



## United States Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to The United States of America Tourist Entry Requirements

Most Australian ordinary passport holders can enter the US for tourist purposes or business meetings without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Travellers entering the US on a plane or cruise ship MUST register with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization website (ESTA) (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>) before they depart for the US, preferably more than 72 hours prior. Registering with this service costs \$14 and is payable by credit/debit card. The total stay in the US, Canada, Mexico and adjacent islands must be less than 90 days. Travellers require a machine readable e-passport that is valid for the period of intended stay, but it is recommended that they be valid for six months beyond this. Minors must have their own passport and may be subject to further requirements. Travellers should also be able to supply details of their first nights accommodation, produce tickets for their next destination and show documents confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves. Travellers who do not have complete and correct documentation may be refused entry into the US.

All travellers are recommended to read the VWP requirements at <https://au.usembassy.gov/visas/visa-waiver-program> to ensure that their specific circumstances and passport meet the eligibility requirements to enter the US under the VWP. Several factors may impact a travellers VWP eligibility, such as prior arrests or convictions; previous travel to or dual nationality with Chad, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen or Venezuela; serious communicable diseases or some mental illnesses. For further information travellers are encouraged to contact a US mission on the details below.

### Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Frequent travellers or those intending an extended stay in the US may consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Previous transmission of the zika virus has been reported in southern Florida (including Miami) and in Cameron County, south Texas. Insect avoidance measures are advised. For further information on this issue and on the risks that the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see [www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html).

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to the US should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in the United States (US). Use common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia. Enhanced security screening measures are in place for all commercial flights to the US. See [Entry and exit](#). The United States has more violent crime than Australia, although it rarely involves tourists. Shootings, including mass shootings, can occur in public places. See [Safety and security](#).*

*Medical treatment in the US is expensive. Get comprehensive travel insurance to cover medical costs before you depart. See [Health](#). Australians visiting the US for less than 90 days may be eligible to apply for an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). See [Entry and exit](#). Natural disasters can occur. Hurricane season is June to November. See [Natural disasters](#).*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in United States at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### United States Representatives

US Consular Service Centres in Australia

Visa Information Service: 1300 139 399  
Web: <https://au.usembassy.gov>

Other US contacts for information on entry requirements:

US Customs and Border Protection  
Web: [www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)

US Department of State  
Web: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)



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### United States Time Differences with Australia

The continental United States has five time zones. These are Alaska (Anchorage; GMT -9), Pacific (Los Angeles, Seattle; GMT -8), Mountain (Denver, Salt Lake City; GMT -7), Central (Houston, Chicago; GMT -6) and Eastern (Washington DC, New York, Miami; GMT -5). Daylight saving time is observed in most states (adding one hour to the GMT offsets above), beginning on the second Sunday in March and ending on the first Sunday in November. For the purposes of this guide only Pacific and Eastern time are compared. The times in Australia below are the following day (thus if it's Sunday afternoon in the US, it's Monday in Australia).

Los Angeles, 12 noon, December = Perth 4 am; Darwin 5:30 am; Brisbane 6 am; Adelaide 6:30 am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7 am.  
 Los Angeles, 12 noon, June = Perth 3 am; Adelaide, Darwin 4:30 am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5 am.  
 New York, 12 noon, December = Perth 1 am; Darwin 2:30 am; Brisbane 3 am; Adelaide 3:30 am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4 am.  
 New York, 12 noon, June = Perth midnight; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30 am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2 am.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for the USA: +1  
 To dial Australia Call: 011 61 <City> <Number>  
 Australian Reverse Charges Direct:  
 AT&T - 1800 682 2878  
 Sprint - 1800 676 0061  
 MCI - 1800 937 6822  
 Travelex Card Services: 1888 713 3424  
 Visa Global Assistance: 1866 765 9644  
 MasterCard: 1800 627 8372  
 American Express Travellers Cheques:  
 1800 221 7282  
 American Express Card Services:  
 Call Australia on (+61 2) 9271 8864  
 Diners Club:  
 Call Australia on (+61 3) 8643 2210  
 Emergency Services: 911

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian representation in the United States of America

Australian Embassy, USA  
 1601 Massachusetts Ave  
 WASHINGTON DC NW 20036  
 Tel: (+1 202) 797 3000  
 Fax: (+1 202) 797 3331  
 Web: <http://usa.embassy.gov.au>

Australian Consulate General, New York  
 Tel: (+1 212) 351 6500  
 Web: <http://newyork.consulate.gov.au>  
 Australian Consulate General, Los Angeles  
 Tel: (+1 310) 229 2300  
 Web: <http://losangeles.consulate.gov.au>

Please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) for the contact details of the other Australian consulates in the US. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians in the US are encouraged to register their presence and contact details online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## United States Country Guide

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### Duty free allowances for the United States and Australia

Allowances when entering the United States:

Alcohol: 1 litre of alcoholic beverages.  
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigars.  
 Gifts: Up to US\$100 in addition to the above.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

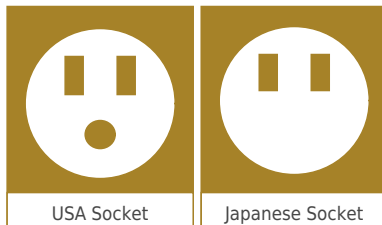
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. The above US allowance may be reduced depending on a traveller's itinerary and any recent claims of the duty free allowance. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the US & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on American customs go to [www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel), or for information on Australian customs visit [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA (type B) and Japanese (type A).

Supply: 110-120 V, 60 Hz (different to Australia). A voltage converter will usually be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.



