

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 1-

1. The first European country who landed in Australia was the Netherlands.

You may think that the Brits were the first Europeans to step a foot in Australia but they weren't! The first European exploration of Australia was ordered by the Netherlands. In 1606, the Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon arrived in Cape York. A few months later, Spanish explorer Luís Vaz de Torres sailed through the Torres Strait islands.. Captain Cook arrived in Australia in 1770 British navigators only came to Australia 164 years after the Dutch!

While no other European country had really claimed the land. Captain Cook immediately claimed Australia for the throne of England, when he landed in 1770. He and his men were the first Europeans to encounter the east coast of Australia. This place is now called Botany Bay.

2. Australia was the second country in the world to grant women the right to vote. This was in 1894.

New Zealand was the first country in the world to allow women to vote. Australia did so in 1894, making it the second country in the world to grant it. At the time, Australia wasn't a federation yet. Only South Australia granted women's suffrage in 1894. Nowadays, we all think it's normal but this was pretty exceptional at the time! To give you an idea of how other countries did, here are some dates: United-Kingdom: 1918, France: 1944 , Switzerland: 1971, Saudi Arabia: 2015

3. The black box (flight recorder) was invented in Australia

The flight data recorder (black box) and cockpit voice recorder were invented by the Australian Scientist David Warren. He was living in Melbourne at the time. Warren passed away in 2010.

4. Melbourne was the richest city in the world during the Victorian Gold Rush

Up until the late 1860s, Sydney was the biggest and richest city in Australia. In 1851, the discovery of gold in the state of Victoria changes everything. People came from all over the world to search for it. This is known as the Victorian Gold Rush. In less than 2 decades, Melbourne didn't only become the most populous city in Australia but was nothing else than the richest city in the world.

5. Almost half a million Australians volunteered during WWI

A lot of people think of the first World War as a conflict that was mainly contained in Europe. If most of the battles were indeed in Europe, this doesn't mean that the men who were fighting there all were. Between 1914 and 1918, 416,809 Australians volunteered to go to war. This may not seem to be a huge number compared to the millions who fought for France or Germany but on the Australian scale, it was enormous!

At the time, there were only 5 million people in Australia which means that 10% of the population went to war. This was 39% of the male population. 60,000 Australians died during World War I including 8,141 during the Gallipoli battle.

6. 1.5 million of British came to Australia under the Ten Pound Immigration Scheme

In the 70s, people in the UK were offered to participate in a new immigration scheme for Australia. Basically, the government would take care of everything and would even re-built their houses and find them the same job if they would go. The only thing people had to do was to pay 10 pounds. Over 1.5 million people seized the opportunity. Entire neighbourhoods were reconstructed. People were encouraged to convince their relatives and friends. These migrants are now referred to as Ten Pound Poms.

7. Melbourne was the capital of Australia for 26 years

Australia became a federation in 1901 and the government decided to build a brand new capital city, Canberra. However, this process took quite a bit of time. 26 years to be exact! Canberra was finished and officially became the capital in 1927. Up until then, Melbourne acted as the interim capital.

8. Sydney, with more than 5 million inhabitants, is the biggest city in Australia

There are more than 5 million people living in Sydney which makes it the biggest city in Australia. Melbourne has a bit less than 5 million inhabitants. Between the two of them, Melbourne and Sydney are home to 40% of the Australian population

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 2 -

1. 85% of Australians live on the coast

Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world. 85% of the population lives less than 50km off the coast. This creates an impressive contrast as it's a huge country where most of the lands are not inhabited and few of them have a very high density.

2- Melbourne is home to the largest population of Greeks outside of Greece

Melbourne is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world so it's not a surprised to find a lot of greeks. However, you may be surprised to know that it is home to the largest Greek population outside of Greece itself. The Greek immigration started during the Victorian gold rush. Today, there are 400,000 people with Greek heritage Australia.

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5- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living organism in the world

The Great Barrier Reef is made of coral. This living organism is essential to the protection of the coast and most marine It stretches over 2,300 km which makes it the largest living organism in the world!

6- Melbourne was the richest city in the world during the Victorian Gold Rush

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1. Uluru is the largest monolith in the world

A monolith is an archaeological term describing a large single upright block of stone. There are many examples of monoliths in the world but the most famous and biggest one is Uluru. It's 348 metres high and occupies an area of 3.33 sq km. Located in the red centre, Uluru is also one of the most famous landmarks in Australia.

2. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world

Australia is 7 692 024 km², making it the 6th largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, the USA, China and Brazil. Altogether, it represents 5% of the world's land area. To put it into perspective, Australia is 10 times bigger than France or the American state of Texas.

3. Australia's population is only 25 million

There are 25,687,041 inhabitants in Australia (as of June 2020). This is pretty unusual, especially knowing the size of the country.

