



*a guide for expats, lovers
and the otherwise curious*

Moving to AUSTRALIA

Table of Contents for eBook

Introduction	12
Chapter One: Visas - How to survive your dealings with DIAC (grab a copy of <i>The Three Pillars of Zen</i>)	18
Visitor Visas	21
Electronic Travel Authority (ETA Visitor Subclass 976) or eVisitor (Subclass 651)	21
Tourist Visa (Subclass 676)	24
Working Holiday Visa (Subclass 417)	24
Work and Holiday Visa (Subclass 462)	25
Employer Sponsored Work Visas	26
Business (Long Stay) Visa (Subclass 457)	26
Employer Nomination Scheme (Subclass 121/856)	28
Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (Subclass 119/857)	28
Skilled Migration Visas	29
Skilled – Independent (Migrant) Visa (Subclass 175)	29
Skilled – Sponsored (Migrant) Visa (Subclass 176)	40
Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Provisional) Visa (Subclass 475)	41
Family Migration Options (including my experience with the Spouse Visa)	43
Prospective Marriage Visa (PMV) (Subclass 300)	47
Onshore Partner temporary visa (subclass 820) and permanent visa (subclass 801) AND Offshore Partner Temporary Visa (Subclass 309) and Permanent Visa (Subclass 100)	49
Parent and Child visas	54

Student visas	54
Available visas not discussed in this chapter	56
Applying for a Visa	59
Penal, Character and Health Clearances	63
Whether to use a migration agent	65
Once you have the visa	68
Australian resources	69
US resources	70
UK and Commonwealth Country resources	70
Expat and migrant communities and other international resources	71
Chapter Two: What happens when you assume? That's right...common misperceptions of Australia and living overseas	73
Chapter three: And where will you live? Six states and two territories to choose from	79
New South Wales (NSW)	80
Sydney	81
Country New South Wales	83
Victoria (VIC)	84
Melbourne	84
Country Victoria	86
Queensland (QLD)	88
Brisbane	88
Beyond Brisbane	89
Western Australia (WA)	90
Perth	92

Regional Western Australia	92
South Australia (SA)	93
Adelaide	93
Country South Australia	94
Tasmania (TAS)	95
Hobart	95
Country Tasmania	96
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	96
Northern Territory (NT)	97
Darwin	97
Regional Northern Territory	98
Additional relocation resources	98
Chapter Four: Exit strategy - How to close up shop at home, relocate to Australia and answer questions like “You’re doing what?!”	99
Preparing to leave your current country of residence	100
Your employment and financial situation	100
Current housing	103
People moving with you	106
Pets	108
Checklist of things to do before you leave	110
Packing, selling, moving, storing and shipping	114
Those you leave behind	123
Arriving in Australia and the first 60 days	127
Entering Australia	127
Finding a place to live	128

Moving in and Settling in	133
Checklist for after you arrive: Days 1 to 15	136
Checklist for after your arrivev: Days 15 to 30	142
Checklist for after you arrive: Days 30 to 60	143
Chapter Five: Money in, money out: Working, spending and where to put the rest	146
Working in Australia	147
Your resume and the job search	148
Finding a job	149
Job search resources	152
Taxes	153
Tax resources	156
Banking, loans and Investments	157
Banks in Australia	157
Superannuation (if you're working, you'll have a fund)	159
Australian currency and spending it	161
Cash	161
Credit and Debit (EFTPOS) cards	162
Cheques and Money Orders	163
Australia Post	164
Shopping	164
Gambling	167
Saving money	168
Complaints	170
Chapter Six: Health - Insurance, Doctors and Medicare	171

Medicare	171
It begins with your either your General Practitioner (GP) or the Emergency Room (ER)	175
Resources for medical care	179
Private health insurance	180
Resources for private health insurance	181
Chapter Seven: Food, products and services - What to expect	182
Alcohol	182
Beer	182
Cocktails and spirits	184
Wine	185
Bottle Shops	187
Legalities	188
Bakeries	189
Books	191
Cars	191
Buying a car	191
Car buying and selling resources	193
Some notes on driving in Australia	193
Car maintenance resources	194
Clothing	195
Fashion resources	197
Coffee	197
Dairy	199
Resources	201
Electrical items	201