### US Holidays 2018

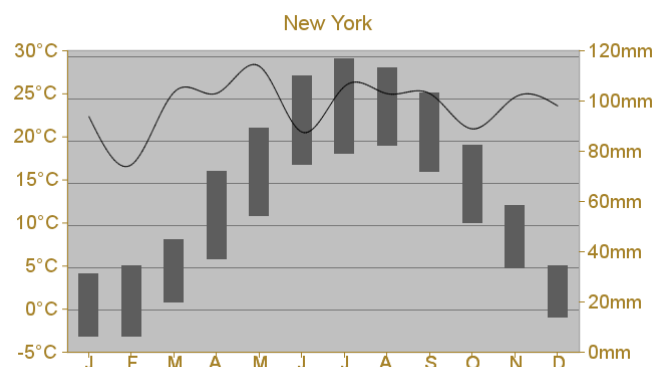
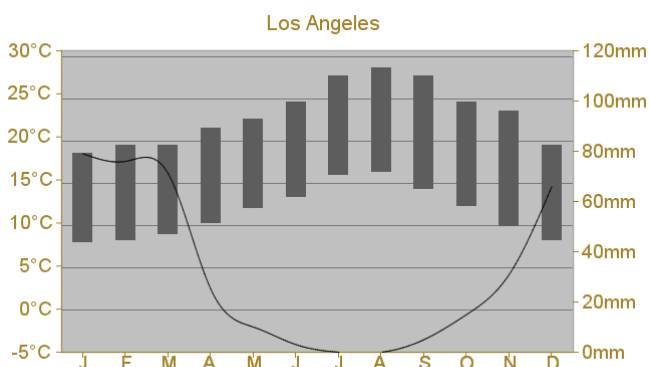
Federal Public Holidays

01 Jan:	New Year's Day	03 Sep:	Labour Day
15 Jan:	Martin Luther King Jr Day	08 Oct:	Columbus Day
19 Feb:	Washington's Birthday	11/12 Nov:	Veterans Day
28 May:	Memorial Day	22 Nov:	Thanksgiving
04 Jul:	Independence Day	25 Dec:	Christmas Day

School Holidays (actual dates vary by state and district):

Winter:	Mid Dec to Early Jan	(2 weeks)
Spring/Easter:	Mar or Apr	(1 week)
Summer:	Mid Jun to Late Aug/Early Sep	(2 months)

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in The United States



For local forecasts from the US National Weather Service please go to [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov).

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## United States Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 United States Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with The United States Purchasing Power Parity

#### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 US Dollars  
 1 US Dollar (USD) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

#### With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 0.69 US Dollars  
 1 US Dollar (USD) will cost 1.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the US Dollar and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = \$4.28 US Dollars  
 Big Mac US (average): \$5.28 (USD) = \$7.34 Australian Dollars

*A Big Mac in the USA is therefore 23% more expensive than in Australia.*

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

50 US Cents = \$0.72 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		100 US = \$144.61 AUD	
\$1 US	= \$1.45 AUD	\$10 US	= \$14.46 AUD	\$100 US	= \$144.61 AUD
\$2 US	= \$2.89 AUD	\$20 US	= \$28.92 AUD	\$200 US	= \$289.22 AUD
\$3 US	= \$4.34 AUD	\$30 US	= \$43.38 AUD	\$300 US	= \$433.83 AUD
\$4 US	= \$5.78 AUD	\$40 US	= \$57.84 AUD	\$400 US	= \$578.44 AUD
\$5 US	= \$7.23 AUD	\$50 US	= \$72.31 AUD	\$500 US	= \$723.05 AUD
\$6 US	= \$8.68 AUD	\$60 US	= \$86.77 AUD	\$600 US	= \$867.67 AUD
\$7 US	= \$10.12 AUD	\$70 US	= \$101.23 AUD	\$700 US	= \$1,012.28 AUD
\$8 US	= \$11.57 AUD	\$80 US	= \$115.69 AUD	\$800 US	= \$1,156.89 AUD
\$9 US	= \$13.01 AUD	\$90 US	= \$130.15 AUD	\$900 US	= \$1,301.50 AUD
				\$1,000 US	= \$1,446.11 AUD

### Notes and Coins of the United States

The legal currency of the United States of America is the dollar (plural dollars), which is abbreviated using the symbol \$ (for example \$100) or its currency code "USD". The subunit of the dollar is the cent, of which there are 100 in every dollar. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.







# United States Country Guide

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## About the United States

Full Name:	United States of America.	Significant Dates:	
Size:	9,826,675 sq km (27% larger than Australia).	Pre 1500's	- Hundreds of culturally distinct indigenous tribes speaking many languages inhabit North America.
Population:	318 million (3rd largest country on earth). New York 19 mil.; Los Angeles 12.3 mil.; Chicago 8.7 mil.; Miami 5.7 mil.; Dallas 5.6 mil.; Philadelphia 5.6 mil.; Washington D.C. 4.9 mil.	1607	- English settlers found Jamestown in Virginia.
Religion:	Protestant 52%, Catholic 24%, Mormon 1.7%, Jewish 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, Muslim 0.6%.	1775-83	- US war of Independence against the United Kingdom.
Language:	English 79%, Spanish 13%, Chinese 1%, Tagalog 0.5%. Vietnamese 0.5%, French 0.4%.	1803	- Louisiana Purchase, US buys territory stretching from Montana to Louisiana from Napoleonic France.
GDP Per Capita:	US\$54,800 (Australia US\$46,600).	1815-1920	- Waves of immigration swell the US population.
		1845	- The Republic of Texas joins the United States.
		1848	- Mexico cedes southwestern states to the US.
		1861-65	- Eleven southern states secede from the US, forming the Confederacy, triggering the Civil War in which the north (Union) prevail. Up to 850,000 soldiers are killed.
		1863	- Emancipation Proclamation to end slavery is issued.
		1969	- Apollo program lands the first humans on the moon.