The density of population is only 3.2 per square kilometre, which is one of the lowest densities in the world.

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5. The dog fence is the largest man-made landmark in Australia

The Dog Fence (or Dingo Fence) was built in the 1880s.

It is meant to keep away from the dingoes from the farms and protect the sheep.

It goes from Queensland to South Australia and is 5,614 km long.

This is (from far) the largest man-made landmark in Australia and one of the longest structures in the world.

If you ever go on a road trip from Adelaide to Uluru, make sure to stop at the Breakaways, near Coober Pedy. It's an excellent place to see it.

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AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 4-

1- - Australia is the largest country in the Southern Hemisphere

We mentioned before that Brazil was slightly larger than Australia so you might expect it to be the largest country in the Southern Hemisphere, however, the equator goes through Brazil which means that part of it is in the Northern Hemisphere. Although Brazil is largely in the Southern Hemisphere, this area is not quite as large as Australia.

2- . Australia is the largest country without land borders

This one will probably not surprise you but Australia is the largest country without land borders. The second-largest would be New Zealand and it is 20 times smaller than Australia.

3- . 65% of the population lives in New South Wales

With 7.95 million residents, New South Wales is the most populous state in Australia. 65% of the population in NSW lives in Greater Sydney.

4. Australia is home to the largest cattle ranch in the world (that alone is as big as than Sicily).

Waggoner Ranch is the largest cattle ranch in the world. It includes over 6 million acres of land and 160,000 head of cattle. The ranch is located in Anna Creek Station in South Australia. It's 2h30 away from **Coober Pedy**.

To give you a good idea of its size, the ranch alone is as big as the Italian island of Sicily which is the largest island in the Mediterranean sea.

5- 1.5 million of British came to Australia under the Ten Pound Immigration Scheme

In the 70s, people in the UK were offered to participate in a new immigration scheme for Australia. Basically, the government would take care of everything and would even re-built their houses and find them the same job if they would go. The only thing people had to do was to pay 10 pounds. Over 1.5 million people seized the opportunity. Entire neighbourhoods were reconstructed. People were encouraged to convince their relatives and friends. These migrants are now referred to as Ten Pound Poms.

6- . Australia's first police force was made up of 12 convicts

The first men who were sent to Australia by the British empire were convicts.

By the time the Australian society started to require a police force, the human resources were still mainly made of convicts. Residents without criminal backgrounds were a minority.

At the time, Australia was governed by Governor Phillip who made the decision of appointing the 12 best-behaved convicts as the "Night watch" which was the first police force in Australia.

7. Swimming at public beaches during the day used to be illegal in Australia

Up until 1902/1903, swimming at a public beach was prohibited during the day.

This was a matter of public decency. The ban on public daylight bathing was fully lifted in 1903.

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The desert covers 35% of Australia. It receives barely any rain. In total, 70% of the mainland receives less than 500 millimetres of rain annually. This is considered arid or semi-arid. Except for Antarctica, no other continent in the world receives so little rain, making Australia the driest continent on Earth.

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8- More land is covered by pubs than mines in Australia

Want more funny facts Australia? Daly Waters Pub in the Northern Territory displays all sorts of belongings on its walls including bras and T-shirts Mining is one of the most important industries in Australia. It takes up a lot of lands especially in mining towns like Kalgoorlie or Coober Pedy. Yet, it only takes up 10 million hectares which is 0.01% of the land. In comparison, pubs cover more land in Australia than mines.

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3- An Australian man once tried to sell New Zealand on eBay

In 2006, the Australian comedian Issac Butterfield tried to sell New Zealand on eBay. The starting price was \$0.01. The auction went up to \$3,000 before being closed down by eBay.

After that, he created a Gofundme campaign for the same purpose. Of course, he didn't actually sell New Zealand but did raise a lot of funds that he then gave to 2 charities.

4- Canberra was built for the sole purpose of being the capital because Sydney and Melbourne kept arguing over the title

In 1901, Australia became a federation which means it was time to choose a capital city. Melbourne and Sydney started arguing over the title. So much so that it was decided a new city would be created with the sole purpose of being the Australian capital.

The state of New South Wales gave a bit of land which became the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Canberra was built.

5. Canberra was placed inland so the MPs wouldn't go surfing

The main reason for placing Canberra where it is was to be halfway between Sydney and Melbourne. However, this could have been on the coast as well especially since most Australians live on the coast.

However, it was decided otherwise so the members of parliament wouldn't go to the beach surfing all the time. Therefore, the best place was to build Canberra inland!

6- . Although Australia is home to some of the deadliest animals on earth, what really scares the Australians is the Australian magpies

There are all sorts of dangerous animals in Australia. Crocodiles, brown snakes, redback spiders... you name it. That said, if you ask an Australian what animal really scares them, they are likely to say the magpies!

