

Travax Report (Sample Only)
Information current through 7/02/04

ITINERARY

Home Country: UNITED STATES

1. AUSTRALIA

HIV TEST INFORMATION

FOREIGN TEST	COUNTRY	ACCEPTED	REQUIREMENT

AUSTRALIA	Y	According to the Department of State, testing is required for all applicants for permanent residence over age 15. (All other applicants who require medical examinations are tested if it is indicated on clinical grounds.) Foreign test results are accepted under certain conditions. Contact Australia's embassy for details.	

Explanatory Notes for HIV Test Information:

- *Foreign Test Accepted:*
Y - Local health authorities will accept results of tests performed in another country.
N - Tests must be conducted by local authorities.
? - Testing protocol is unknown.

MALARIA

Malaria Risk Summary

Country	Infected	Resistant

UNITED STATES	N	N
AUSTRALIA	Y	N

Explanatory Notes for Malaria Information:

- *Infected: Y/N - Malaria risk does/does not exist.*
- *Resistant: Y/N - Strains resistant to choroquine are/are not present.*

Risk Information

- *Australia*
No risk exists anywhere on mainland Australia. Minimal risk exists in the Torres Strait (between Australia and Papua New Guinea), an area off tourist itineraries.

Prevention Information

- *Australia*
Medicines to protect against malaria are not needed. Take personal protective measures in risk areas.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Hepatitis A

- *Australia*
Immunization with hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for prolonged stays in remote regions of the interior.

Hepatitis B

- *Australia*
Immunization with hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all health care workers; the possibility of a new sexual partner during stay; prolonged stays in aboriginal or native communities. Increased awareness is recommended regarding safe sex and body fluid/blood

precautions.

Japanese Encephalitis

- *Australia*

Limited risk exists on the outer islands of the Torres Strait and possibly in the adjacent Cape York Peninsula of the mainland. Transmission is presumed to occur all year. Vaccine is recommended for prolonged stays or frequent short stays in the Torres Strait Islands only. Evening and nighttime insect precautions are recommended.

Meningococcal

- *Australia*

Immunization with meningococcal meningitis vaccine is recommended for children between 1 and 18 years of age and risk-averse university students who will be living in dormitories or residence halls.

Rabies

- *Australia*

Considered rabies-free in terrestrial animals using the WHO criteria of no animal cases in 2 consecutive years. Lyssaviruses related to rabies and causing clinical rabies have, in rare instances, been reported from this country.

Routine

- *Australia*

An adequate primary series of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine is recommended for all travelers, plus one dose of Td within the last 10 years. Measles vaccine is indicated for those born in 1957 or later (1970 or later in Canada) without history of disease or of 2 adequate doses of live vaccine at any time during their life. Many countries (including the U.K.) recommend that adults need to have had only 1 countable dose at any time during their life. Pneumococcal vaccine is indicated for all adults over 65 and those with chronic disease or compromising conditions. Varicella vaccine should be considered for long-term travelers with no history of the disease.

- *Australia*

Influenza is transmitted April to September and all travelers are at increased risk. Vaccine is recommended for all travelers over age 50; all travelers of any age with any chronic or immunocompromising conditions. Consider for any traveler wishing to decrease risk of influenza or non-specific respiratory illness. Consider anti-virals as standby therapy for those inadequately immunized.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

AUSTRALIA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Australia is an industrialized nation in the top 25% of the world's economies. It is located in the South Pacific. Climate is tropical in the north and temperate in the south.

A high level of medical care comparable to that in other industrialized countries is available throughout, except care may be substandard or unavailable in the largely uninhabited interior regions of the country. A sophisticated flying doctor service is readily available.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

General Cautions

- Recent medical and dental exams should ensure that the traveler is in good health. Carry appropriate health and accident insurance documents and copies of any important medical records. Bring an adequate supply of all prescription and other medications as well as any necessary personal hygiene items, including a spare pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses if necessary. Prescription medicines are widely available from pharmacies or "chemists." However foreign prescriptions are not valid in Australia and will not be dispensed. Foreign health insurance programs are rarely accepted, although visitors to Australia from countries which have reciprocal government-to-government agreements regarding the provision of health care for travelers will be able to get excellent free acute care from the Australian public hospital system through Australia's national health insurance program, Medicare. Others will be expected to pay cash for treatment.

