

Urban Development



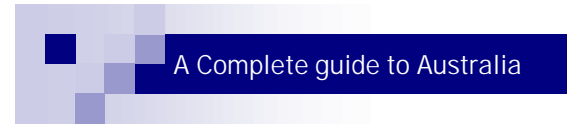
Australia is a rapidly growing country with two cities that are developing quite significantly. These cities

are: Melbourne—Inner, and Melbourne - S'bankâ€D'lands. Both of these cities have experienced over 200% of population growth during the period of 1994 to 1999. Market analysts have suggested that the country will continue to grow at a fast rate, thus, indirectly boosting up urban development in the various parts of Australia.

Cost of Living



According to the result of a study done in January 2002, whereby a basket of goods and services that costs \$100 in the US is compared to the cost incurred in countries worldwide, Australia yielded a price tag of \$114 while Canada yielded a price tag of \$105. Australia is ranked 19th out of the 45 countries where the test is conducted in. This means that the relative cost of living in Australia is moderate to most people. Brisbane is the most affordable to live in in Australia. Its accommodation costs are lower than the other cities and its diversity in cultures will provide an enjoyable life for even people with a student budget.



A Guide to Australia



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Economy

Australia is world renowned for the amount of raw materials it exports every year. The official currency used in Australia is the Australian dollars, denoted by the currency symbol A\$. As of May 27, 2002, A\$1.00 Australian dollar can be exchanged for \$0.86 Canadian dollar. Japan and South-East Asia are Australia's main trading partners. Australia also conducts a large number of trades with countries such as Europe and USA. Agriculture such as farm products, mining, fossil fuels, metals and tourism also plays a very big role in Australia's total exports very year. Australia runs on a Western-style capitalist economy. Commodities account for 57% of Australia's total exports, thus, the recent downturn of the world commodity has a profound effect on Australia's economy. Australia's government has tried to boost its exports of manufactured goods, but Australia doesn't seem to do well in the international market since the market itself is very competitive. Australia has an inflation rate of 1.8%, a labor force of 8.9 million people and an unemployment rate of 7.5%.

Travel

Australia is a land of excitement! From a big and ancient forest in the South, to a huge and dry desert in the North, Australia offers you the best place for vacation and adventure!



Bondi Beach

One of the most famous beaches in the world is Australia's beautiful Bondi Beach. Occupying roughly 1km of shoreline, the Bondi Beach offers everyone the opportunity to swim and amuse themselves in this clear and beautiful beach.



The Big Pineapple

Established back in 1971, The Big Pineapple has been Australia's number one attraction. The Big Pineapple miraculously brings visitors into an ever beautiful sight of the tropical fruit plantations where family can sample Queensland style foods and come face to face with Australia's wildlife.



Leisure

Sport is Australian's religion. Most Australians prefer to participate in sport events more than any other activities in their leisure time. Australians are excellent at playing in sports such as cricket, rugby, swimming and cycling. The popular sports in Australia include basketball, yachting, golf, soccer and Aussie Rules.



Industry

Australia is well known for its exports in raw materials and agriculture products. Agriculture exports such as dairy, horticulture, red meat, sugar, wheat and wool accounted for approximately \$15 billion of the total exports that Australia has. The raw material industry, for example, fossil fuel, metals and materials mining, accounted for approximately \$16 billion of the total exports.