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3. Almost half a million Australians volunteered during WWI

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The density of population is only 3.2 per square kilometre, which is one of the lowest densities in the world.

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6. The Australian Alps receive more snowfall than Switzerland

This one is definitely one of the most surprising facts about Australia in this list. According to several documentaries, some parts of the Australian Alps receive more snow than Switzerland. The Snowy Mountains, in [New South Wales](#), also receive an impressive quantity of snow each year.

7-. Sydney, with more than 5 million inhabitants, is the biggest city in Australia

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5. Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world

Located on the coast of Queensland, near [Hervey Bay](#) and [Noosa](#), Fraser Island (K'Gari) is the largest sand island in the world. It's 123 kilometres long and 22km wide.

6. There are 8,222 islands in Australia

They are located all around the country, from the Torres Strait to sub-Antarctic latitudes. Some of these islands are open to visitors and easily accessible, others are very remote and not suitable for tourists. The most famous islands in Australia are the [Whitsundays](#). They are the most [visited place in Australia](#). Other famous names are [Kangaroo Island](#), Phillip Island, Magnetic Island and Rottnest Island.

7. There are 10 deserts in Australia

As Australia is the driest continent on the planet, it's only normal that it boasts many deserts.

8. Australia is the only country in the world which has a town with a number as a name (1770)

Seventeen-Seveny is a beautiful small beach town in Queensland. It was named that way because that's the second place where captain Cook landed in Australia, in 1770. The town is built at the exact place where the HM Bark Endeavour landed in May 1770. There are no other towns in the world that were named after a number

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In the 70s, people in the UK were offered to participate in a new immigration scheme for Australia. Basically, the government would take care of everything and would even re-built their houses and find them the same job if they would go. The only thing people had to do was to pay 10 pounds. Over 1.5 million people seized the opportunity. Entire neighbourhoods were reconstructed. People were encouraged to convince their relatives and friends. These migrants are now referred to as Ten Pound Poms.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS -12 -

1- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living organism in the world

The Great Barrier Reef is made of coral. This living organism is essential to the protection of the coast and most marine life stretches over 2,300 km which makes it the largest living organism in the world!

2- . Australia is home to 20 of the world's most poisonous snakes

Australia is home to 211 (known) species of snakes. Out of the 25 deadliest snakes in the world, 20 can be found in Australia.

3. Australia's population is only 25 million

There are 25,687,041 inhabitants in Australia (as of June 2020). This is pretty unusual, especially knowing the size of the country.

4. Australia is one of the most open-minded nations in the world

Australia is a very diverse and multicultural nation. Australians are known to be very open-minded. They love foreigners, other cultures and are very welcoming. Australia legalised same-sex marriage in 2017 but was already recognising same-sex relationships since 2003 and people were allowed to apply for de-facto visa (while being in a same-sex relationship) from 2009.

5. Almost half a million Australians volunteered during WWI

A lot of people think of the first World War as a conflict that was mainly contained in Europe. If most of the battles were indeed in Europe, this doesn't mean that the men who were fighting there all were. Between 1914 and 1918, 416,809 Australians volunteered to go to war. This may not seem to be a huge number compared to the millions who fought for France or Germany but on the Australian scale, it was enormous!

At the time, there were only 5 million people in Australia which means that 10% of the population went to war. This was 39% of the male population. 60,000 Australians died during World War I including 8,141 during the Gallipoli battle.

6. Australians love food and drinks

This is one of the most important facts about Australian culture. Australians love food and drinks! You may not think of Oz as a foodie destination but yet, there is a lot to say about food in Australia. There may not be many typical dishes but the food in Australia is excellent. Firstly, due to the variety of climates, Australia is able to grow all sorts of products. Fruit and veggies taste amazing in Australia! Another reason for the foodie culture is the multicultural side of the country. With such a strong Italian, Greek and Chinese population, it's only normal that you will find delicious dishes, especially in restaurants.

7-. Australian spelling comes from British spelling

Many people assume that Australian English is similar to American English. In reality, Australian English follows British Spelling very closely. Most of the words come from the British version rather than American. There are a few exceptions to the rule but as a general thing, if you don't know how to spell a word as an Australian, use the British spelling.

8. Australia's population is only 25 million

There are 25,687,041 inhabitants in Australia (as of June 2020). This is pretty unusual, especially knowing the size of the country. The density of population is only 3.2 per square kilometre, which is one of the lowest densities in the world. To give you an idea, it's 36/km² in the USA and 275/km² in the UK.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS -13 -

1- Australia is the only country in the world which has a town with a number as a name (1770)

Seventeen-Seventy is a beautiful small beach town in Queensland. It was named that way because that's the second place where captain Cook landed in Australia, in 1770.

