



Australian Government
**Australian Customs and
Border Protection Service**

GUIDE FOR TRAVELLERS

know before you go





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Introduction Heading overseas?

Are you one of more than 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 and Border Protection at an international airport or seaport.

Customs and Border Protection 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 depart Australia
- check arriving and departing travellers' documents
- question and search arriving travellers and their baggage for prohibited or restricted goods
- search aircraft for prohibited or restricted goods
- seize prohibited 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 or restricted goods
- collect duty and tax on imported goods.

Customs and Border Protection 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.





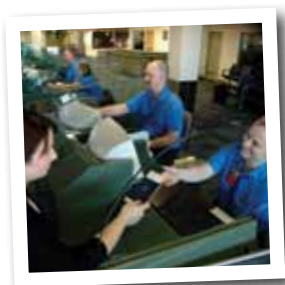
The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) also operate at airports and seaports and you will need to clear Quarantine when you travel into Australia. Quarantine officers work alongside Customs and Border Protection officers at airports and seaports to ensure travellers aren't carrying any 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 prohibited or restricted goods.
3. If you will be carrying medicine for personal use, refer to page 9 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. Understand personal duty-free concessions you are entitled to in Australia and your overseas destination. For more information refer to page 12.
6. It is sensible to lock your carry-on and checked luggage.

Are you travelling for business?

If you are travelling for business, please refer to information for business travellers at www.customs.gov.au



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Departing Australia

When departing Australia you need to present your passport, completed Outgoing Passenger Card and boarding pass to a Customs and Border Protection 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 (LAGS). For more information on LAGS 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 Border Protection and security and process any Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) claims.
2. If you have expensive personal items like computers or cameras that you are taking with you that:
 - a. you intend to bring back to Australia
 - b. you are not claiming a TRS refund
 - c. are not duty-free goods

then you may register them on the **Goods Exported in Passenger Baggage Form**.

Goods must be inspected by an officer in the Customs and Border Protection office at the departure point.

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



Departing by sea

If you are departing 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 and Border Protection for outwards clearance at the location and time advised by the ship.

Departing by pleasure craft

There are specific customs requirements for departing Australia by yacht or pleasure craft. For more information visit www.customs.gov.au/site/page4260.asp

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

The image shows a digital form titled "Outgoing passenger card - Australia". It is divided into several sections: "Passenger details" with fields for name, address, and contact information; "Declaration" with checkboxes for "I am not carrying any goods", "I am carrying goods", and "I am carrying restricted goods"; and "Declaration of goods" with a table for listing items. The table has columns for "Quantity", "Description", "Value", and "Type". There are also checkboxes for "I am carrying restricted goods" and "I am carrying prohibited goods".



Arriving in Australia

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

Your baggage may be x-rayed or examined by Customs and Border Protection or Quarantine to detect prohibited, restricted or dutiable goods and you may be questioned by officers.

In the passenger hall you may see Customs and Border Protection using dogs to search for drugs and other prohibited or restricted goods.

If you are caught carrying undeclared, prohibited or restricted goods, 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 and Border Protection officer at all times.
3. Declare on your Incoming Passenger Card all drugs, steroids and high dependency prescription medicines which may be subject to misuse, food, plants and animal products or other goods as listed in the restricted goods section of this guide.
4. Make sure you know Customs and Border Protection's duty-free concessions before you go shopping. See page 12 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 and Border Protection. When permanently leaving the ship, at either the first or subsequent ports, you need to present your baggage and Incoming Passenger Card to Customs and Border Protection for clearance.

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

Arriving by pleasure craft

There are specific customs requirements for arriving in Australia on a yacht or other pleasure craft. For more information visit www.customs.gov.au/site/page4260.asp

I 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

The image shows a digital form titled 'Incoming passenger card - Australia'. It contains several sections with checkboxes and input fields. Key sections include: 'Personal information', 'Baggage', 'Health declaration', 'Do you intend to stay in Australia for more than 90 days?', 'Do you have any controlled substances?', and 'Do you have any cash or foreign currency?'. There are also sections for 'Duty-free allowances' and 'Other information'. The form is partially filled out with text and checked boxes.

Mobile phones, cameras, video cameras and recording devices must not be used in Customs and Border Protection 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 and Border Protection. Customs and Border Protection can and will ask you to delete any photos or film recorded if you are caught taking photos or recording in Customs and Border Protection controlled areas.

