



Australian Government
Australian Customs Service

GUIDE FOR TRAVELLERS

know before you go





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Introduction – Heading overseas?

Are you one of 22 million travellers getting ready to pass through an Australian international airport or seaport this year?

If you are, this guide will help you prepare for your trip and give you an idea of what to expect when you pass through Customs at an international airport or seaport.

Customs officers play an important role in protecting Australia's borders from the entry of illegal and harmful goods and unauthorised people. They:

- check passports as you arrive and leave Australia
- check arriving and departing passengers' documents
- search arriving passengers and their baggage for illegal or restricted goods
- search aircraft for illegal or restricted goods
- seize illegal or restricted goods
- patrol the tarmac and baggage handling areas to detect and deter criminal activity
- use Labrador detector dogs to search people and baggage for drugs and other prohibited items
- collect duty and tax on imported goods.

Customs uses a range of technology and techniques to detect illegal activities with minimal impact on passengers in airports and seaports including closed circuit television and surveillance monitoring.





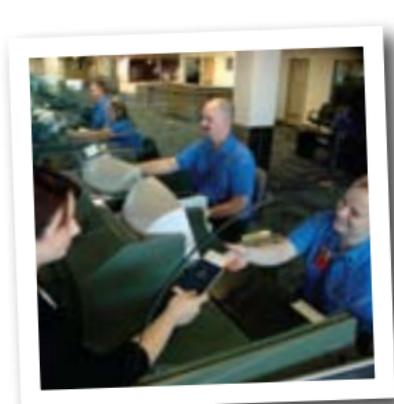
The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) also operate at airports and seaports and you will need to clear Quarantine when you travel into Australia. Quarantine officers work alongside Customs officers at airports and seaports to ensure travellers aren't carrying any contaminated or prohibited plant, food or animal products into the country.

Before you go

1. Make sure you visit www.smartraveller.gov.au before you travel. The site has tips to make your overseas trip easier.
2. Read this guide to make sure that you aren't carrying any illegal or restricted items.
3. If you will be carrying medicine for personal use, refer to page 11 of this guide.
4. Check with your doctor and find out if you need to get a Yellow Fever vaccination certification before entering Australia.
5. It is sensible to lock your carry-on and checked luggage.

Are you travelling for business?

If you are travelling for business you should read the Customs guide for business travellers factsheet for more information at www.customs.gov.au



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Departing Australia

When leaving Australia you need to present your passport, completed Outgoing Passenger Card and boarding pass to a Customs officer.

You will also need to go through an airport security screening point.

Aviation security

There are restrictions on items that you can have in your carry-on luggage when you travel in and out of Australia.

This includes weapons, explosives, sharp objects and various liquids, aerosols and gels. For more information on these restrictions see page 16 or visit www.infrastructure.gov.au

Tips

1. Get to the airport early to allow plenty of time to check-in with your airline, fill in relevant forms, clear Customs and security and process any Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) claims.
2. If you have expensive personal items like computers or cameras that you're taking with you that:
 - a. you intend to bring back to Australia
 - b. are not applying for a refund from TRS
 - c. are not duty-free goodsthen you need to register them on the **Goods Exported in Passenger Baggage Form** (see page 6). Goods must be inspected by an officer in the Customs office at the departure point.

The form is available on our website www.customs.gov.au or from any Customs office. Once registered, you don't need to declare these goods to Customs on return. Keep your completed form handy to show Customs when you come back to Australia.



Departing by sea

If you're leaving Australia by sea, you will be cleared at the port before you join the ship. You will need to present your passport and Outgoing Passenger Card to Customs for outwards clearance at the location and time advised by the ship.

Your Outgoing Passenger Card is a legal document. There are penalties for not filling in your Outgoing Passenger Card properly and for making a false declaration.

REMEMBER - IF IN DOUBT, DECLARE IT

Outgoing passenger card - Australia

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN

1. Participation name

2. Date of issue

3. Passport number

4. Flight number or name of ship

5. Country where you will get off the ship

6. What is your main occupation?

7. Nationality or other status

8. Date of birth

9. Name and address on E or F

D Visitor or temporary resident without staying

E Australian resident (including temporarily)

F Australian resident (returning permanently)