The town is built at the exact place where the HM Bark Endeavour landed in May 1770.

There are no other towns in the world that were named after a number!

2- Voting is compulsory in Australia

In most countries in the world, voting is considered a civic duty but is not compulsory. This is not the case in Australia. It is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens to enrol and vote in federal elections, by-elections and referendums. The reason for that is that compulsory voting keeps the Australian political system responsive to the people.

Australians will be fined if they don't vote. The fine is \$20 for first-time offenders and increases to \$50 if the person has been convicted of this offence previously.

3-. 49% of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was.

Australia is a very cosmopolitan country. So much so that almost half of Australians were either born overseas or have a parent who was. 28% of the Australian population were first-generation Australians.

4- Highway 1 is the longest national highway in the world

Highway 1 goes from Darwin (NT) to Cairns (QLD). It stretches over 14,500 km and is the longest national highway in the world.

The longest highway in the world is the Pan-American Highway. This one is 30,000 km but goes through many countries in South America. When it comes to only one country, Australian Highway 1 is from far the longest.

As a road tripper, it's also pretty interesting to drive on this road. It's very secluded and a lot of it is single-lane paved which is quite unusual.

5-. Melbourne was ranked the world's most liveable city 7 years in a row, from 2011 to 2017.

The Global Liveability Index assesses which locations around the world provide the best living conditions. Melbourne was awarded the number one spot for seven years in a row (between 2011 and 2017).

6-. The Emu and Kangaroo were chosen as symbols on the coat of arms because they can't walk backwards

The Coat of Arms of Australia symbolises the nation going forward. The Kangaroo and the Emu were chosen for two reasons: they are native-Australian animals and they can't walk backwards which means that the only way forward is progress!

7. The largest Red Kangaroo ever seen was 2.1m tall

There are 4 main species of Kangaroos: Red Kangaroos, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and the Antilopine Kangaroo.

The red kangaroos are known to be the biggest ones. The largest ever recorded was 2.1 m tall and 91kg.

76. There are more camels in Australia than anywhere else in the world

8. Australians love sport

80% of Australians considered sport as a very important part of the Australian culture. Australia hosted the summer Olympics several times and many annual sporting events (Melbourne cup, Australian tennis open...)

The most popular sports are footie (Australian Football Rules), cricket and rugby.

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- they can't walk backwards which means that the only way forward is progress!

5. Uluru is the largest monolith in the world

A monolith is an archaeological term describing a large single upright block of stone. There are many examples of monoliths in the world but the most famous and biggest one is Uluru. It's 348 metres high and occupies an area of 3.33 sq km. Located in the red centre, Uluru is also one of the most famous landmarks in Australia.

6. There are 8,222 islands in Australia

They are located all around the country, from the Torres Strait to sub-Antarctic latitudes. Some of these islands are open to visitors and easily accessible, others are very remote and not suitable for tourists. The most famous islands in Australia are the **Whitsundays**. They are the most [visited place in Australia](#) Other famous names are **Kangaroo Island**, Phillip Island, Magnetic Island and Rottnest Island.

7. Australia is the only country in the world which has a town with a number as a name (1770)

Seventeen-Seveny is a beautiful small beach town in Queensland. It was named that way because that's the second place where captain Cook landed in Australia, in 1770. The town is built at the exact place where the HM Bark Endeavour landed in May 1770. There are no other towns in the world that were named after a number!

8- Australia is the 6th largest country in the world

Australia is 7 692 024 km², making it the 6th largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, the USA, China and Brazil. Altogether, it represents 5% of the world's land area. To put it into perspective, Australia is 10 times bigger than France or the American state of Texas.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 15 -

1. 49% of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was.

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4. Australia is one of the most open-minded nations in the world

Australia is a very diverse and multicultural nation. Australians are known to be very open-minded. They love foreigners, other cultures and are very welcoming. Australia legalised same-sex marriage in 2017 but was already recognising same-sex relationships since 2003 and people were allowed to apply for de-facto visa (while being in a same-sex relationship) from 2009.

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This is one of the most important facts about Australian culture. Australians love food and drinks! You may not think of Oz as a foodie destination but yet, there is a lot to say about food in Australia. There may not be many typical dishes but the food in Australia is excellent. Firstly, due to the variety of climates, Australia is able to grow all sorts of products. Fruit and veggies taste amazing in Australia! Another reason for the foodie culture is the multicultural side of the country. With such a strong Italian, Greek and Chinese population, it's only normal that you will find delicious dishes, especially in restaurants.

