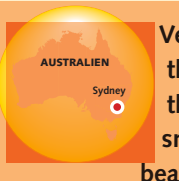




THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

# STS EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA



Very, very soon you will be walking upside down! Well, looking at a world globe it appears that the “Aussies” are walking with feet up and head down! But in reality you will soon find out that the Australians are wonderful people, with their feet firmly on the ground and with a big smile on their face. Most people who visit this huge country fall in love with its friendliness and beauty. We are sure you will too!

We at the STS Office in Sydney have compiled a list of important facts about Australia and the “Down Under” program so that your stay with us will be as happy and fulfilling as possible.

## AUSTRALIA

Collect as many facts as possible about Australia before you arrive. It will make your time here so much more enjoyable and will impress your host family! The Internet has a lot of useful information.

### Did you know that:

- Australia is at least 2 000 million years old?
- Human beings established themselves here at least 40 000 year ago?
- From 1788–1856, 157 000 convicts were sent to Australia?
- Australia consists of 6 states and 2 territories?
- Australia is 24 times larger than the UK?
- People from every corner of the globe live here?
- There are 45 different species of kangaroo?
- “Waltzing Matilda” is NOT the National Anthem?
- “Pavlova” is a national dessert?
- Canberra is the capital?

## STS IN AUSTRALIA

STS has been operating in Australia since 1986 and there is now an office in every state. The head office is situated in Hornsby, a suburb on the northern side of Sydney.



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### **YOUR HOST FAMILY**

As soon as you have received your host family details, please make contact with them either by email, a phone call or if there is enough time- a nice card.

Many of "our" families host year after year and have made wonderful, life long friends among the students they have looked after. You may be sharing with another student not of the same nationality. We try our best to match you with a student of similar age and interests.

The Australians are very friendly and hospitable and they enjoy looking after young people from the other side of the world. It is very important that you try very hard to be part of your host family, be helpful and enjoy their every day activities. Please offer to help with dinner, washing up or other chores. You will be very popular!

### **THE WEATHER**

Although you are not walking with your feet up and head down, there are certain things that are upside down in Australia.

The summer starts in November/December so Australian school children have christmas- and summer holidays at the same time! June, July and August are the winter months and Sydney can get quite cold. The average temperature in July/August is +15°C during the day and much colder during the night. The houses are not as well built as in Europe and are not centrally heated. Most households have small heaters in the living areas but not in the bedrooms. Please bring warm bedclothes or a track suit, you will need it! If you feel very cold, ask your family for an extra blanket.

Only the very brave swim at the famous Sydney beaches during winter. If you are the lucky owner of a wetsuit, it may come in handy while you are here.

### **THE TRANSPORT**

Sydney has a population of five million people. Apartments are now becoming popular but most Sydney people still live in houses and villas with nice gardens and swimming pools in suburbs away from the city. Sydney is spread out over a huge area. You will need to travel by public transport, mostly trains and buses to the activities in the city. Some of you may even travel by ferry! Please see accompanying list for examples of bus/train and ferry fares.

### **SCHEDULE**

Please see next page!

**We wish you a sunny, fun and educational time in Australia!**

**STS Student Travel Schools**



**THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!**

## STS EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA – SCHEDULE

### Day 1

Welcome to Australia! Arrival at Sydney International Airport. Transfer to host families.

### Day 2

Rest and recover. Spend the day resting and meeting with your host family.

### Day 3

Introductory meeting, program introduction, Didgeridoo & Bush Songs.

Sydney City Tour (coach). Citysights including Harbour Bridge, Watsons Bay and Bondi Beach.

### Day 4

Sydney Opera House. Guided tour of the world famous opera house.

Aboriginal cultural cruise. Set sail on a journey to discover the stories of the Aboriginal people.

### Day 5

Sydney Aquarium.

Wander around Darling Harbour, popular sight for visitors, stop at the Chinese Garden for a tea and walk through Chinatown.

### Day 6

The world famous Bondi Beach! Enjoy your lunch on famous Bondi Beach, then walk from Bondi to Coogee. Optional 2-hour surf lesson (\$65) with professional teachers/Let's Go Surfing.

### Day 7 & 8

With your host family.

### Day 9

Taronga Zoo. Situated on the foreshore of Sydney's magnificent harbour, Taronga Zoo showcases more than 350 different species of animals. Get nose to nose with wildlife from across the world.

### Day 10

Centennial Park. Bring a picnic lunch, you can hire bicycles (\$15 for 2 hours) or rollerblades (\$17 for 2 hours). Optional "Park ride" (\$60 to \$70).



About one hour ride through the park. No experience necessary. Professional instructor. Riding boots and helmet provided.

### Day 11

The Art Gallery of New South Wales. Art education morning at The Art Gallery of NSW.

Free time in the afternoon or Sounds of the Outback; Concert in Darling Harbour.

### Day 12

A real Aussie Bushwalk! Walk from Manly Beach to the Spit, an amazing coastal walk through one of Sydney's national parks.

### Day 13

Sports day; beach volleyball. Practice one of Australia's most popular sports on the stunning Manly beach.

### Day 14–21

The Reef Adventure trip. Optional trip to Airlee Beach, door to the Whitsunday Islands. Includes return flight, resort accommodation (breakfast included) and one full day trip to the Outer Reef. Return transfer to Sydney Airport will be organised (at extra cost).

### Day 22

With your host family.

### Day 23

A free day for you to climb the Bridge, go to the beach, wander around the city or shop!

### Day 24–27

Blue Mountains. Trip to the Blue Mountains Heritage Park, Echo Point, the Three Sisters and the Jenolan Caves.

Canberra, the Capital. The National Capital Exhibition, Parliament House, Australian Institute of Sport, Questacon.

### Day 28

Farewell party for students and host families.

### Day 29

Good Bye Sydney! Time to say goodbye to STS, your Aussie family and new friends.

