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# **VISITING AUSTRALIA**

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*In this chapter you will find information on visiting Australia. There is information on the different types of visas available as well as important information on how to apply for the visa, the cost involved and your rights and obligations if you visit Australia.*

### **Do I need a visa to go to Australia on holiday or for a short stay?**

Yes, you do need a visa to go to Australia for a holiday or short stay. If you are outside Australia and hold an Irish passport you can apply for a visa online or by post. There are a number of visas available for people to visit Australia as a tourist which include:

- Visitor Electronic Travel Authority
- Short Validity Business ETA
- Tourist Visa.

### **Visitor ETA**

If you are travelling to Australia for holidays, tourism, informal studies or training you can apply for a Visitor ETA. An ETA is normally a multi-entry visa which is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. You can stay for up to 3 months on each visit within the 12-month period.

Your ETA is linked to the passport number you give when you make your application and you must use the same passport to travel to Australia. A separate ETA is required for each family member travelling with you to Australia, including those who are under 18 years of age and are included on your passport.

ETA's cannot be extended. If you intend to extend your stay after arriving in Australia you should apply for a different type of visa at least 2 weeks before the expiry date of your current ETA. You may be required to undergo a health examination when you apply for an ETA.

Applications for ETA's can be submitted through travel agents or airlines. You can also submit applications directly through the website [www.eta.immi.gov.au](http://www.eta.immi.gov.au). There is no fee for an ETA however you will have to pay an administration charge of AUD \$20/€15 (2007 figure).

ETA applications are processed almost immediately. The Australian Government electronically records approved applications. When you are checking in at the airport, airline staff can electronically confirm that you have authority to board the flight to Australia. **You are not allowed to work on an ETA.**

## Short Validity Business ETA

If you are travelling for business purposes you can apply for the Short Validity Business ETA. It is valid for 12 months with stays of up to 3 months on each visit and can be used for single or multiple entry travel.

The short validity business ETA is equivalent to a visa but there is no stamp or label in your passport and there is no need for you to visit an Australian embassy/high commission office to submit an application. You can submit an application directly through the website [www.eta.immi.gov.au](http://www.eta.immi.gov.au)

The application is processed almost immediately. The Australian Government electronically records approved applications. When you are checking at the airport airline staff can electronically confirm that you have authority to board the flight to Australia.

## Tourist Visa

If you want to visit Australia for a holiday, tourism, informal training or study, to visit family and/or friends for more than 3 months you will need to apply for a tourist visa.

You can apply for a tourist visa online or by post. When you apply you will have to pay a non-refundable visa application charge of AUD \$75/€50 (2007 figure).

If you are granted this visa you can stay in Australia for up to 12 months depending on the purpose of the visit and your personal circumstances.

### Online applications

You can apply for a tourist visa online [www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visa/visitors.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/visitors.htm). If you apply online you will be given a Transaction Reference Number (TRN). The TRN is a unique number assigned to each completed online application. It is important that you record this number as you will need it if you need to contact the Australian Immigration Department about your application. You can also use your Transaction Reference Number (TRN) to check the status of your online visa application.

If your visa application is approved the Australian Immigration Department will inform you that you have been granted a visa by letter or email. You should keep this notification as you will need it when you travel to Australia. It details your visa 'grant' number, the validity date of your visa and the visa conditions.

Your visa is linked to the passport number you submitted with your application; therefore you must use the same passport to travel to Australia. If you do obtain a new passport you must advise the department of the new passport details before you travel to Australia. If you do not inform the department that you are traveling on a new passport you may be delayed or not allowed to board your plane.

### **Postal application**

If you are going to apply for a tourist visa by post you will need to apply to the Australian High Commission in London as there is no visa processing service in Ireland. For details on all postal applications please see **Chapter 15 - Useful Contacts**.

There is no direct phone line for the Australian High Commission in the UK available for Ireland, so all communication is by post, email or fax. If your visa is approved, you may have a visa label placed in your passport detailing the visa conditions. If your visa is not approved the department will send you a notification letter or email advising you of the reasons for the refusal, your review right to a review and

the time limit for lodging an appeal. You may be able to request a review of the decision by the Migration Review Tribunal. For more information please see the website [www.mrt.gov.au](http://www.mrt.gov.au)

### Can I work in Australia while on an ETA or tourist visa?

No, you **cannot** work in Australia while on a visitor/tourist visa. For more information on the various work visas for Australia please refer to **Chapter 7 - Working in Australia**.

### Are there any vaccinations I will need to have if I am going to Australia on holiday?

Yes, the Australian government requires any person over 1 year of age to hold an international yellow fever vaccination certificate if, within the six days prior to their arrival in Australia, they have stayed overnight or longer in a declared yellow fever infected country in Africa or South America.

## Will I need to get travel insurance if I am going to Australia on a holiday/short stay?

It is always advisable to take out travel insurance before you visit any country. You should always check with your travel agent, bank, and insurance company to see how much travel insurance will cost you and what the travel insurance will cover. If you are visiting Australia you will not need to take out specific medical insurance as the Australian Government has signed a reciprocal Healthcare agreement with the Irish government, which entitles you to limited subsidised health services for medically necessary treatment while visiting Australia.

The reciprocal healthcare agreement covers any treatment that is medically necessary. Medically necessary treatment means any ill-health or injury which occurs while you are in Australia and which requires treatment before you return home.

If you are visiting Australia on a student visa you are not covered by Medicare and will need to take out Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC).

As an Irish citizen, normally resident of Ireland, you are entitled to free treatment as a public in-patient or out patient at a public hospital and access to subsidised medicines during your visit to Australia. This covers any ill health or injury needing medical

treatment while in Australia. To access these benefits you should show your passport at hospitals or pharmacies.

You will not be entitled to (this may be covered in your travel insurance policy):

- Medicine not subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (see **Chapter 8 - Healthcare** for more information)
- Dental work and allied health services
- Treatment arranged before your visit to Australia
- Accommodation and medical treatment in a private hospital
- Accommodation and medical treatment as a private patient in a public hospital.

For more information on this please see the website

[www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/yourhealth/going\\_overseas/vtta.htm](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/yourhealth/going_overseas/vtta.htm)