

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The site of Canberra was selected for the location of the nation's capital in 1908 as a compromise between Sydney and Melbourne, Australia's two largest cities. Following an international contest for the city's design, a blueprint by American architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin was selected and construction of the city began in 1913. The Griffins' plan featured geometric motifs such as circles, hexagons and triangles, and was centred on axes aligned with significant topographical landmarks.

The population of ACT is 478,000 and 23.8% of the population were born overseas.



Australian Capital Territory is Australia's smallest self-governed territory comprising 2,359km² of bushland and one major city – Canberra. Over 70% of the ACT is open space, which is why Canberra is referred to as the 'Bush Capital'.

Canberra is:

- 281 kilometers to Sydney
- 660 kilometers to Melbourne
- 210 kilometers to Snowy Mountains
- 150 kilometers to the South Coast

Canberra has some fantastic sporting teams. The Canberra Raiders is the rugby league team and the Brumbies are our Rugby Union team. Both teams play their home games at the GIO Stadium Canberra. Canberra's sister cities are Beijing in China, Nara in Japan and Wellington in New Zealand.

Seasonal events each year:

- [National Multicultural Festival](#)
- [Enlighten Festival to light up Canberra - Our Canberra \(act.gov.au\)](#)
- [Floriade \(floriadeaustralia.com\)](#)
- [Five ways to get into the Canberra truffle season](#)
- [Home - Canberra Comedy Festival](#)
- [Home - Summernats](#)

CANBERRANS LIKES & DISLIKES

- 👍 Brunches.
- 👍 Sundays with family and friends at restaurants or entertaining at home.
- 👍 Shopping and being at the beach on our days off.
- 👎 Perceived high cost of living.
- 👎 Our favourite sporting team losing.

DO'S AND DON'TS

- ✔ Do wear Sunscreen.
- ✔ Do explore the nature BUT be careful of our wildlife.
- ✔ Do explore around Canberra 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

Canberra is considered to be a relatively safe city, however this major city does experience its share of crimes. 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

Canberra weather is usually warm and sunny, with pleasant winters. Most winter mornings have crisp frost on the ground.

Summer – 1st December to 28th February

The Summer days can warm up to an average 27 degrees Celsius with the nights dipping down to 14 degrees Celsius. Heatwaves over 30 degrees Celsius are common towards the end of the summer season, usually lasting two-three days.

Autumn – 1st March to 31st May

Clear sunny autumn days averaging 18-20 degrees Celsius do turn cooler when the sun sets with nights averaging 14 degrees Celsius. Canberra looks its most beautiful in Autumn with the change in colour of leaves

Winter – 1st June to 31st August

Crisp winter mornings which can drop to -5 degrees Celsius with the winter sun warming it up to an average 12-14 degrees Celsius

Spring – 1st September to 30th November

With the end of winter, spring days warm up more with days averaging 23 degrees Celsius but the nights still averaging 13 degrees Celsius. Canberra again looks beautiful in the spring. Particularly around the lakes as the blossom is in full bloom.

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)

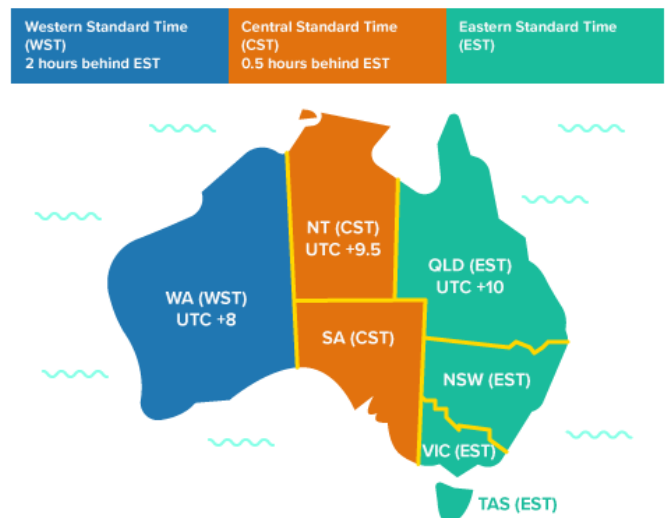
30mins behind AEST

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.

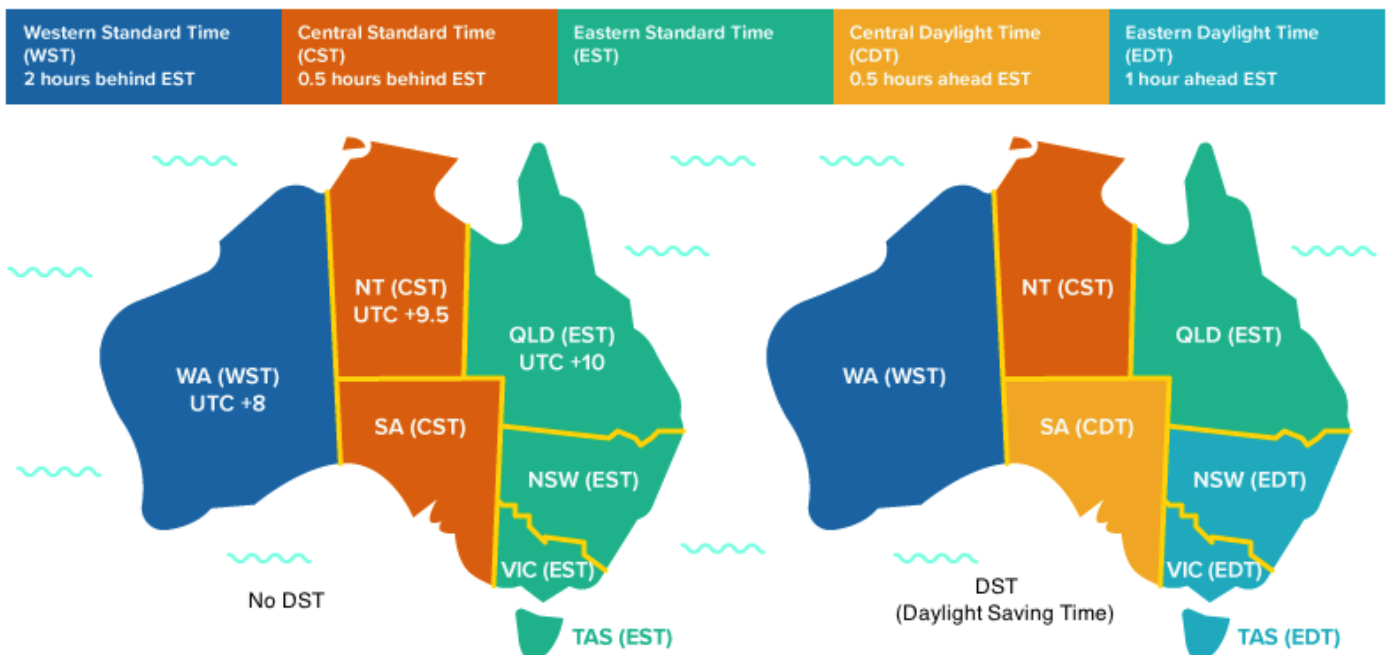
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on the first Sunday in October and ends at 2am (which is 3am Daylight Saving Time) on the first Sunday in April.

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

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.