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Prohibited and restricted goods

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

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

See page 11 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 prohibited and restricted goods and for making false declarations on your Incoming or Outgoing Passenger Card.

Contact Australian Customs and Border Protection Service or the embassy, high commission or consulate of the countries you're visiting before you travel for more advice about importing or exporting prohibited and restricted goods.





What do I have to declare to Customs and Border Protection?



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 a Customs and Border Protection officer 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.



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.

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Medicines

You need to declare medicines and substances which may be subject to misuse, abuse or dependence, for example, steroids, opioid analgesics, cannabis or narcotic based medications. These products may be restricted or require a permit in order to be imported.

Some traditional medicines may contain endangered plant or animal products and these should be declared to Customs and Border Protection.

No need to declare

If you are carrying medications such as aspirin, paracetamol or Australian over the counter medications you do not need to declare these items to Customs and Border Protection when you arrive in Australia.

If you are carrying prescription medication you do not need to declare these provided you carry a letter of prescription from your doctor in the English language describing your medical condition and you import no more than three months supply.

Departing Australia

Many prescriptions 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 and/or dental practitioner's letter or complete the PBS Medicine Export Declaration available from Medicare Australia.

Important note: If you are residing or visiting Australia for three months or longer and require ongoing medications, it is advisable that you visit an Australian medical practitioner to obtain your prescriptions.

If you are intending to have your medications sent through the mail or via courier, import permits will be required **prior** to importing the medications. It is recommended that you enquire about the import procedures before you arrive in Australia.



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 and Border Protection's Export controls for defence and strategic goods factsheet at www.customs.gov.au

Please note: Dangerous goods such as BB guns, laser pointers and electric shock devices imported without a permit may be confiscated and you could be fined or sent to jail. If you're unsure, you should check Australian import requirements before you buy. For more information visit www.customs.gov.au or phone 1300 363 263.



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DECLARING RESTRICTED GOODS			
Item	Declare on Arrival	Declare on Departure	For more details, contact
Firearms, weapons and ammunition	Yes	Yes	Customs and Border Protection
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	No	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
Medicines and substances which may be subject to misuse, abuse or dependence	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 goods	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.

Personal goods are free from duty and tax if they are:

- owned and used by you overseas for 12 months or more
- imported temporarily (a security may be required by Customs and Border Protection)

For other goods, limits apply. These include goods that are purchased overseas and goods that are purchased in Australia duty or tax free (that have been previously exported), or from an inwards duty free shop on arrival into Australia. Also included are goods for which a TRS claim has been made. Duty free concessions do not apply to commercial goods.



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General goods

If you are aged 18 years or over, you can bring up to A\$900 worth of general goods into Australia duty-free. If you are 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 are 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 are 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. Contact Customs and Border Protection for the definition of family.



Be aware that if you exceed Australia's duty-free concession 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 may be able to claim a GST and Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) refund under the TRS if you:

- are a passenger, not operating air or sea crew
- purchase a minimum of \$300 (GST inclusive) worth of goods from the one retailer
- purchase the goods within 30 days of departing Australia
- have a single tax invoice for the goods
- wear or carry the goods as hand baggage onto the aircraft or ship. Special conditions apply for oversized goods (such as golf clubs and surfboards) and goods that cannot be taken on board as hand baggage due to aviation security measures (such as perfume and wine). Contact Customs and Border Protection for more information.
- present your original tax invoice, goods, passport and international boarding pass to the TRS facility when departing Australia.

Customs and Border Protection has the right to see all goods. If you are unable to present your goods to Customs and Border Protection on request, or evidence that Customs and Border Protection has sighted your goods at your port of departure from Australia your claim will be refused.



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If you are considering bringing goods for which a TRS claim has been made 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 concession limits, the goods must be declared to a Customs and Border Protection officer on your return to Australia. Penalties may apply to undeclared taxable goods.

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.





Where can I get more information?

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

1300 363 263

www.customs.gov.au

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

1800 020 504

+ 61 2 6275 3933 (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

Travel and Tourism Australia

www.australia.com

Complaints & Compliments

To offer a comment on any aspect of Customs and Border Protection service, either complete a Complaints & Compliments brochure available from any Customs and Border Protection office, phone

1800 228 227 (in Australia) or email comments@customs.gov.au



For information on any Customs and Border Protection 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

Information contained within this brochure was correct at time of printing.