

Travel FAQ

What is the best way to travel?

There are two ticket types when travelling to Australia; either a one way with extra baggage allowance or a return ticket purchased in the UK to save on future travel costs (tickets between Australia and the UK are more expensive when purchased in Australia)

One way ticket

When you're moving you will realise that even if you've already sent all your boxes abroad, or if you plan to only go with suitcases, you will need as much space as you can get. Normally, when you're leaving the UK on a flight you are entitled to around 20kg of personal luggage. This can change dependent on location and airline, but for most this is fairly standard. If you are travelling to emigrate, you are usually entitled to more luggage allowance and in some cases will be allocated 40kg of personal luggage. This is obviously a huge difference and can be very handy to fit in all those things you're likely to want to take. In order to obtain your larger luggage allowance, you must be travelling on what is known as a 'migrant fare'.

A migrant fare is a one way ticket that is accompanied by an un-validated permanent resident visa. It is very important to ensure that you have some form of written confirmation from the airline you're travelling with regarding your extra allowance. This is just in case the staffs at the desk aren't accommodating and try to charge you for extra luggage. If you can show them a written letter or printed email confirming this, there should be no problems. Extra luggage allowance can be extremely expensive (sometimes hundreds of pounds) so ensure you do this first.

Return ticket

Air fares are less expensive when purchased in the UK so it may be an option to book an open return. You do then lose out on the extra baggage allowance, however if you plan to take regular trips back to the UK this may be the better option. It is worth noting that it's less expensive to purchase additional baggage allowance before the departure date, this way you will avoid being pinged at the check in desk

Can I get extra baggage allowance?

If you are travelling to emigrate, you are usually entitled to more luggage allowance and in some cases will be allocated 40kg of personal luggage. This is obviously a huge difference and can be very handy to fit in all those things you're likely to forget you want to take. In order to obtain your larger luggage allowance, you must be travelling on what is known as a 'migrant fare'.

Can I bring the family pet?

All cats and dogs being imported to Australia, whether it is for the first time or returning, must meet the standard Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry import conditions

http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/cat-dogs/bringing_cats_and_dogs_to_australia

Do I need a visa?

Anyone travelling to Australia who is not an Australian citizen will need to obtain a valid visa you will find some very useful information on the Australian High Commission website

www.uk.embassy.gov.au/hlh/immi_travel.html

This is a useful guide to the 457 visa program

<http://migrationblog.immi.gov.au/2012/06/25/interested-in-learning-more-about-the-457-program/>

What about health insurance?

Any individual applying for a subclass 457 visa must prove they have adequate health insurance for themselves and any accompanying family members. This can be costly and must be in place BEFORE the visa process can be completed.

<http://www.austhealth.com/457-visa-health-insurance.php>

Is it easy to find your way around the city?

Although everything is in English, the road markings and signposts can be unfamiliar and make things confusing! It's a good idea to download your sat nav maps before you arrive, not only are they more expensive when purchased in Australia but it is easier to have everything in place for when you arrive.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel from the airport

It is a good idea to book a taxi in advance as after a long flight with grumpy passengers it is easier to have onward transport organised in advance.

Identification

Have the necessary identification documents accessible at all times. It is surprising how often you will need them from buying a phone contract to opening a bank account. In Australia there is a identification points system in operation 100 points seems to be the standard number of points necessary. This table gives a good idea of which documents will make up these points.

http://www.australianaustralia.com/page/Opening_a_Bank_Account_in_Australia/190

Toll Roads in Sydney

A toll road requires motorists by law to pay a fee known as a 'toll' to drive on that road or motorway. To find out more about travelling on toll roads, visit

<http://sydneymotorways.com/>.

Hire car companies will make this provision for you (although you may need to pay an additional charge) but you will need to set up a toll account when you buy your own car.