Specific Concerns

- Temperatures often in excess of 100øF (38øC) may cause problems in remote uninhabited northern, western, and central areas of the country. Four wheel drive vehicles, adequate water, and mobile phone or two way radio are recommended before embarking.
- Snake envenomation is common. Generally, snakes do not attack unless provoked. All major hospitals carry supplies of antivenins.
- Ocean hazards include corals, jellyfish, and sharks; drownings are common at unpatrolled beaches. Do not bathe at unmarked, unpatrolled beaches. Fatal jellyfish stings have occurred along the coast of northern Queensland.

DISEASE RISK SUMMARY

Food-borne and water-borne illness:

- Minimal risk throughout the country.
- Tap water is suitable for drinking.
- Ciguatera poisoning is present, mostly off of northern Queensland, and results from eating reef fish such as grouper, snapper, amberjack, and barracuda. The toxin remains even when fish is well cooked.

Other hazards:

- Mosquito-borne arboviruses such as Ross River (4,000 or more cases per year), Barmah Forest, Murray Valley encephalitis, and several others are common throughout the country including around Sydney and other urban areas. Insect precautions are recommended.
- Dengue fever is present in parts of northern Queensland including urban areas of Cairns and Townsville and the Torres Strait islands, but it also occurs in and around major population centers such as Sydney. Daytime insect precautions are recommended.
- Reports of lyme borreliosis have yet to be confirmed by isolation of the spirochete. Risk to travelers is presumed to be absent.

OFFICIAL HEALTH DATA

Requirements

AIDS: According to the Department of State, testing is required for all applicants for permanent residence over age 15 (All other applicants who require medical examinations are tested if it is indicated on clinical grounds). Foreign test results are accepted under certain conditions. Contact Australia's embassy for details.

Yellow fever: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers over 1 year of age arriving within 6 days of having stayed overnight or longer in an infected country, as listed in the Weekly Epidemiological Record. (It should be noted that Australia is not bound by the International Health Regulations.)

USDOS ADVISORY

The material below has been compiled or quoted verbatim from the consular Web sites of the United States (travel.state.gov), United Kingdom (www.fco.gov.uk/travel), Canada (voyage.dfaic.gc.ca), and Australia (www.dfat.gov.au/consular/advice). Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel are not included in this advisory. Please refer to the "Safety and Security" handout for standard precautions.

- Crime

Visitors should be aware that street crime, burglaries, and car thefts are a daily occurrence in the larger cities. Weapons are increasingly used in such crimes, which also may be associated with drug trafficking and usage. Foreign visitors are sometimes targets for pickpockets, purse snatchers, and petty thieves. Violent attacks on backpackers occur. Robberies of safe-deposit facilities are common at inexpensive hotels and hostels. The emergency number for police, ambulance, and fire services is 000.

Travelers should exercise caution in the more popular tourist areas (e.g., St. Kilda in Melbourne; Kings Cross, downtown George Street, Darling Harbour, Bondi Beach and the Rocks areas in Sydney; Cairns and the Gold Coast in Queensland). Hitchhiking should be avoided at all times and women should not travel alone after dark.

· **Travel**

Visitors are reminded that all traffic operates on the left side of the road, and that all vehicles use right-hand drive. When crossing roads, pedestrians are reminded to look carefully in all directions, and visitors are to use particular caution when driving. Seat belts are mandatory. Speed limits and laws regarding driving while intoxicated are rigorously enforced. Roads and streets are frequently narrow. Outside the major metropolitan areas, most highways are two-lane roads with significant distances between destinations. Many regions in the interior of Australia are remote, with small populations and few services. Overland travelers may have limited access to telephones and other facilities. Drunk driving laws are strictly enforced.