6. Australian spelling comes from British spelling

Many people assume that Australian English is similar to American English. In reality, Australian English follows British Spelling very closely. Most of the words come from the British version rather than American. There are a few exceptions to the rule but as a general thing, if you don't know how to spell a word as an Australian, use the British spelling.

7. Australia is home to 20 of the world's most poisonous snakes

Australia is home to 211 (known) species of snakes. Out of the 25 deadliest snakes in the world, 20 can be found in Australia.

8-. The black box (flight recorder) was invented in Australia

The flight data recorder (black box) and cockpit voice recorder were invented by the Australian Scientist David Warren. He was living in Melbourne at the time. Warren passed away in 2010

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 16 -

1. Most of Australia's flora and fauna is native from Australia and can't be found anywhere else in the world.

Australia has separated from Gondwana over 180 million years ago. Due to this isolation, the flora and fauna in Australia are very unique. More than 80% of native-Australian species can't be found anywhere else in the world.

2- The termites' mounds in Australia are the tallest animal-made structures in the world

Referred to as cathedral termites mounds, these impressive structures can be up to 8 metres high! You can find them in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Litchfield National Park is a great place to admire them.

They are the tallest animal-made structures in the world.

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The largest bird in the world is the ostrich. On average, it weighs 104 kg and is 2.1 m tall.

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6. The Emu can run as fast as 50km/h

Emus are one of the largest birds in Australia. They are also surprisingly fast! They can run as fast as 50km/h which is as fast as a cat.

Kangaroos can run at 70km/h

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7- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living organism in the world

The Great Barrier Reef is made of coral. This living organism is essential to the protection of the coast and most marine life. It stretches over 2,300 km which makes it the largest living organism in the world!

8- Melbourne was the richest city in the world during the Victorian Gold Rush

Up until the late 1860s, Sydney was the biggest and richest city in Australia. In 1851, the discovery of gold in the state of Victoria changes everything. People came from all over the world to search for it. This is known as the Victorian Gold Rush. In less than 2 decades, Melbourne didn't only become the most populous city in Australia but was nothing else than the richest city in the world.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 19 -

1. The Emu can run as fast as 50km/h

Emus are one of the largest birds in Australia. They are also surprisingly fast! They can run as fast as 50km/h which is as fast as a cat. Kangaroos can run at 70km/h

2. The Box Jellyfish is responsible for more deaths than sharks, snakes and crocodiles.

The box jellyfish is one of the deadliest creatures in the world. When we think of deadly animals in Australia, sharks, snakes and crocodiles come to mind first. Yet, all of them together don't kill as many people as the box jellyfish.

The box jellyfish is particularly present in Queensland. It's the reason why you can't swim in Cairns for example. It's very small. It can go up to 20 cm but is usually way smaller than that and is highly poisonous. The venom is so strong that most people don't even have time to swim back to shore. The venom creates a series of heart attacks.

3. Platypus are highly poisonous

The platypus is one of the rare mammals that produce venom. Males have a spur on the back of their hind feet.

While the pain caused by Platypus venom is described as horrible, it is not deadly.

4. Platypus and Echidnas are the only two mammals in the world that lay eggs to give birth

This is a bit of an odd fact about Australian animals. One of the main characteristics of mammals is that they give birth to their offsprings and then feed them with milk. Platypus and Echidnas lay eggs instead. Yet they are considered mammals.

This is very unique as they are the only 2 mammals in the world doing that. This shows how well-preserved the Australian wildlife has been for million of years.

5. The largest Red Kangaroo ever seen was 2.1m tall

There are 4 main species of Kangaroos: Red Kangaroos, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and the Antilopine Kangaroo.

The red kangaroos are known to be the biggest ones. The largest ever recorded was 2.1 m tall and 91kg.

6. There are more camels in Australia than anywhere else in the world

As you may expect, camels aren't native from Australia. They were imported by British settlers during the 19th century to help to build roads in the outback. Once they were done, they decided to abandon them in the desert. Thinking they would die there.

Well, this clearly wasn't going to happen. Not only didn't they disappear, but the population of camels grew exponentially. So much so that there are now 1.2 million camels in Australia. This is more than in most Middle East countries! Australia is home to the largest herd of camels in the world.

7. Saudi Arabia imports camels from Australia

This is definitely one of the most surprising facts about Australia. Saudi Arabia (which is home to one of the largest populations of camels in the world) import camels from Australia.

While Saudi Arabia breeds camels as well, most of them are used for racing and domestic purposes. The camels imported from Australia on the other hand are used for their meat.

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7- . Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world

Located on the coast of Queensland, near [Hervey Bay](#) and [Noosa](#), Fraser Island (K'Gari) is the largest sand island in the world. It's 123 kilometres long and 22km wide.

