



## United Kingdom Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to The United Kingdom Tourist Entry Requirements Current DFAT Travel Advice

Australian ordinary passport holders usually do not require a visa to enter the United Kingdom (UK) for a period of up to 180 days for tourist or business purposes, provided that they have not previously been refused entry to Britain and do not have a criminal record. Those wishing to stay longer than 180 days, intending to marry, study or seeking employment will be required to obtain a visa. For further information on applying for a visa, please see the VFS Global website on the details below. Passports are recommended to be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their next destination.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a UK representative on the details below for further information and to ensure that their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter the UK without a visa.

### Vaccinations and 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 overseas may consider vaccination against hepatitis B. 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 preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians in the United Kingdom may be eligible to access subsidised health care as part of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) between the two countries. To take advantage of this program, travellers should visit a doctor or outpatient section of a public hospital who are prepared to treat them as a National Health Service (NHS) patient. Australians must be able to present their Australian Passport and Medicare card, and advise medical staff that they wish to be treated under the RHCA. This agreement does not replace the need for travel insurance. For further information on the RHCA, please visit [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au). Australians travelling to the United Kingdom 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).

### United Kingdom Visa Information & Visa Service Centres in Australia

UK Visas & Immigration Department

Tel: (02) 6145 2185\*  
Web: [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)

\*This service is charged at £1.37 per min. Please have a valid credit or card ready to process your payment.

The British Government have outsourced all visa services in Australia to a private company called VFS Global which maintain visa application centres in many cities across Australia. For information on applying for a visa to the UK or for the address details of your nearest UK visa application centre, please see the following website:

VFS Global: [www.vfsglobal.co.uk/australia](http://www.vfsglobal.co.uk/australia)



## United Kingdom Country Guide

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### Time differences between the United Kingdom and Australia

The UK is Greenwich Mean Time +0 hours (+1 during daylight saving). The applicable time zones are Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or British Summer Time (BST/BDT). Daylight saving is observed from the last weekend in March to the last weekend in October.

UK, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 8pm, Darwin 9:30pm, Brisbane 10pm, Adelaide 10:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 11pm.  
 UK, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 7pm, Darwin, Adelaide 8:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for the UK: +44

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:

Telstra - 0 800 856 6161

BT - 0 800 89 0061

CWC - 0 500 89 0061

Users may need to press \* after this number.

Travelex Card Services: 0800 015 0401

Visa Global Assist: 0800 169 5189

MasterCard: 0800 96 4767

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
 0800 587 6023

International Operator: 155

Police (non emergency): 101

National Health Service (non emergency): 111

Emergency Services: 112 or 999

### 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 Kingdom

High Commission of Australia, United Kingdom

Australia House, The Strand  
 LONDON WC 2B 4LA

Tel: (+44 20) 7379 4334

Fax: (+44 20) 7887 5558

Web: [www.uk.embassy.gov.au](http://www.uk.embassy.gov.au)

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in the United Kingdom are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian High Commission in London, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



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### Duty Free Allowances

Allowances when entering the UK from a non EU state:

- Alcohol: 1 L spirits (>22% alc vol) or 2 L other beverages; as well as 4 L of still wine and 16 L of beer.  
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of £390.

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. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the UK and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on UK customs visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk), or for information on Australian customs visit [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical socket: British (type G).

Supply: 230 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

A voltage converter is not usually required to use appliances designed for Australian use. A socket converter is generally all that is required for these appliances.



### Driving in the United Kingdom

Persons who hold a full and valid Australian drivers licence who are visiting the United Kingdom are usually permitted to drive any small vehicle that is shown on their licence, such as cars and or motorcycles.

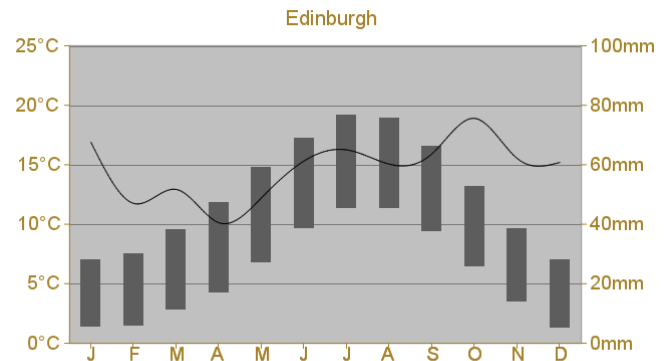
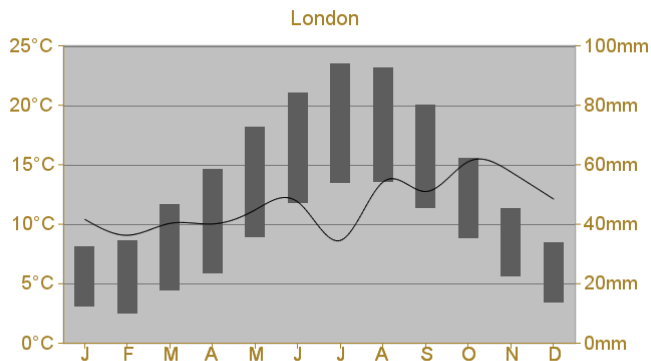
This only applies for a period of 12 months from the date of entering the United Kingdom.