Safety of Public Transportation: Good

Urban Road Conditions/Maintenance: Good

Rural Road Conditions/Maintenance: Good

Availability of Roadside Assistance: Good

Drivers are urged to exercise caution while passing or merging with adjacent traffic. When driving in rural areas, particularly in the Northern Territory where there are no speed limits, drivers should be cautious of free-roaming animals and "road-trains" (several semi-truck trailers hooked together). It is dangerous to pass road-trains, and it is advisable to pull over and allow on-coming road-trains to pass to avoid being sideswiped. A number of fatalities have occurred in the Northern Territory when vehicles, driven at high rates of speed, have skidded and overturned after hitting the loose gravel shoulder of the road. Drivers, especially those inexperienced with 4-wheel drive vehicles, should exercise common-sense judgment when driving in outback Australia.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has assessed this country's civil aviation authority and determined that it licenses and oversees air carriers in accordance with aviation safety standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

· **Other**

During times of minimal rainfall, usually in the warmer months of October to April, intense bushfires may occur. Although mostly confined to remote areas, bushfires have encroached on small towns. Even the outskirts of Sydney, Canberra, and other major cities have been affected, with bushfires severely damaging or destroying suburban properties. In the event of a bushfire, travelers should keep their personal belongings, including passports and other travel documents, readily accessible if immediate evacuation is necessary. Flash flooding can also occur.

The cyclone season occurs between November and April. Cyclones may occur along the coastal areas of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Travelers should keep informed of regional weather forecasts and plan accordingly.

Australian customs authorities enforce very strict regulations concerning the temporary importation from all countries of items such as agricultural and wood products, as well as very strict quarantine standards for other products, animals, and pets.

The currency is the Australian dollar. Traveler's checks are accepted at banks or large hotels. Credit cards are accepted, but use may be restricted in small towns and outback areas. ATMs are available in main cities.

The official language is English.

CONSULAR INFORMATION

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Australia

- U.S. Embassy: Moonah Place, Yarralumla, A.C.T. 2600 (Tel.: 61-2-6214-5600; Fax: 61-2-6273-3191; Web: <http://canberra.usembassy.gov>). Consulates: Level 59, MLC Centre, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000 (Tel.: 61-2-9373-9200; Fax: 61-2-9373-9184; Web: <http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/sydney>); 553 St. Kilda Road, P.O. Box 6722, Melbourne Vic 3004 (Tel.: 61-3-9526-5900; Fax: 61-3-9525-0769; Web: <http://melbourne.usconsulate.gov/melbourne>); Level 13, 16 St. Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000 (Tel.: 61-8-9202-1224; Fax: 61-8-9231-9444; Web: <http://perth.usconsulate.gov/perth>).
- Canadian Embassy: Commonwealth Avenue, Canberra ACT 2600 (Tel.: 61-2-6270-4000; Fax: 6270-4081; E-mail: cnbra@dfait-maeci.gc.ca; Web: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/australia); Level 5, Quay West, 111 Harrington Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 (Tel.: 61-2-9364-3000; Fax: 61-2-9364-3098; E-mail: sydney@dfait-maeci.gc.ca; Web: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/australia)
- U.K. Embassy: Commonwealth Ave, Yarralumla, Canberra (Tel.: 61-2-6270-6666; Fax: 61-2-6273-3236; E-mail: bhc.canberra@mail.uk.emb.gov.au; Web: www.britaus.net)

Australia's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- In the U.S.: 1601 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 (Tel.: 202-797-3000; Web: www.austemb.org)
- In Canada: 50 O'Connor Street, Suite 710, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L2 (Tel.: 613-236-0841; Fax: 613-236-0026; Web: www.ahc-ottawa.org)
- In the U.K.: Australia House, Strand, London WC2B 4LA, England (Tel.: 020-7379-4334; Fax: 020-7240-5333; Web: www.australia.org.uk)