10. State or territory of birth

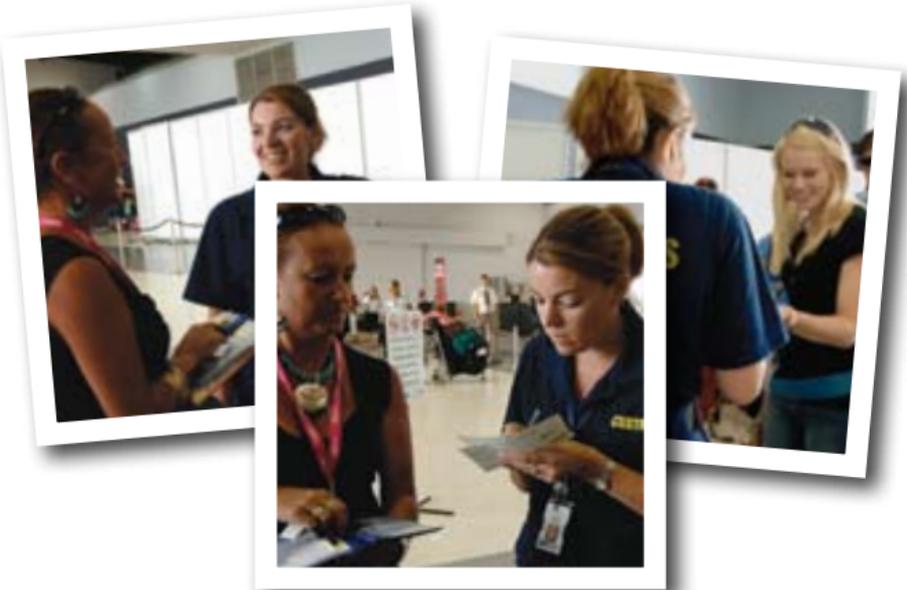
11. Country of residence

12. Main reason for overseas travel

13. What is your occupation of your business?

DECLARATION The information I have given is true, correct and complete.

TURN OVER THE CARD



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Arriving in Australia

Present your passport and completed Incoming Passenger Card to a Customs officer on arrival **before** collecting your luggage. Then move through to the Customs and Quarantine checkpoint and follow the directions of Customs or Quarantine officers.

Your luggage may be x-rayed or examined by Customs or Quarantine to detect restricted or dutiable items and you may be questioned by officers.

In the passenger hall you may see different dogs working:

- Customs uses Labradors to search for drugs and other prohibited items
- Quarantine uses Beagles to search for food, plant or animal material.

If you are caught carrying prohibited items, you could be fined or prosecuted.

If you hold an ePassport and are aged 18 years or over, you may be eligible to use SmartGate when arriving at Australian airports. SmartGate allows you to self-process through passport control using ePassport data and facial recognition technology. For more information visit www.customs.gov.au

Tips

1. Complete your Incoming Passenger Card while you are on the aircraft – this will save you time when you land.
2. Have your passport and completed Incoming Passenger Card ready to give to a Customs officer at all times.
3. Declare on your Incoming Passenger Card all drugs and medicines, food, plants and animal products or other items as listed in the restricted items section of this guide.
4. Make sure you know Customs duty-free allowances before you go shopping. See page 14 for further details.



Arriving by sea

When you reach your port of arrival into Australia, you need to present your passport and completed Incoming Passenger Card to Customs. When permanently leaving the ship, at either the first or subsequent ports, you need to present your baggage and Incoming Passenger Card to Customs for clearance.

In some cases Customs officers may check your passport and Incoming Passenger Card on board the vessel before arrival in an Australian port.

Your Incoming Passenger Card is a legal document. There are penalties for not filling in your Incoming Passenger Card properly and for making a false declaration.

REMEMBER - IF IN DOUBT, DECLARE IT

Incoming passenger card - Australia
PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN

YOU MUST ANSWER EVERY QUESTION - IF UNSURE, TICK 'NO'

Are you bringing into Australia:

1. Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restriction, such as medicines, steroids, firearms, weapons of any kind or illicit drugs?	Yes	No
2. More than 200cigs, or alcohol or 200 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco products?	Yes	No
3. Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty and/or tax free in Australia with a maximum total value of more than AUD2000, including gifts?	Yes	No
4. Goods samples for business/commercial use?	Yes	No
5. AUD\$1000 or more in Australian or foreign currency unreported?	Yes	No
6. Any food - includes dried, fresh, preserved, cooked, uncooked?	Yes	No
7. Wooden articles, plants, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, seeds, bulbs, stems, roots?	Yes	No
8. Animals, parts of animals and animal products including equipment, eggs, biological specimens, horns, fish, insects, shells, live plants, pet food?	Yes	No
9. Oil, or articles with oil attached, or sporting equipment, stoves, etc?	Yes	No

10. Have you visited a red zone or been in contact with, or near, farm animals outside Australia in the past 30 days?

11. Have you been in Africa or South America in the last 6 days?

DECLARATION
The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.

