

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Australian quarantine restrictions

Australia has very strict quarantine and bio-security measures. The Australian Government's Department of Agriculture is responsible for protecting Australia's human, animal and plant health from overseas pests and diseases. You will see quarantine officers at all Australian international airports. Expect all luggage to be inspected upon arrival. This guarantees that no banned items are brought inside Australian borders.

As you enter the country, you will be required to complete and submit an "Incoming Passenger Card." This form is a written declaration that you do not have any banned or restricted items in your luggage or on your person. This is a legal document and passengers must tick "yes" to declare any food, plant material or animal products in their possession. Failure to declare can result in an on-the-spot fine or prosecution. Before traveling, please ensure you are familiar with all prohibited items.

To learn more about what can and cannot be brought into the country, please refer to the Australian Border Protection [website](#).

Banks and transactions

Banks in Australia are open from 9:30 to 14:00, Monday through Thursday and from 9:30 to 17:00 on Friday. While a select number of banks are also open on Saturday, all banks are closed on Sundays. Australian banks offer a range of services that are typical of other Western nations including currency exchange.

Cash withdrawal machines or automatic teller machines (ATMs) with an international network, such as Cirrus (MasterCard) or PLUS (Visa), are widespread and the easiest way to withdraw cash. To access your account using an Australian ATM, a four-digit pin code is required. Be sure to verify with your bank that your card will function in Australia and consider changing your code before leaving home for security purposes.

All major credit cards are accepted throughout Australia. For Chinese visitors, over 90,000 merchants' throughout the country accept UnionPay cards. This includes all Sydney taxis' that have a Cabcharge card terminal on-board.

Electronic fund transfer machines (EFTPOS) are also commonly used at most retail outlets, as well as by taxis, restaurants and hotels for point of sale transactions. They can be used to access many types of bank accounts and credit cards.

Bringing money into Australia

There is currently no restriction on the amount of money you can bring in or take out of Australia. However, if you plan to arrive in Australia with more than AUD\$10,000 in cash -- or the equivalent of that amount in a foreign currency -- you must declare it to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service upon arrival and departure.

If carrying promissory notes, traveler's cheques, personal cheques, money orders or postal orders, you may also be required to fill in a "Bearer Negotiable Instruments" (BNI) form. Penalties apply for the failure to declare.

For further information, please refer to the Australian Customs and Border Protection [website](#).

Communications and mobile or cell phones

The country code for Australia is 61. When calling from outside the country, leave out the leading "0" from the area code or from the mobile telephone number.

Local calls from public pay phones are charged at AUD0.60¢. However, international, long distance and overseas calls tend to be timed and charged accordingly.

While mobile phone network coverage is available across Australia, especially in Sydney, it may be limited when traveling to some remote areas.

As the country operates on a digital network, please check that you have a compatible mobile or cell phone, as analogue mobile or cell phones will not work. If needed, there are a number of mobile phone retailers, such as Optus, and Vodafone, at the international arrival terminal of the Sydney Airport. They will be able to assist you with setting up your phone, or local SIM card for use in Australia. Using a local SIM card is a good idea if you wish to avoid global roaming charges. However, an unlocked handset will be needed if you wish to use prepaid SIM cards from Australian providers, such as Telstra, Optus, Virgin or Vodafone.

Climate and clothing

Sydney enjoys a pleasant temperate climate year round with more than 340 sunny days a year. September is the beginning of spring in the region, meaning temperatures will be starting to increase. Expect the average temperature to be between 12°C and 20°C.

Generally, Australians tend to dress informally. However, it is suggested to bring a jacket and tie for special occasions. A light jacket is also recommended for evenings.

Currency

Australia's national currency is the Australian dollar (AUD). Bank notes come in denominations of AUD\$5, AUD\$10, AUD\$20, AUD\$50 and AUD\$100. Coins come in denominations of AUD0.05¢, AUD0.10¢, AUD0.20¢ and AUD0.50¢, as well as AUD\$1 and AUD\$2. Current exchange rates can be viewed using [XE Currency Converter](#).

Currency exchange facilities are located at the international airport, throughout Sydney's city centre and are a service offered by a majority of banks and Australian Post offices.

Duty-free

Once you have purchased your international airline ticket to travel to Australia, you can begin your duty-free shopping experience. The Sydney International Airport offers travelers the opportunity to buy duty-free products on their entry into the country with retail zones accessible after the baggage collection. Note that Australia does limit the amount of duty-free items you can bring into the country.

If you exceed any of the specified limits when entering the country, all items will have to be declared to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. Be aware that duty and tax will be applied on **ALL** items and includes general goods, alcohol or tobacco and not solely the goods over the limit. Ensure that you are aware of the restrictions before traveling to avoid any issues.

For information relating to duty-free regulations, please refer to the Australian Customs [website](#).

Electricity

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Australia supply electricity between 220 and 240 volts and 50 Hz. Power plugs and sockets have three flat-prongs and are standard in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

If you are traveling from a country where appliances require an alternate voltage, a voltage converter and a converter plug may be needed. These can be readily found at the airport, department stores and electronic shops. American and Japanese travelers are most likely to be affected.

Most hotels provide 110-volt outlets for shavers.

Goods and services tax (GST)/(TRS)

A Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10% is included in all consumer goods and services in Australia. This includes advertised retail prices.

You may be able to claim a refund of the GST paid on goods bought in Australia if you have spent AUD\$300 (including GST) or more in one store. This can be done no more than 60 days before departure. Be sure to retain all invoices and receipts for proof of purchases.

Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) facilities are located in the departure area of international terminals of the airport. You need to carry or wear the goods you intend to claim. Claims at the TRS facilities can be made 30 minutes before the scheduled departure of your flight.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Australian Government's Tourist Refund Scheme [website](#).

Insurance

Registration fees to the World Chambers Congress exclude insurance of any kind. The Congress organizers cannot take any responsibility for any participant failing to arrange their own insurance. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that once you have registered and booked your travel arrangements that you take out an insurance policy. This policy should include the loss of fees and/or your deposit through cancellation of your participation in/of the Congress; the loss of international/domestic air fares through cancellation for any reason; the

loss of tour monies through cancellation for any reason including airline or related services strikes; failure to utilize tours or pre-booked arrangements due to airline delay; Force Majeure or any other reason; medical expenses (including sickness and accident cover); the loss to or damage of personal property; and any other additional expenses and repatriation should travel arrangements need to be altered.

Please note that insurance policies are to be purchased in your country of origin.

Local time

Sydney's local time is Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST), which equates to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus ten hours. Please note that Australia has three different time zones. This will be important to know should you be traveling around the country before or after the event.

Restaurants in Sydney

Sydney is one of the most eclectic food capitals in the world. Visitors can look forward to its diverse array of fresh and creative cuisine options.

Similar to hotel options in the city, Sydney's restaurants cover a wide spectrum when it comes to catering for varying tastes and budgets. Whether you opt for a nice dinner at the iconic Circular Quay to soak in the sights of the Sydney Opera House; or want to dine on some delicious dumplings in bustling Chinatown; or maybe you want to enjoy a local pub meal; or simply snack on something quickly somewhere close to the event venue....Whatever you are in the mood for, there will be a number of options no matter where you are in the city.

For a guide of some of the city's local favorites, please visit the Sydney tourism [website](#).

Shopping in Sydney

The Sydney shopping scene simply cannot be missed. From designer labels to unknown brands, from eclectic boutiques to outlet and department stores, there is something for everyone when shopping in Australia's largest city. Popular shopping districts are open seven days a week and many even offer late-night shopping until 9:00 pm on Thursdays.

To plan your shopping adventure in advance, please visit Sydney tourism [website](#).

Tipping

Tipping is not customary, nor expected in Australia. However, if service exceeds expectations then tipping is welcomed. It is customary to tip 5-10% AUD in bars, cafes and restaurants for exceptional service.

Transport options

Sydney is a well-connected city with a range of private and public transport options. From airport transfers to ferries, below you will find all the information necessary to easily get around in the harbour city. It offers many modes of transport to get you to where you need to go throughout your stay. Please see the various options to choose from below.

Train services from the Sydney airport

An airport rail line operates from all City Circle stations to the domestic terminals (T2 and T3) and international terminal (T1) of the airport.

There are 350 daily weekday services and in peak hours the train departs and arrives every eight minutes. Additionally, 160 services run every Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays.

For more information, please refer to the Airport Link [website](#).

Taxis

Taxis are a convenient way to get around if you do not have too far to travel. How do you get a taxi in Sydney? Just like in the movies, they can usually be flagged down along all major streets or at taxi stands around the city centre or suburban areas. Taxis with their roof lights on indicate that they are available for hire.

For more information regarding taxis, please visit the NSW Taxi Council [website](#).

Sydney trains

Sydney Trains offer one of the most cost-effective and reliable modes of transport around the city. It is often said that if you are close to a train station, you are already on your way to the city. The Sydney Trains network connects metropolitan and suburban Sydney, while the NSW Intercity Trains connect the Hunter, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and South Coast – all popular regions for pre- and post-event holidays. The network is made up of a number of colour coded lines and ticket prices are generally based on distance travelled.

For more for information about routes, ticketing and timetables, please visit the Sydney Trains [website](#).

Light rail trams

Light rail trams link Central Station and Sydney's inner western suburbs, while also offering easy access for visitors looking to explore Chinatown, Darling Harbour, The Star and the Sydney Fish Markets. Services are frequent with the route between Central Station and The Star running 24 hours.

For more information about the trams, please visit the Sydney Light Rail [website](#).

Sydney buses

Sydney buses operate over 99,000 services per week on more than 300 regular routes, offering another quick and inexpensive way of travelling across the Sydney metropolitan area and into Parramatta and the West.

For more for information about routes, ticketing and timetables, please visit the Sydney Buses [website](#).

Ferries

Ferry services across Sydney's world-renowned harbour leave from the terminal at Circular Quay and travel to an array of destinations including Taronga Zoo and Darling Harbour and suburbs, such as Balmain, Kirribilli, Neutral Bay, Mosman and Rose Bay. Services also travel

to the northern reaches of the harbour to Manly and west along the Parramatta River. Information kiosks are located at Circular Quay and Manly.

For more information about ferries and ticketing, please visit the See beyond the Wharf [website](#).

Water Taxis

In Sydney, you can also get around on a water taxi and travel across Sydney Harbour directly to a specified location. These small boats operate to and from any wharves or waterfront locations that have step access.

Vaccinations

There is no vaccination required for entering Australia. However, if you have come from, or have visited, a yellow fever infected country within six days of your arrival than you will be asked to provide an international vaccination certificate.

For more details, please read the [Australian Government yellow fever factsheet](#).

Wi-Fi access

Widespread access to the internet is available via Wi-Fi or plug-in at various locations throughout the city. Connected locations include internet cafes, most hotels, backpacker accommodations and hostels, major airports, some railway stations, public libraries, fast-food chains and on board Sydney ferries.