Resources	203
Fast Food	204
Grocery	205
Supermarkets	205
Specialty food stores	208
Markets	201
Halal	210
Resources	210
Health	211
Ice Cream and Gelato	211
Jewellery	212
Kosher	213
Resources	213
Legal	214
Barristers and solicitors	214
Wills	214
Resources	215
Manchester	216
Bed and sheet sizes in Australia	216
Meat	216
Fish and Seafood	218
Nursery	219
Office	219
Pies, Pizza and Pub Grub	220
Pies	220
Pizza	221
Pub Grub	221

Restaurants	222
Restaurant guides and resources	224
Service	225
Snacks	226
Biscuits	226
Chocolate and confectionary	227
Potato and corn chips and popcorn	228
Other snacks	228
Stamps and shipping	229
Other parcel handling services in Australia	229
Transport	230
Taxis	230
Trains	231
Buses	231
Airport trains and shuttles	232
Used goods	232
Websites for buying second-hand	233
OpShops and Consignment stores	233
Vegetables and Fruits	233
Listed by Australian name (other names)	233
Water	235
Resources	236
Prices for 100 commonly used items in Australian Dollars	237
Items that are hard to find Down Under (with some potential substitutions)	241

Chapter Eight: Getting along - culture differences and how to meet people	244
Be nice about it	247
Transitioning from American English to British English	248
Collective nouns	248
Dates and expressions of time	248
Past-tense	249
Spelling	249
Terminology	250
An introductory guide to Aussie slang	252
Aussie social customs	254
Formalities (or lack of)	256
Personality differences	257
For the love of sport	259
Social Resources	262
Chapter Nine: Studying, buying property and other FAQs	263
What if I want to study?	263
Choosing a program	264
Resources	264
Costs and applying to school	265
Resources	266
Grades in Australia	267
How do I buy property in Australia?	268
Determine how much you can afford to spend on your home	269
Finding a property	273
Settlement	276

Resources	277
How safe is Australia?	278
Resources	280
When can I become a citizen?	280
What about all the dangerous creatures in Australia?	281
Resources for general safety in Australia	285
Chapter Ten: Travel - Here, there and everywhere	286
Travel within Australia	287
Cars: Hire or drive your own	287
Flights	289
Train travel	291
Buses	292
Additional domestic travel resources	293
International Travel from Australia	294
Resources	295
Going "home"	295
Appendix	298
Australian National Holidays	298
Fixed	298
Variable	298
Australia's National Anthem	299
Advance Australia Fair	299
Resources for parents	299
Online communities	300
School holidays	301

Other helpful resources	301
Further reading	301

Introduction

The bus wound its way down the narrow road of a hill somewhere in Crete as I sat chatting to a friend about politics. Not an ideal topic of conversation for a holiday in the southernmost part of Europe, I admit. But we were exhausted after a delayed flight from New York and there was a war going on, after all. It was barely autumn in 2004 and I'd joined some friends on what was supposed to be a three-country jaunt planned around Oktoberfest in Munich. And it was for them. Fate, however, had other plans for me.

We arrived in one of the tiniest coastal towns I've ever spent time in. It was smack dab in the middle of southern Crete, the giant island in the Mediterranean about halfway between continental Europe and Egypt. Not long after, as we sipped local moonshine in a beautiful olive grove, the hostel owner gave us an introduction to the place. He mentioned something about couples...married couples. Yes, apparently the hostel boasted several couples that met in the idyllic surroundings and later married and had children.

Well, we don't have any children yet but I did meet my husband in this place, about fifteen minutes later when he introduced himself as our fifth roommate in the dorm room we were shown to. I'd never believed in love at first sight but there it was, though I didn't know it in that instant, of course. Over the next few days I got to know this wonderful man and ended up letting my friends go on to Germany while we made our way to Santorini, and then promised to visit each other in the next couple of months. There was, you see, one hitch in this otherwise perfect union.

He was Australian.

Six years later, we are happily settled in Australia and I am an Australian citizen. The journey to this point has been one of discovery, frustration, fun, excitement and a lot of learning. I didn't read any books or ask for any advice prior to making the decision to come to Australia. In the beginning, I arrived here to be with my boyfriend and see a new place. I decided to migrate after we evaluated all of our options and determined that to be the best course for us. These choices were made with our hearts first. It then became a necessity to fill requirements to make them happen. It would have been handy to have an instruction manual for reference because we had so many questions and so many fears. We also spent countless hours waiting and wondering, living in limbo and trying to stay sane while carrying on with life through it all.