YOUR SIGNATURE _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

TURN OVER THE CARD English

Mobile phones, cameras, video cameras and recording devices must not be used in Customs controlled areas at airports and seaports.

If you are on the phone, you will be asked to terminate your call until you have cleared Customs. Customs can and will ask you to delete any photos or film recorded if you are caught taking photos or recording in Customs controlled areas.

Prohibited and restricted items

It is illegal to carry drugs including marijuana, cannabis, heroin, cocaine and amphetamines in and out of Australia. Counterfeit goods and offensive types of pornography are also banned.

Other items may be restricted. You will need a permit to carry these items in and out of Australia.

See page 13 for a summary on what you can and can't carry and what you need to declare on your Incoming and Outgoing Passenger Cards. There are penalties for not declaring illegal and restricted items and for making false declarations on your Incoming or Outgoing Passenger Card.

Contact Australian Customs or the consulate or embassy of the countries you're visiting before you travel, for more advice about importing or exporting illegal and restricted items.

What do I have to declare?



Firearms, weapons and ammunition

You must declare all firearms, weapons and ammunition including real and replica firearms and BB air guns that discharge a pellet by means of compressed gas, commonly purchased as "toy" guns. Other weapons such as paintball markers, blowpipes, all knives, nunchukas, slingshots, crossbows, electric shock devices and knuckle dusters must also be declared. Some of these items may require a permit, police authorisation and safety testing before importation.



Performance and image enhancing drugs

All performance and image enhancing drugs must be declared on arrival. These include human growth hormone, DHEA and all anabolic and androgenic steroids. These items cannot be imported into Australia without a permit.



Currency

There is no limit to the amount of currency you can bring in or out of Australia. However, you must declare amounts of A\$10,000 or more in Australian currency or foreign equivalent. If asked by Customs you must also fill in a Bearer Negotiable Instruments (BNI) form if you're carrying promissory notes, travellers cheques, personal cheques, money orders or postal orders.



Food, plants, animals and biological goods

Declare all food, plant and animal goods, equipment used with animals, biological materials, soils and sand to Quarantine on arrival. If you don't, you could be given an on-the-spot fine or face prosecution.



Medicines

You need to declare all drugs and medicines including prescription medications, alternative, herbal and traditional medicines, vitamin and mineral preparation formulas to Customs. Some products require a permit or quarantine clearance and/or a letter or prescription from your doctor describing your medication and medical condition.

Prescription medicines are financially subsidised by the Australian Government under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). You can only take out of Australia the amount of medication you need. Carry a medical or dental practitioner's letter or complete a PBS Medicine Export Declaration available from Medicare Australia.



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Protected wildlife

Australia's strict laws control the import and export of protected wildlife and associated products. This includes traditional medicinal products and regulated products such as coral, orchids, caviar, ivory products and many hunting trophies.



Heritage-listed goods

You need to apply for a permit to import or export heritage-listed goods including works of art, stamps, coins, archaeological objects, minerals and specimens.



Veterinary products

Declare all veterinary drugs and medicines. This includes products that contain substances prohibited without a permit.



Defence and strategic goods

Permits are required to import or export defence and strategic goods. For more information on which goods fit into this category, refer to Customs Export controls for defence and strategic goods factsheet at www.customs.gov.au





DECLARING RESTRICTED ITEMS

Item	Declare on Arrival	Declare on Departure	For more details, contact
Firearms, weapons and ammunition	Yes	Yes	Customs
Performance and image enhancing drugs	Yes	Yes	Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Therapeutic Goods Administration
Currency A\$10,000 or over	Yes	Yes	AUSTRAC
Food, plants, animals and biological goods	Yes	Yes	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Medicinal products	Yes	Yes	Medicare Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
Protected wildlife and wildlife products	Yes	Yes	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Heritage-listed items	Yes	Yes	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Veterinary products	Yes	Yes	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
Defence and strategic goods	Yes	Yes	Department of Defence

Contact details for relevant organisations are listed at the back of this guide.

The possession or trafficking of drugs is a very serious crime. In many countries you could face the death penalty or life in prison.

DON'T CARRY DRUGS - ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

Duty-free concessions

Duty-free concessions in Australia are different to those in other countries.

Most personal items such as new clothing, footwear, and articles for personal hygiene and grooming (excluding fur and perfume concentrates) may be brought into Australia in your accompanied baggage, free from duty and tax.