8- Canberra was built for the sole purpose of being the capital because Sydney and Melbourne kept arguing over the title

In 1901, Australia became a federation which means it was time to choose a capital city. Melbourne and Sydney started arguing over the title. So much so that it was decided a new city would be created with the sole purpose of being the Australian capital. The state of New South Wales gave a bit of land which became the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and Canberra was built.

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2. The termites' mounds in Australia are the tallest animal-made structures in the world

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3- 85% of Australians live on the coast

Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world. 85% of the population lives less than 50km off the coast. This creates an impressive contrast as it's a huge country where most of the lands are not inhabited and few of them have a very high density.

4- - More land is covered by pubs than mines in Australia

Want more funny facts Australia? Daly Waters Pub in the Northern Territory displays all sorts of belongings on its walls including bras and T-shirts Mining is one of the most important industries in Australia. It takes up a lot of lands especially in mining towns like Kalgoorlie or Coober Pedy. Yet, it only takes up 10 million hectares which is 0.01% of the land. In comparison, pubs cover more land in Australia than mines.

5. Most of Australia's flora and fauna is native from Australia and can't be found anywhere else in the world.

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The third largest bird in the world is also a native-Australian bird: the emu. It is on average 33 kg and 1.53 m tall.

6. Canberra was placed inland so the MPs wouldn't go surfing

The main reason for placing Canberra where it is was to be halfway between **Sydney and Melbourne**. However, this could have been on the coast as well especially since most Australians live on the coast.

However, it was decided otherwise so the members of parliament wouldn't go to the beach surfing all the time. Therefore, the best place was to build Canberra inland!

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8- Australia is the largest country without land borders

This one will probably not surprise you but Australia is the largest country without land borders.

The second-largest would be New Zealand and it is 20 times smaller than Australia.

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5- Australia is the largest country in the Southern Hemisphere

We mentioned before that Brazil was slightly larger than Australia so you might expect it to be the largest country in the Southern Hemisphere, however, the equator goes through Brazil which means that part of it is in the Northern Hemisphere.

Although Brazil is largely in the Southern Hemisphere, this area is not quite as large as Australia.

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7. The Great Ocean Road is the world's largest war memorial

The Great Ocean Road is one of the most famous [drives in Australia](#), with stunning views and scenic vistas along the route. Built by returning soldiers after World War One, the road was dedicated as a memorial to those who died fighting and was designed to connect the isolated communities that clung to the edge of Victoria's rugged coastline.

8. 80% of the animals are unique to Australia

The animals of Australia are some of the most interesting in the world, from cuddly marsupials to a huge variety of birds. There are so many opportunities to experience the wildlife of the country, from zoos and parks to spotting these unique creatures in the wild.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 24 -

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The Great Ocean Road is one of the most famous [drives in Australia](#), with stunning views and scenic vistas along the route. Built by returning soldiers after World War One, the road was dedicated as a memorial to those who died fighting and was designed to connect the isolated communities that clung to the edge of Victoria's rugged coastline.

2-. Australia is the largest country in the Southern Hemisphere

We mentioned before that Brazil was slightly larger than Australia so you might expect it to be the largest country in the Southern Hemisphere, however, the equator goes through Brazil which means that part of it is in the Northern Hemisphere.

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The sandy shores of Fraser Island are a highlight of any trip to Queensland. Hervey Bay is the jumping-off point for exploring the island, the clear blue waters of Lake MacKenzie surrounded by the white sand shore and the serenity of Champagne Pools, where you can swim in the shallow pools at the edge of the ocean. There are 150 dingoes on the island so it is a great opportunity to spot one of Australia's famous wild dogs but keep your distance as they are wild animals and can be aggressive if approached

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The majority of the wine regions are in New South Wales and Victoria.

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AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 25 -

1- Australia is the largest country without land borders

This one will probably not surprise you but Australia is the largest country without land borders.

The second-largest would be New Zealand and it is 20 times smaller than Australia.

2- Australia has over 60 separate wine regions

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5. Australia's population is only 25 million

There are 25,687,041 inhabitants in Australia (as of June 2020). This is pretty unusual, especially knowing the size of the country.

The density of population is only 3.2 per square kilometre, which is one of the lowest densities in the world.

To give you an idea, it's 36/km² in the USA and 275/km² in the UK.

6. 85% of Australians live on the coast

Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world. 85% of the population lives less than 50km off the coast. This creates an impressive contrast as it's a huge country where most of the lands are not inhabited and few of them have a very high density.

7. Canberra was placed inland so the MPs wouldn't go surfing

The main reason for placing Canberra where it is was to be halfway between **Sydney and Melbourne**. However, this could have been on the coast as well especially since most Australians live on the coast.

However, it was decided otherwise so the members of parliament wouldn't go to the beach surfing all the time. Therefore, the best place was to build Canberra inland!

