

## ON ARRIVAL

On arrival the first step to enter Australia is at the immigration desk. You will need your passport with visa and incoming passenger card.

You then collect your baggage, which Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers may check. They look for prohibited goods or items that have not been declared.

This is the end of official checks and you are now in the arrivals hall. This is where you can change money, get transport and arrange short-term accommodation. There may be an arrivals information desk to provide answers to your questions.

## TRANSPORT

Taxis are available from the domestic and international terminals. A taxi trip from the airport to Perth City centre will take 20 to 30 minutes. The journey will cost approximately AUD \$20.00 to AUD \$30.00. Swan Taxis Tel 13 1330 (within Australia) Black & White Taxis Tel 13 1008 (within Australia).

An Airport-City Shuttle operates to and from domestic and international airports with convenient pick up points located near accommodation throughout Perth. Trains and buses are available throughout the metropolitan and country areas of Western Australia. For further information visit: <http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/>

## CLIMATE

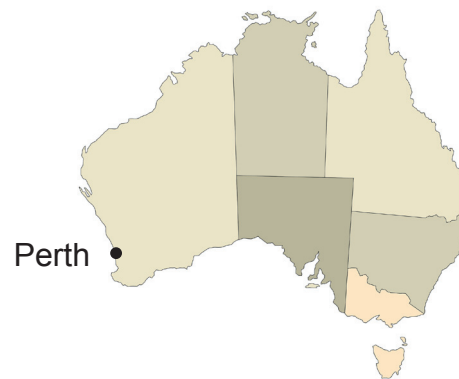
Perth has a mixture of the Californian and Mediterranean climates, with mild winters and hot dry summers. Perth is the sunniest capital in Australia with an average of eight hours sunshine a day.

The summer months are hot with an average temperature of 29 degrees Celsius during the day and 17 degrees Celsius climates, some days around New Year's have been known to rise to and above 40 degrees Celsius (about 104 degrees Fahrenheit)!

# INFORMATION BROCHURE

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## ACCOMMODATION

Due to the mining boom in Western Australia, accommodation in and around Perth is highly sought after.

Rental properties are in demand and median rental property in and around Mount Lawley is around \$330 per week for a 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment. The medium rental house price in Perth is \$395.00 with a 2.8% vacancy rate.

Further details can be found [http://www.westernaustralia.com/au/search/Pages/Accommodation\\_Search.aspx](http://www.westernaustralia.com/au/search/Pages/Accommodation_Search.aspx)

## SCHOOLS

The Western Australian education system traditionally consists of primary schools, which accommodate students from kindergarten to Year 7 (ages 5–12), and high schools, which accommodate students from Years 8 to 12 (ages 13–17).

A number of variations exist, however—the Catholic school system and some newer public schools move students from primary to high school at the end of Year 6, whilst in country areas, District High Schools serve as both a primary and a junior high school, with students generally commuting to or boarding at larger towns to finish the last two years of their education.

For further information visit: [www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline) For tertiary studies, Western Australia has five major universities and numerous technical and further education centres.

For further information visit: <http://pertheducationcity.com.au>

## COST OF LIVING

The cost of living depends on the current Consumer Price Index. Further details can be found on <http://www.abs.gov.au>. The average cost of petrol is \$1.35 per litre, a loaf of bread costs \$3.50 and a two litre of Milk \$2.50.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY

Australian currency uses the decimal currency system.

Notes are a high quality polymer-based synthetic and come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Coin denominations are 5 cent, 10 cent, 20 cent, 50 cent, as well as \$1 and \$2.

Prices under 5 cents are rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cent - that is, 3 and 4 cent totals are rounded up to nearest 5 cent, while 1 and 2 cent totals are rounded down to nearest 5 cent denomination. For example - 12 cents would be rounded down to 10 cents. 14 cents would be rounded up to 15 cents.

Tipping is generally not expected within Australia; however it is acceptable to leave a small amount should you feel you have received exceptional service. Current exchange rates with other major cities can be found on <http://www.rba.gov.au>



## BANKING

Banks are open from 9:30am - 4:00pm Monday to Thursday and 9:30am to 5:00pm on Friday's. Some banks also open Saturday mornings.

Automatic teller machines are plentiful and readily available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Automatic teller machines are plentiful and available 24 hrs per day, 7 days per week.

## HEALTH CARE

The Australian Government has signed reciprocal health care agreements with the governments of the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Finland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, NZ and Sweden. Visitors from these countries are eligible for Medicare assistance for medically necessary treatment.

If hospital treatment is required, such visitors are eligible for treatment only as Medicare patients, not as private patients. The agreements between Australia and these countries vary slightly. Other visitors are not eligible for Medicare and should arrange for health insurance to cover their stay in Australia.

If you are being sponsored for employment by Mercy Hospital you will require private hospital cover as required by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. For further information on Australia's health care system visit <http://www.dfat.gov.au/facts/healthcare.html>

## ROAD RULES

Vehicles travel on the left hand side of the road and wearing of seat belts is compulsory for all passengers.

You are permitted to drive on a current out-of-state or overseas licence for a period of one year. You must carry your licence with you at all times when you are driving and produce on demand to a Police Officer if requested.

It is illegal to talk on your mobile phone whilst driving or smoke cigarettes with children in the vehicle.