Limits apply to other goods purchased duty free overseas, in Australia duty or tax free before departure, or from an inwards duty free shop on arrival.

General goods

If you're aged 18 years or over, you can bring up to A\$900 worth of general goods into Australia duty-free. If you're under 18 years of age there is a A\$450 limit. General goods include gifts, souvenirs, cameras, electronic equipment, leather goods, perfume concentrates, jewellery, watches and sporting equipment.

Alcohol

If you're aged 18 years or over, you can bring 2.25 litres of alcohol duty-free into Australia with you. All alcohol in accompanied baggage is included in this category, regardless of where or how it was purchased.

Tobacco

If you're aged 18 years or over, you can bring 250 cigarettes, or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco products duty free into Australia with you. All tobacco products in accompanied baggage are included in this category, regardless of where or how they were purchased.

Families travelling together can pool their duty-free concessions. Family is defined as a husband, wife and their child who is, or children who are under the age of 18 years.

Be aware that if you exceed Australia's duty free limits you will be charged duty and tax on all items of that type (general goods, alcohol or tobacco), not just the items which exceed the limits.



Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS)

On departure you might be able to claim a GST and Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) refund under the TRS if you:

- bought a minimum of \$300 (GST inclusive) worth of goods from the one retailer
- bought the goods no more than 30 days before departing Australia
- have a single tax invoice for the goods
- wear or carry the goods as hand baggage onto the aircraft or ship. Alternative arrangements may be available for oversized goods eg. surfboards, or goods which cannot be taken on board as hand baggage due to aviation security measures, such as those applying to liquids, aerosols and gels
- present your original tax invoice, goods, passport and international boarding pass to the TRS facility when departing Australia.

Please allow plenty of time to get your TRS claim processed before the cut-off time of departing aircraft/vessel.

Claims at airports can only be made up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure of your aircraft.

Claims at seaports can be made no earlier than 4 hours and no later than 1 hour prior to the scheduled departure of your vessel.

If you are considering bringing these back into Australia, please be aware that they may be subject to duty and tax.

If the value of these goods together with overseas purchases and goods bought in Australia duty free or tax free exceeds the passenger duty free concessions, the goods must be declared to Customs on your return to Australia. Penalties apply to undeclared taxable goods.

Restrictions on Liquids, Aerosols and Gels

All Australian international inbound and outbound flights are subject to security screening restrictions for liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs).

As a traveller you are not able to carry onboard more than one litre of the total quantity of LAGs. LAGs must be in containers no larger than 100ml each and fit comfortably within a one litre transparent re-sealable plastic bag.

LAGs restrictions apply to the following types of liquids, aerosols and gels, but are not limited to:

- water and other drinks, soups, syrups, jams, stews, sauces and pastes
- foods in sauces or containing a high liquid content
- creams, lotions, cosmetics and oils
- perfumes
- gels including hair and shower gels
- contents of pressurised containers, including shaving foam, other foam and deodorants
- pastes including toothpaste
- mascara
- lip gloss or lip balm and
- any item of similar consistency at room temperature.

Exceptions apply for medicines/medical products and baby products.

For more information contact the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.



Where can I get more information?

Australian Customs Service

1300 363 263

www.customs.gov.au

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

1800 020 504

+ 61 2 9364 7222 (ph)

www.aqis.gov.au

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority

1800 020 506

+61 2 6206 0200 (ph)

www.asada.org.au

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

+ 61 2 6272 5852 (ph)

www.apvma.gov.au

AUSTRAC

1800 021 037

+ 61 2 9950 0055 (ph)

www.austrac.gov.au

Department of Defence

1800 66 1066

www.defence.gov.au

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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

1300 139 281

www.smartraveller.gov.au

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

+ 61 2 6274 1111 (ph)

www.environment.gov.au

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

+61 2 6274 7111 (ph)

www.infrastructure.gov.au

Medicare Australia

1800 500 147

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Therapeutic Goods Administration

1800 020 653

+ 61 2 6232 8791 (ph)

+ 61 2 6232 8605 (fax)

www.tga.gov.au

Complaints & Compliments

To offer a comment on any aspect of Customs service, either complete a Complaints & Compliments brochure available from any Customs office, phone 1800 228 227 (in Australia) or email comments@customs.gov.au



For information on any Customs matters, contact the
Customs Information and Support Centre on
1300 363 263 or email information@customs.gov.au or
visit the website at www.customs.gov.au

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