8- . 65% of the population lives in New South Wales

With 7.95 million residents, New South Wales is the most populous state in Australia. 65% of the population in NSW lives in Greater Sydney.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 26 -

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2. The Cassowary is the second largest bird in the world

The largest bird in the world is the ostrich. On average, it weighs 104 kg and is 2.1 m tall.

The cassowary is the second largest bird in the world. It is on average 45kg and 1.55 m tall.

The third largest bird in the world is also a native-Australian bird: the emu. It is on average 33 kg and 1.53 m tall.

3. The Great Ocean Road is the world's largest war memorial

The Great Ocean Road is one of the most famous [drives in Australia](#), with stunning views and scenic vistas along the route. Built by returning soldiers after World War One, the road was dedicated as a memorial to those who died fighting and was designed to connect the isolated communities that clung to the edge of Victoria's rugged coastline.

4- Most of Australia's flora and fauna is native from Australia and can't be found anywhere else in the world.

Australia has separated from Gondwana over 180 million years ago. Due to this isolation, the flora and fauna in Australia are very unique. More than 80% of native-Australian species can't be found anywhere else in the world.

5- The termites' mounds in Australia are the tallest animal-made structures in the world

Referred to as cathedral termites mounds, these impressive structures can be up to 8 metres high! You can find them in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. They are the tallest animal-made structures in the world.

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8- Australians love sport

80% of Australians considered sport as a very important part of the Australian culture.

Australia hosted the summer Olympics several times and many annual sporting events (Melbourne cup, Australian tennis open...)

The most popular sports are footie (Australian Football Rules), cricket and rugby.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 27 -

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6. Australia is one of the most open-minded nations in the world

Australia is a very diverse and multicultural nation. Australians are known to be very open-minded. They love foreigners, other cultures and are very welcoming. Australia legalised same-sex marriage in 2017 but was already recognising same-sex relationships since 2003 and people were allowed to apply for de-facto visa (while being in a same-sex relationship) from 2009.

7. Australians love food and drinks

This is one of the most important facts about Australian culture. Australians love food and drinks! You may not think of Oz as a foodie destination but yet, there is a lot to say about food in Australia. There may not be many typical dishes but the food in Australia is excellent. Firstly, due to the variety of climates, Australia is able to grow all sorts of products. Fruit and veggies taste amazing in Australia! Another reason for the foodie culture is the multicultural side of the country. With such a strong Italian, Greek and Chinese population, it's only normal that you will find delicious dishes, especially in restaurants.

8. 49% of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was.

Australia is a very cosmopolitan country. So much so that almost half of Australians were either born overseas or have a parent who was. 28% of the Australian population were first-generation Australians.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 23

1- Australia was the second country in the world to grant women the right to vote. This was in 1894.

New Zealand was the first country in the world to allow women to vote. Australia did so in 1894, making it the second country in the world to grant it. At the time, Australia wasn't a federation yet. Only South Australia granted women's suffrage in 1894. Nowadays, we all think it's normal but this was pretty exceptional at the time! To give you an idea of how other countries did, here are some dates: United-Kingdom: 1918, France: 1944 , Switzerland: 1971, Saudi Arabia: 2015

2. Indian Pacific train has the longest straight section of train track in the world

Australia boasts a number of spectacular [rail journeys](#). Between Sydney and Perth lies the Indian Pacific, the railway that snakes its way across the country through the stunning Blue Mountains into the outback towards the mountainous Flinders Ranges.

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4- Sydney, with more than 5 million inhabitants, is the biggest city in Australia

There are more than 5 million people living in Sydney which makes it the biggest city in Australia. Melbourne has a bit less than 5 million inhabitants. Between the two of them, Melbourne and Sydney are home to 40% of the Australian population

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6- . 1.5 million of British came to Australia under the Ten Pound Immigration Scheme

In the 70s, people in the UK were offered to participate in a new immigration scheme for Australia. Basically, the government would take care of everything and would even re-built their houses and find them the same job if they would go. The only thing people had to do was to pay 10 pounds. Over 1.5 million people seized the opportunity. Entire neighbourhoods were reconstructed. People were encouraged to convince their relatives and friends. These migrants are now referred to as Ten Pound Poms.

7- Melbourne is home to the largest population of Greeks outside of Greece

Melbourne is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world so it's not a surprised to find a lot of greeks. However, you may be surprised to know that it is home to the largest Greek population outside of Greece itself. The Greek immigration started during the Victorian gold rush. Today, there are 400,000 people with Greek heritage Australia.

8. 2.5 km of Uluru is underground

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The majority of the wine regions are in New South Wales and Victoria.

