



Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Melbourne, Australia, located at 37° S and 144° E.
- We have traveled approximately 11,615 miles (18,693 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



Did you know?

- Australian Rules football is a popular sport in Melbourne and in all of Australia.
- Somewhat like American football and soccer, no padding is worn and there is much player contact.
- The first match was played in Melbourne in 1859.
- Of 17 Australian Rules football teams in Australia, nine are based in the Melbourne area.



sources: Wikipedia.org, BusinessInsider.com

People and Culture

- In 1788, a fleet of British ships landed in what is now Sydney to establish a penal colony with 778 convicts. The arrival of prisoners began phasing out in 1840. Australia's national day, January 26, celebrates the date that the first settlement was established.
- Australia became a commonwealth in 1901. While an independent country, it is one of 16 realms under the British monarch. Today, Australia has a population of about 21 million people, with immigrants from 200 countries. The country has the 14th largest economy in the world.
- About 4 million live in the Sydney area, the largest city. In all, 88% of Australians live in an urban region.
- Melbourne was first settled by sheep farmers in 1835. A gold rush in north of the city in the 1850s caused it to grow quickly. It is currently the second largest city in Australia, with a population of about 3.2 million people. Melbourne has some of the largest Greek and Italian populations outside of those two countries.
- Sports are important in Melbourne. There is a public holiday each year for a horse race called the Melbourne Cup.



Tram along a Melbourne downtown street. There are about 155 miles (250 kilometers) of tram lines.

(sources: Sylistic.com, Yarratrams.com)

Nature and Environment

- Melbourne is located at 37° S, the same latitude as Buenos Aires, Argentina (south), and Tokyo, Japan and San Francisco, USA (north).
- Sydney has the largest natural harbor in the world. This was one of the reasons it became Australia's first settlement.
- Being in the southern hemisphere, as is all of Australia, the seasons are reversed from the northern hemisphere. This means that the summer months are in December, January and February.
- Because Australia is so dry, it can be prone to droughts. For the past ten years much of the country has experienced a long dry period. Melbourne has been hard hit, with rain at 90% below average in 2006 and dams at 27% of capacity in 2009. Wet weather in 2010 improved some reserves.
- Kangaroos can be found in the wild in many Australian states. In 2008 there were over 25 million wild kangaroos, of various types, throughout Australia. Grey kangaroo habitat includes Melbourne and the state of Victoria.

Which ocean are we seeing?

No part of Australia is more than about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) from an ocean. Depending on your location, you may be viewing the Indian or Pacific Ocean. The newest ocean, the Southern Ocean, was designated in 2000 and circles Antarctica between 60 degrees south and its coastline.



sources: [Global Research Development Center.org](http://GlobalResearchDevelopmentCenter.org), [World Atlas.com](http://WorldAtlas.com)



Eastern Grey Kangaroo
(source: [Professor Paul's Guide to Mammals.com](http://ProfessorPaul'sGuideToMammals.com))

Our Plans

- We left our ship in Sydney and spent several days there visiting museums and the opera house. We then traveled by train to Melbourne. While we are here we plan to explore the city and see some museums.
- Our next stop is Tasmania. We will take a 10-hour ferry across the Bass Strait to get there.
- Our first trek is coming up next week and we are excited to begin the six-day hike. We will be trekking about 40 miles.
- As we continue to visit Australia what questions do you have? Send us a suggestion and we will try to include it in a future newsletter.

More Information

- http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne_details.php?id=581
- <http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/>
- <http://www.convictcreations.com/culture/facts.htm>
- <http://www.sydney-australia.biz/history/>
- <http://www.australianhistory.org/australian-facts>
- <http://www.auinfo.com/melbourne-climate.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Sydney
- <http://weather.ninemsn.com.au/climate/station.jsp?lt=site&lc=86071>
- <http://www.kangaroo-protection-coalition.com/>
- http://www.melbournewater.com.au/content/water_conservation/drought_management/drought_management.asp?bhcp=1

The Australian Flag

The Australian flag contains three major parts, all representing an aspect of Australia's history and location:

- The Union Jack in the upper-left signifies British colonization
- The seven points of the star below it represent the six states with one star signifying the other territories
- The remaining stars on the right depict the Southern Cross constellation found in the Australian sky



source: Maps of the World.com

Our Partners



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