For further information and to confirm that you are eligible to drive while in Great Britain, please visit [www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence](http://www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence), or for information on driving in Northern Ireland please visit [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk).

### UK Public Holidays 2018

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 01 Jan: New Year's Holiday | 28 May: Spring Holiday |
| 30 Mar: Good Friday        | 27 Aug: Summer Holiday |
| 02 Apr: Easter Monday      | 25 Dec: Christmas      |
| 07 May: May Holiday        | 26 Dec: Boxing Day     |
- Scotland - 06 Aug: Summer Holiday, 30 Nov: St Andrew's Day  
 N Ireland - 17/19 Mar: St Patrick's Day, 12 Jul: Orangemen's Day  
 England - 23 Apr: St George's Day is not an official public holiday but is widely celebrated and recognised.

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in the United Kingdom



For local forecasts please go to the British Met Office at [www.metoffice.com](http://www.metoffice.com).

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### Exchange Rate

#### Interbank Rate

\$1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = £0.55 British Pounds  
 £1 British Pound (GBP) = \$1.81 Australian Dollars

#### With 4% Margin

\$1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy £0.53 British Pounds  
 £1 British Pound (GBP) will cost \$1.88 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.

### Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the British Pound 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) = £3.29 British Pounds  
 Big Mac UK: £3.19 (GBP) = \$5.78 Australian Dollars

*A Big Mac in the United Kingdom is therefore 3% less 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

£0.50	=	\$0.94 AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.					
£1	=	\$1.88 AUD	£10	=	\$18.83 AUD	£100	=	\$188.32 AUD
£2	=	\$3.77 AUD	£20	=	\$37.66 AUD	£200	=	\$376.63 AUD
£3	=	\$5.65 AUD	£30	=	\$56.49 AUD	£300	=	\$564.95 AUD
£4	=	\$7.53 AUD	£40	=	\$75.33 AUD	£400	=	\$753.26 AUD
£5	=	\$9.42 AUD	£50	=	\$94.16 AUD	£500	=	\$941.58 AUD
£6	=	\$11.30 AUD	£60	=	\$112.99 AUD	£600	=	\$1,129.90 AUD
£7	=	\$13.18 AUD	£70	=	\$131.82 AUD	£700	=	\$1,318.21 AUD
£8	=	\$15.07 AUD	£80	=	\$150.65 AUD	£800	=	\$1,506.53 AUD
£9	=	\$16.95 AUD	£90	=	\$169.48 AUD	£900	=	\$1,694.84 AUD
						£1,000	=	\$1,883.16 AUD

### Notes and Coins of the United Kingdom

The legal currency of the United Kingdom is the Pound Sterling (plural pounds), which is abbreviated using the symbol £. The subunit of the pound is the penny (plural pence or p), of which there are 100 in every pound. There are several forms of notes and coins in the United Kingdom, including those issued in crown dependencies, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The most common notes are those issued by the Bank of England, most of which appear below. 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 Kingdom Country Guide



## About the United Kingdom

Full Name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Size: 243,610 sq km (similar to Victoria).

Population: 63 million. England 53 mil, Scotland 5.3 mil, Wales 3.1 mil, Northern Ireland 1.8 mil. London 10 mil, Manchester 2.6 mil, Birmingham 2.4 mil, Glasgow 1.2 mil.

Ethnicity: White 87%, Black 3%, Indian 2.3%, Pakistani 1.9%.

Language: English, regional languages recognised including Scots, Scots Gaelic, Welsh, Irish and Cornish.

Religion: Christian 60%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.6%, none 26%.

GDP PC: US\$37,700 (Australia US\$46,600).

### Significant Dates:

- 2000 BC - Stonehenge is completed.
- 46 AD - Romans invade and rule Britain until 410 AD, they found London, build roads and introduce Christianity.
- 449 - Anglo-Saxons invade and conquer most of modern day England.
- 793 - First of many Viking raids on Britain.
- 1066 - Battle of Hastings, Normans from France defeat the Saxons. William the Conqueror becomes king.
- 1215 - King John signs the Magna Carter.
- 1282 - Wales is conquered by England.
- 1348-49 - Plague kills 1/3 of the population.
- 1534 - Henry VIII founds Church of England.
- 1603 - James VI of Scotland becomes King of England, uniting the crowns.
- 1642-51 - Civil war between Parliament and Royalists. King Charles is executed.
- 1660 - The monarchy is restored.
- 1707 - England & Scotland unite, creating the Kingdom of Great Britain (GB).
- 1780's - Industrial revolution begins.
- 1801 - Ireland joins GB to form the UK.
- 1815 - Napoleon defeated at Waterloo.
- 1837-1901 - Reign of Queen Victoria.
- 1920 - Ireland gains independence.
- 1914-18 - First World War.
- 1939-45 - Second World War.
- 1952 - Elizabeth II becomes Queen.