If you're reading this, you've either been offered an employment opportunity in Australia or fallen in love with an Aussie. Or perhaps you're thinking of coming to Oz for a working holiday or to start a new life away from your home country. Maybe you're just curious about this vast, interesting place. Whatever your reasons, I want to reassure you that a move can be made. In this book I will share my experiences with you and also those of other expatriates (expats) I have met during my time here. I will walk you step by step through the relocation process and provide listings of resources that will help you along the way. I've made the journey you're thinking about embarking on. I've asked the questions, made the mistakes, done the research and survived all of it. You can too. I wish a book like this had been available when I first came to Australia in 2005. It would have made things so much easier. I'm very glad I can share what I've discovered with you and give you a head start into the process.

In chapter one, I will discuss the most important item that you will deal with in your move to Australia: your visa. Without it, there is no point to any of the rest. I learned early on that you couldn't just

come in and out of Australia on a tourist visa and expect to stay for any significant length of time. You will eventually need to review your options and apply for a visa to remain in the country. This chapter will outline the visas that you can apply for and I will also share my experience applying for the partner/spouse visa. You'll also learn some helpful hints for putting together your application and what to expect throughout the experience.

In chapter two, some of the myths and misconceptions about Australian life and being an expat will be debunked. My only experience with this country before I moved here was knowledge imparted by a couple of Aussie friends I met while working in the United States. Luckily I had actually heard of Perth before I met my partner (it is his hometown). Otherwise I might not have had the courage to take a chance and go there. While many people around the world have visited Australia, I've found that Americans generally know very little about the country. Assumptions are often made that just because everyone speaks English, there won't be any sort of culture shock. This is simply not the case. If you come from the United Kingdom or another country in the Commonwealth (of which Australia is a member), you may find the differences to be less stark. Coming from the US, however, I find Australia to be very different in some incredibly important ways, despite the many similarities. Wherever you come from, the points made in this chapter will preview what you can expect from life in Australia and help you to evaluate whether your transition is likely to be successful.

In the third, fourth and fifth chapters, I will examine the practical matters of migration. Be prepared to essentially shut down your life in your home country before heading Down Under. You'll find tips and explanations for a variety of circumstances along with helpful resources in both Australia and your home country. I will also tell you a little bit about places to live in Australia. I have travelled at

least once to all of the states and have lived in both Melbourne and Perth. I will also direct you to some location-specific websites that will help you get settled wherever you decide to land. In chapter five, I will discuss money matters, including working in Australia, what to expect cost-wise and a thorough introduction to banks, retirement accounts and other financial information you'll need to know before arriving in Australia.

Chapters six through ten are dedicated to life and living in Australia. I'll introduce you to the healthcare system, which is very good but quite different from the US (at least for now). We'll look at consumables, including food, products and services that are part of an individual's daily living. Again, Australia has its own brands and these will probably be somewhat different from what you are used to in your home country. Most of the time, you can find what you're looking for; it may just be called something else or look a little different. I've included a list of items and brands that are difficult to find in Australia and what you can use as a substitute if one is available. I'll also tell you a little about the people of Australia and give you some tips on how to get along and what to expect. Finally, I've included a chapter of answers to frequently asked questions about topics from studying in Australia to buying property here.

In the final chapter, I'll explore travel in Australia, from driving to domestic and overseas travel. Australia sits in close proximity to some of the most amazing places in the world that you've probably heard of, but were too far away from to visit. This is just one of the many delightful things you will discover as a resident of Australia.

Probably the only thing that you won't find in this book is extensive information about the Australian school system (kindergarten, primary school and high school). As I do not have children and only have experience with the university system, I do not feel qualified to discuss very much about moving to Australia with children. I will,

however, point you in the direction of many very useful resources that I learned about in my time working for two Australian parenting websites. These resources will lead you in any direction on parenting in Australia that you need to go. Like parents anywhere else, most Australians want to ensure that their children receive the best education available and there is a wide variety of free information should you require it.

To read the rest of the helpful information in this eBook and learn everything you need to know about moving to and living in Australia, you can purchase the entire 300+ page guide by visiting:

<http://inspiringtravellers.com/travel-shop/moving-to-australia-ebook>