

Interesting facts about Australia



Australia is an island continent and the world's sixth largest country (7,682,300 sq km).

Lying between the Indian and Pacific oceans, the country is approximately 4,000 km from east to west and 3,200 km from north to south, with a coastline 36,735 km long.

Canberra is Australia's capital city. With a population of approximately 320,000 people. Canberra is roughly half way between the two largest cities Melbourne and Sydney.

Australia's Islands

Australia is fringed by more than 8,000 islands, offering every type of holiday experience. Discover the wild beauty of the islands off Tasmania, itself Australia's biggest island.

Cities



Sydney

Life in Sydney centres on the harbour. Catch a ferry at Circular Quay for views of the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge from the water. Sydney is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the east, the Blue Mountains to the west, the Hawkesbury River to the north and the Royal National Park in the south.



Sydney Opera House

Canberra

There are few capital cities in the world where bush and parkland are so integrated into the city plan. See native plants and animals at Black Mountain, Red Hill, Mt Ainslie, Mt Majura, Mt Taylor and Mt Pleasant, which are all within the city limits.

Extending from the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, the well-planned roads of Canberra offer extensive cycle paths, world-class mountain biking and city walking trails.



Canberra, Parliament House

Aboriginal Australia

Aboriginal people of Australia have a rich, living culture stretching back at least 50,000 years.



Aboriginal Australians

Australia's animals

Koala: arboreal herbivorous animal, living in eastern Australia. Koala descends to earth just to go to the next tree. He lives alone or in small groups consisting of male and several females.

The koala is everyone's favourite, but be aware – it's not a bear. You can spot koalas all along Australia's temperate eastern coast. Some of their top hangouts include Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, near Canberra; Port Stephens in New South Wales and the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Queensland. Observe them in the wild on Victoria's Phillip Island and Yanchep National Park in Western Australia.

Kangaroo: it is the second largest number of species of marsupials family. It includes over 50 species commonly called kangaroos, or animals with strong hind legs and long, powerful tail, moving jumps.



The **wombat** is another creature you'll find here – stout, burrowing animals that can weigh up to 36 kilograms. Again they are difficult to see in the wild, but some of the best places are the Blue Mountains National Park and Kosciuszko National Park in New South Wales, Wilsons Promontory in Victoria, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair in Tasmania, and in national parks in South Australia.



Australia's plants

There are an estimated 27,700 plant species in Australia, including living fossils such as the cycad palm and the grass tree, and brilliant wildflowers such as the waratah, Sturt's desert pea, banksia and kangaroo paws.



Waratah



Sturt's desert pea

Eucalyptus

Gum trees (eucalyptus) are the tree most commonly associated with Australia. They are found in areas from sub-alpine to wet coastal forests, through to temperate woodlands and the dry inland areas. The Greater Blue Mountains has the most diverse range of eucalypt species on earth. In fact, the Blue Mountains gets its name from the blue shimmer which rises into the air from the oil from the trees. In the Australian Alps, striking silver and red snow gums stand out amongst the snow-filled landscape. Koalas feed exclusively on certain species of eucalypts.



Eucalyptus

Kangaroo Island, South Australia

Kangaroo Island, Australia's third largest island, is located just 15 kilometres off the South Australian mainland. More than a third of the island is preserved as Conservation or National Parks. The island has five significant Wilderness Protection Areas.



Ningaloo Reef & Shark Bay, Western Australia

World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef is the largest fringing reef in the world. It is one of most reliable places in the world to view and swim with gentle whale sharks, the world's largest fish. They arrive shortly after the mass coral spawning in March each year.

Shark Bay's clear turquoise waters are home to humpback whales, turtles, dolphins and manta rays. See living relatives of the earth's earliest life-forms at Hamelin Pool and walk on one of the world's few beaches made entirely of tiny shells. Spend your day with the friendly dolphins of Monkey Mia which come to the beach to be hand-fed each day.



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

The marine wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef is an explosion of colour and biodiversity that stretches for more than 2500 kilometres off the Queensland coast. It's both the world's biggest World Heritage Area and biggest coral reef system, and the biggest thing made out of living creatures on earth. It is formed of more than 3000 individual reefs and 900 coral cays and continental islands.



coral reef



sea urchins

These create a web of life for more than 1500 species of fish, one third of the world's soft corals, 600 species of starfish and sea urchins, six species of endangered marine turtles and more than 30 species of whales and dolphins.

Sources of information:

- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia
- www.australia.pl
- www.australia.gov.au
- www.australia.com.pl

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vocabulary/ słownictwo (uczniowie z koła języka angielskiego rok szkolny 2014/2015):

arboreal – nadrzewny

banksia - banksja

bay – zatoka

beaches – plaże

burrow – wykopać jamę, norę

bush-krzak

capital-stolica

coastline-linia brzegowa

creature – stworzenie, istota

cycad - sagowiec

cycle paths – ścieżki rowerowe

descend – zniżyć, obniżyć

discover-odkryć

dry - suchy

endangered - zagrożony

extend – rozciągać się

female – samica, osobnik żeński; kobieta

ferry – prom

forest - las

fossil - skamielina

fringe-okalać, ciągnąć się wzdłuż czegoś

harbour-port, przystań

herbivorous roślinożerny

hind – tylny, zadni

integrated into-zintegrowany

island-wyspa

kangaroo paw - *Anigozanthos flavidus*

landscape - krajobraz

male – samiec, osobnik męski; mężczyzna

manta ray

marsupials - torbacze

native - rodzimy

oceans-oceany

plants and animals –rośliny i zwierzęta

preserve – zachowywać, ocalać

reef - rafa

rich- bogaty

sea urchins -jeżowce

shells – muszle

shimmer – połysk, lśnienie

species - gatunek

starfish - rożgwiazda

stout – mocny, solidny, korpulentny

stretches – rozciąga się

Sturt's desert pea - *Swainsona Formosa* – groszek pustylnny

tail - ogon

temperate - umiarkowany

view – widok

waratah - *Telopea speciosissima* - Waratah jest to przepiękny krzew o widowiskowych kwiatach

weigh - ważyć

within – wewnątrz, w obrębie