

GENERAL OVERVIEW

In 2024 the population of Australia was just over 26.5 million and Sydney is home to over five million and growing. It is both the oldest and currently the largest city in Australia.

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.

Sydney's is well known for its picturesque harbour area that is home to the iconic Sydney Opera House and the famous Harbour Bridge. Alongside both sits the bustling cosmopolitan CBD bursting with art, music and food.



It also has the unique aspect of nature meshed into everyday life, from glistening beaches with easy access all along the coast to national parks and bush trails to explore on the weekends, there is something for everybody in Sydney!

Sydney is an exciting city. It has an energy and atmosphere of its own and is a place where a “give a go” attitude will never be wasted, perhaps in keeping with the general Australian desire to give everyone a ‘fair go’. Sydney siders are known to be very friendly and open-minded, with a cool, relaxed charm.

People in Australia are known for their love of the outdoors, laid-back approach to life, and weekend café culture. Sydney has some of the best beaches in the world, from Manly to Palm Beach on the north side of the city to the beautiful beaches in the eastern suburbs, with Bondi being the most famous.

Sydney also has a dynamic arts and cultural scene; it is home to some of Australia's leading artistic organisations such as Opera Australia, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Dance Company and the Sydney Theatre Company.

VIVID Sydney is an annual celebration of creativity, innovation and technology, which transforms Sydney for 23 days with light shows illuminating buildings with inspiring art installations and 3D light projections. There is live music and performances with both emerging and established artists sharing their stories through song and dance. The Sydney Botanic Gardens features beautifully lit plants and trees, there are exhibitions at Darling Harbour, Barangaroo, the Sydney Opera House, Sydney CBD and surrounds. Dinner Harbour Cruises are also very popular to see many of these displays. The theme in 2024 is ‘Humanity’.

SYDNEYSIDERS LIKES & DISLIKES

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

DO'S AND DON'TS

- ✔ Do wear Sunscreen.
- ✔ Do swim between the flags at the beach.
- ✔ Do explore the nature BUT be careful of our wildlife.
- ✔ Do explore around Sydney 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

Sydney is considered to be relatively safe, 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

Sydney weather is usually warm and sunny, with pleasant winters.

Summer – 1st December to 28th February

The Summer days can warm up to an average 27 degrees Celsius with the nights dipping down to 18 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 23 degrees Celsius do turn cooler when the sun sets with nights averaging 14 degrees Celsius

Winter – 1st June to 31st August

Crisp winter mornings average 8 degrees Celsius with the winter sun warming it up to an average 18 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

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)

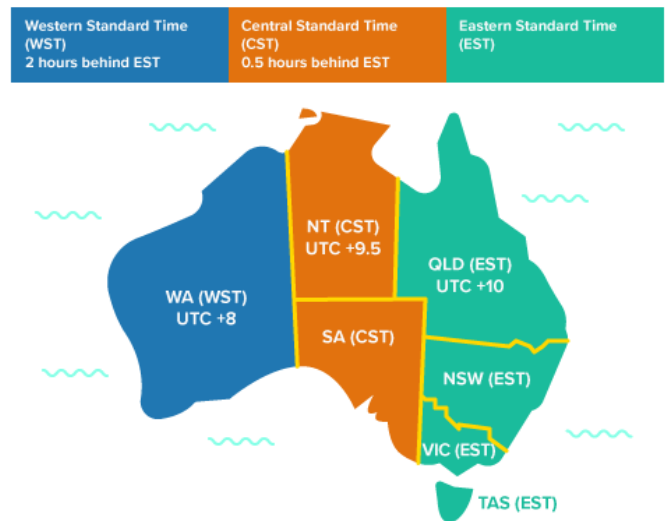
30mins behind AEST

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.

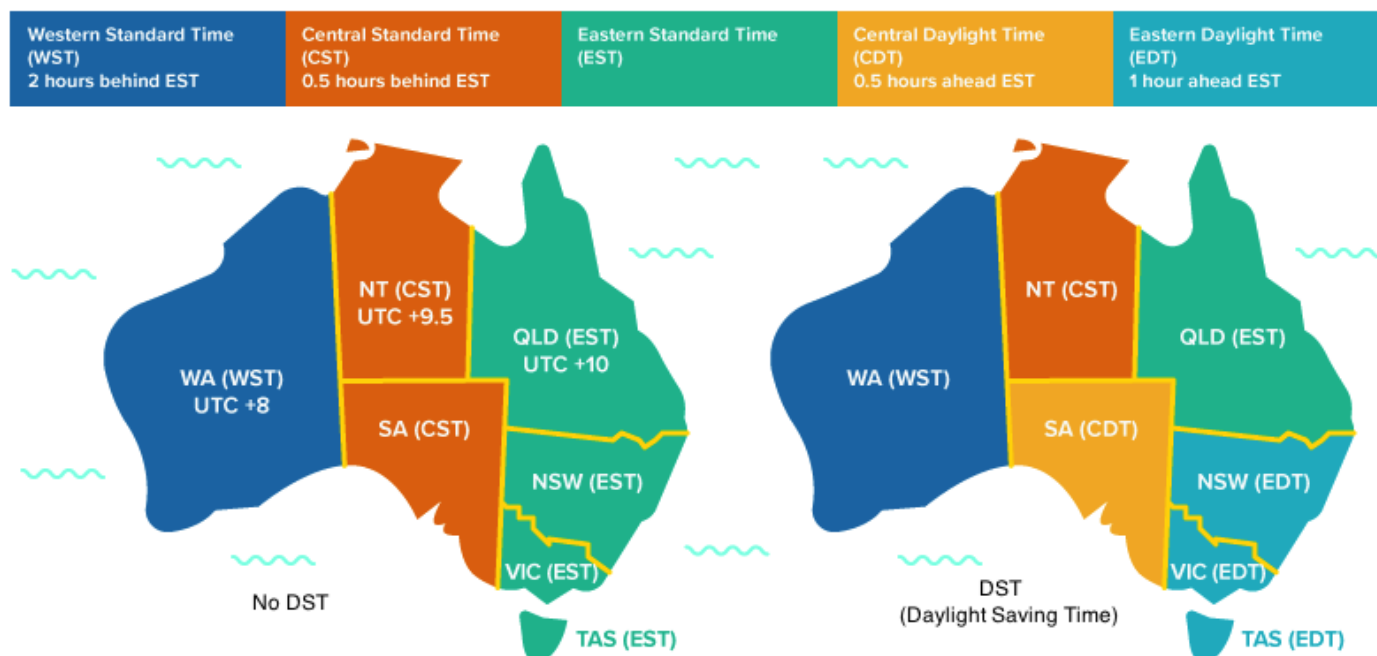
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on the first Sunday in October and ends at 2am (which is 3am Daylight Saving Time) on the first Sunday in April.

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.