

## Emergency medical number

Dial 000 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

## Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for Australia](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Australia](#) including:

- dengue
- Japanese encephalitis and other insect or tick-borne diseases

## Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

## Healthcare in Australia

While you are in Australia, you can access essential and urgent medical care through the UK-Australia Reciprocal Healthcare Agreement. Find out more about [healthcare for UK citizens in Australia](#).

Essential and urgent hospital treatment is free. There is a charge to visit GPs and receive prescriptions. You can recover some costs through Medicare, Australia's universal health insurance scheme. You can [enrol with Medicare through Services Australia](#).

If you're not covered by reciprocal healthcare arrangements between Australia and the UK, costs of treatment can be high.

The standard of healthcare in Australia is very good. UK residents are entitled to limited subsidised health services from Medicare for medically necessary treatment while visiting Australia. These provisions do not apply to non-visitors, for example those studying in Australia. Other exclusions under the reciprocal agreement include pharmaceuticals (unless you're in hospital), use of ambulance services and medical evacuations, which are very expensive.

See more [information on medical services in Australia](#).

## Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

### Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

# Emergency services in Australia

Telephone: 000 (ambulance, fire, police)

## Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

## Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

## Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding [lawyers](#) and [funeral directors](#) in Australia
- dealing with a [death in Australia](#)
- being [arrested in Australia](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

## Contacting FCDO

### Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

### Help in the UK

You can call [FCDO](#) in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

## Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow [FCDO](#):

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

## Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Australia](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

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## PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to

attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

### **STAY SAFE: Hotels**



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

### **TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About**



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

### **Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.**



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

### **SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips**

**See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.**

**Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.**

**First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.**

**Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.**



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.  
Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

### **THINK SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

### **DOCUMENT SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself.

You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport

- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

#### CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email [SGR@solaceglobal.com](mailto:SGR@solaceglobal.com) for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact [support@solaceglobal.com](mailto:support@solaceglobal.com).

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