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AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 29 -

1- . Australia is home to 20 of the world's most poisonous snakes

Australia is home to 211 (known) species of snakes. Out of the 25 deadliest snakes in the world, 20 can be found in Australia.

2- The termites' mounds in Australia are the tallest animal-made structures in the world

Referred to as cathedral termites mounds, these impressive structures can be up to 8 metres high! You can find them in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. They are the tallest animal-made structures in the world

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The reason for that is that compulsory voting keeps the Australian political system responsive to the people.

Australians will be fined if they don't vote. The fine is \$20 for first-time offenders and increases to \$50 if the person has been convicted of this offence **previously**.

2. Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world

Located on the coast of Queensland, near [Hervey Bay](#) and [Noosa](#), Fraser Island (K'Gari) is the largest sand island in the world. It's 123 kilometres long and 22km wide.

3. The Australian Alps receive more snowfall than Switzerland

This one is definitely one of the most surprising facts about Australia in this list. According to several documentaries, some parts of the Australian Alps receive more snow than Switzerland. The Snowy Mountains, in [New South Wales](#), also receive an impressive quantity of snow each year.

4. Highway 1 is the longest national highway in the world

Highway 1 goes from Darwin (NT) to [Cairns](#) (QLD). It stretches over 14,500 km and is the longest national highway in the world. The longest highway in the world is the Pan-American Highway. This one is 30,000 km but goes through many countries in South America. When it comes to only one country, Australian Highway 1 is from far the longest.

As a road tripper, it's also pretty interesting to drive on this road. It's very secluded and a lot of it is single-lane paved which is quite unusual.

5. Australia is the only country in the world which has a town with a number as a name (1770)

Seventeen-Seventy is a beautiful small beach town in Queensland. It was named that way because that's the second place where captain Cook landed in Australia, in 1770. The town is built at the exact place where the HM Bark Endeavour landed in May 1770. There are no other towns in the world that were named after a number

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To give you an idea, it's 36/km² in the USA and 275/km² in the UK.

8 - . Melbourne was the richest city in the world during the Victorian Gold Rush

Up until the late 1860s, Sydney was the biggest and richest city in Australia. In 1851, the discovery of gold in the state of Victoria changes everything. People came from all over the world to search for it.

This is known as the Victorian Gold Rush. In less than 2 decades, Melbourne didn't only become the most populous city in Australia but was nothing else than the richest city in the world.

AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS -32 -

1- Australians love food and drinks

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2. There are 8,222 islands in Australia

They are located all around the country, from the Torres Strait to sub-Antarctic latitudes. Some of these islands are open to visitors and easily accessible, others are very remote and not suitable for tourists. The most famous islands in Australia are the [Whitsundays](#). They are the most [visited place in Australia](#). Other famous names are [Kangaroo Island](#), Phillip Island, Magnetic Island and Rottnest Island.

3. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world

Australia is 7 692 024 km², making it the 6th largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, the USA, China and Brazil. Altogether, it represents 5% of the world's land area. To put it into perspective, Australia is 10 times bigger than France or the American state of Texas.

4-. There are 10 deserts in Australia

As Australia is the driest continent on the planet, it's only normal that it boasts many deserts.

5- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living organism in the world

The Great Barrier Reef is made of coral. This living organism is essential to the protection of the coast and most marine life stretches over 2,300 km which makes it the largest living organism in the world!

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AUSTRALIAN FUN FACTS – 31

1. The Emu and Kangaroo were chosen as symbols on the coat of arms because they can't walk backwards

The Coat of Arms of Australia symbolises the nation going forward. The Kangaroo and the Emu were chosen for two reasons: they are native-Australian animals

- they can't walk backwards which means that the only way forward is progress!

2. Australia's first police force was made up of 12 convicts

The first men who were sent to Australia by the British empire were convicts. By the time the Australian society started to require a police force, the human resources were still mainly made of convicts. Residents without criminal backgrounds were a minority. At the time, Australia was governed by Governor Phillip who made the decision of appointing the 12 best-behaved convicts as the "Night watch" which was the first police force in Australia.

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4 - More land is covered by pubs than mines in Australia

Want more funny facts Australia? Daly Waters Pub in the Northern Territory displays all sorts of belongings on its walls including bras and T-shirts Mining is one of the most important industries in Australia. It takes up a lot of lands especially in mining towns like Kalgoorlie or Coober Pedy. Yet, it only takes up 10 million hectares which is 0.01% of the land. In comparison, pubs cover more land in Australia than mines.

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6. Uluru is the largest monolith in the world

A monolith is an archaeological term describing a large single upright block of stone. There are many examples of monoliths in the world but the most famous and biggest one is Uluru. It's 348 metres high and occupies an area of 3.33 sq km. Located in the red centre, Uluru is also one of the most famous landmarks in Australia.

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