

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

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In 2024 the population of Australia was just over 26.5 million and Melbourne is home to over 5.3 million and growing. Population-wise it is the fastest growing city.

Australia is one of the world's most multi-cultural and diverse societies populated by immigrants from over 160 countries. Nearly 30% of Australians were born outside of Australia! The result of such rich diversity is reflected in our food, fun, and events with festivals and celebrations from most cultures being commonplace.

Melbourne is a modern city with a European feel that has something for everybody whether that be art, food and wine, sport or fashion. Over the years it has been rated as the world's most liveable city.

It is often referred to as Australia's Garden City. There is an abundance of parks and gardens in Melbourne and greater Melbourne which are often considered the best public parks in Australia. The Royal Botanic Gardens, which are considered one of the finest examples of Victorian-era landscaping in the World also, offers open-air theatre performances, a Children's Garden, Aboriginal Heritage Walk and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Melbourne Observatory. The Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne offers a natural bushland experience of 10 kms of natural walkways. These are both internationally acclaimed gardens.

Melbourne is the sporting centre of Australia with many international sporting events being held annually such as the Australian Open Tennis Championship, Grand Prix Motor Racing, Motor Cycle Racing, the Melbourne Cup for horse racing at Flemington Race Course, the famous Boxing Day Cricket match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, which also hosts the Australian Rules Football Grand Final.

Melbourne is a very welcoming and outgoing city which reflects the generous and inclusive spirit of Melburnians. It is the home of one of the most harmonious and culturally diverse communities with more than 200 nations living harmoniously in Melbourne. It is a city for art lovers with many cultural and food festivals held each year. The National Gallery of Victoria, the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building, the Moomba Festival, Fringe Festival, Comedy Festival, Writers' Festival reflect a very diverse artistic city.

People in Australia are known for their love of the outdoors, laid-back approach to life, and weekend café culture. Melburnians are known to be very inclusive of the cultural groups living in Melbourne. This is especially evident in the cafes, restaurants and also the wineries in the outer Melbourne regions.

Melbourne is often referred to as Australia's cultural capital as it has a dynamic arts and cultural scene. It is home to some of Australia's leading artistic organisations such as Australian Ballet Company, The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Opera Australia, The Melbourne Theatre Company which are all based in The Arts precinct in Southbank. The National Gallery of Victoria, Southbank, known as NGV is Australia's oldest and most visited art museum. The Ian Potter Centre (part of the NGV Australia) is a vast gallery of historic and modern art located in Flinders Street in the City Centre.

### MELBURNIANS LIKES & DISLIKES

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- 👍 Brunches and good coffee
- 👍 Sundays with family and friends at restaurants or entertaining at home
- 👍 Shopping and outdoor activities
- 👎 The traffic
- 👎 Perceived high cost of living
- 👎 Our favourite sporting team losing

### DO'S AND DON'TS

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- ✅ Do wear Sunscreen
- ✅ Do watch out for cyclists on walking tracks
- ✅ Do explore the nature BUT be careful of our wildlife
- ✅ Do explore around Melbourne city.
- ❌ Don't swim in undesignated or restricted areas
- ❌ Don't drink alcohol in public places
- ❌ Don't smoke without checking for designated smoke zones

### SAFETY

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Melbourne is considered a safe city. Like any large city, precautions should be observed and taken for personal safety and the protection of possessions. Be aware that robberies, assault, burglaries and car theft are quite common in Australia's larger cities, as in many other parts of the Western world.

**000** is the emergency services telephone number and is a free call from anywhere in Australia, this emergency number can be used for ambulance, fire or police 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### CLIMATE

Melbourne has four seasons and the locals often described it as having all four seasons in one day! That said, the climate is stable and the sun can still be enjoyed all year round.

#### Summer – 1st December to 28th February

The Summer days can warm up to an average 25.3 degrees Celsius with the nights dipping down to 14.6 degrees Celsius. These months are dry with occasional hot spells over 30 degrees Celsius towards the end of the summer season, usually lasting two-three days.

#### Autumn – 1st March to 31st May

This is the best season to be in Melbourne with clear sunny autumn days averaging 20.3 degrees Celsius which do turn cooler when the sun sets with nights averaging 10.9 degrees Celsius

#### Winter – 1st June to 31st August

Crisp winter mornings average 6.5 degrees Celsius with the winter sun warming it up to an average 14.2 degrees Celsius. Heavy rain is rare at this time of the year

#### Spring – 1st September to 30th November

With the end of winter, spring days warm up more with days averaging 19.6 degrees Celsius but with the nights averaging 9.6 degrees Celsius. The season is known as the most variable of the year. October is the wettest month with roughly 10 days of rainfall

### TIME ZONES

Australia is divided into three separate time zones.

#### Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

Covers the eastern states of Queensland, New South Wales (with the exception of the town of Broken Hill), Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

#### Australian Central Standard Time (ACST)

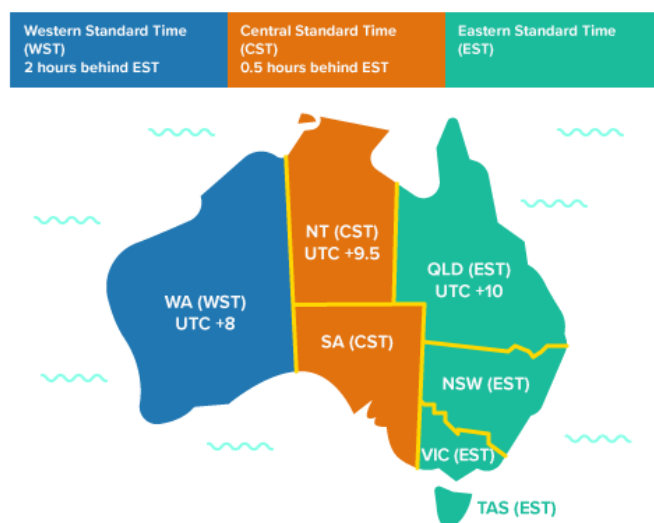
30mins behind AEST

Covers the state of South Australia, the town of Broken Hill in western New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

#### Australian Western Standard Time (AWST)

2hrs behind AEST

Covers Western Australia.



### TIME ZONE FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the practice of advancing clocks one hour during the warmer months of the year. In Australia, Daylight saving is observed in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory.

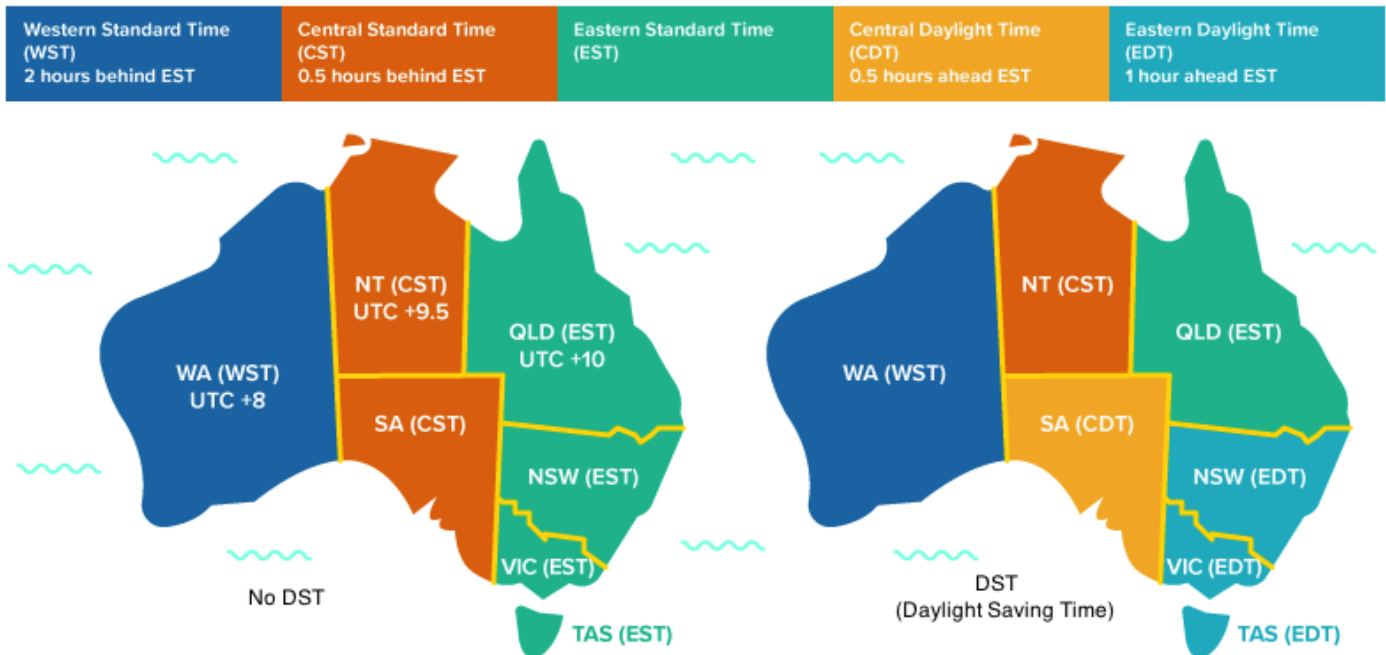
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on the first Sunday in October and ends at 2am (which is 3am Daylight Saving Time) on the first Sunday in April.

Where Daylight saving is observed:

NSW, ACT, Vic and Tas will move from AEST to Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT).

SA and the NSW town of Broken Hill will move from ACST to Australian Central Daylight Time (ACDT).

Daylight saving is not observed in Queensland, the Northern Territory or Western Australia.



## **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE**

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In Australia, 'Indigenous' has become the most used term to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are also referred to as First Nations people or Traditional Owners. Indigenous Australians have a heritage that can be traced back to the first race of people living within the territory of Australia 60,000 years before British colonisation.

### **Welcome to Country**

Welcome to Country is a ceremony performed by traditional owners of the land and/or sea where an event is taking place to welcome visitors. A 'Welcome to Country' can therefore only be performed by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person with ancestral ties to the place where the welcome takes place.

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Unlike a Welcome to Country, an Acknowledgement can be delivered by a First Nations person or a non-Indigenous person. Acknowledgements of Country often take place at the beginning of cultural and sporting events. They can also be printed in publications and websites.