

Australia

Travel literature

Lonely Planet:

Australia (ISBN: 1-74059-065-1)

Content: Not specific for 4x4 travelling but good overview

Walking in Australia (ISBN: 0-86442-669-0)

Content: bush-walking guide describing various areas and their walks in detail

Outback Australia (ISBN: 1-86450-187-1)

Content: covers some of the outback tracks

Watching Wildlife Australia (ISBN: 1-86450-032-8)

Content: covers different places and the wildlife found in it

Explore Australia Publishing:

Bush Tucker Field Guide (ISBN: 0-14-028986-0)

Content: identifies many species of bush food (plants and animals)

Take a Walk Publications:

Take a Walk in Northern Territory's National Parks (ISBN 0-9577931-5-4)

Content: describes the National Parks, their history, animals and plants and also the possible walks in the parks

(Note: from the same series there are also available:

Take a Walk in Queensland's National Parks. South Zone

Take a Walk in Blue Mountains National Park

Take a Walk in a National Park. Sydney to Port Macquarie

Take a Walk in a National Park. Port Macquarie to Brisbane

Take a Walk in New South Wales National Parks. South-Eastern Zone

Take a Walk in Victoria's National Parks)

Westate Publishers:

4WD Days out of Perth

4WD Days out of the South Coast of WA

4WD Days in the Eastern Goldfields of WA

Explore the Pilbrara in your 4WD

Content: the books contain details (incl. some GPS positions) of 4WD-Trips in Western Australia.

No ISBN Nummern are available but the books can be bought in the larger 4WD shops in Perth and surroundings.

HEMA Maps:

Discover Australia 4WD, edited by Ron & Viv Moon (ISBN 1-86500-208-9)

Content: details of 4WD-Trips (incl. some GPS positions) and National Parks per state.

Special section: "The major Tracks", descriptions of many popular 4WD-Tracks.

Reference books

New Holland Publishers:

A Guide to **Plants** of Inland Australia (ISBN 187633486-X)

Content: Lists the most commonly seen plants of Australia

A Complete Guide to **Reptiles** of Australia (ISBN 187633472-X)

Content: Lists the most commonly seen reptiles of Australia

Green Guide: Kangaroos & Wallabies of Australia (ISBN 174110203-0)

Content: A small book about macropods and their behaviour, answers many questions

(Note: Green Guides also exist for Parrots, Spiders, Birds, Snakes & Other Reptiles, Sharks & Rays, Dangerous Creatures, Frogs, Insects.)

Gary Allan:

The Slater Field Guide of Australian **Birds** (ISBN 0 947116 99 0)

Content: Excellent reference book for birds, good drawings

Wajon Publishing Company:

Colour Guide to **Spring Flowers** of Western Australia

- Part 1: Kalbarri and the Goldfields (ISBN 0-646-37118-5)

- Part 2: Perth and the Southwest (ISBN 0-957781-70-9)

- Part 3: Esperance and the Wheatbelt (ISBN 095778171-7)

- Part 4: Exmouth and the Pilbara (ISBN 978-0-9577817-26)

Content: Spring flowers in the specific regions

R & R Publications Australia:

A Guide to **Native Orchids** of South Western Australia (ISBN 0 9587532 4 5)

Content: Orchids of the south

Simon Nevill Publications:

Guide to the **Wildflowers** of Western Australia (ISBN 0-9756019-1-1)

Content: Flowers in various regions, includes "floral drives"

Steve Parish Publishings:

Photograph Australia with Steve Parish (ISBN 174021389-0)

Content: Besides great photos and good tips on how to take them the book contains a section "Where to photograph Australia" with location-specific tips

Camping Guides

Camps Australia Wide:

Camps 4

(see: maps)

Priceless Publishing:

A Guide to Priceless Campsites & Rest Areas

- In the Northern Territory (ISBN: 095861717-1)

- In the North of Western Australia (ISBN: 0958-61713-9)

- In the South of Western Australia (ISBN: 0 9586171 5 5)

Content: Good sites also off the beaten track, good descriptions of the sites, how to get there, things to see and to do in the area.

The books are a bit outdated and some of the described campsites are closed down, but it is still a very good book.

Free Camping Australia:

The Guide to Free-Camping in the North of WA (ISBN 0-9586778-8-3)

Content: Information regarding free camping along roads

Maps

Paper Maps

Camps Australia Wide:

Camps 4 (ISBN: 978-0-9750017-7-6)

Copy of the HEMA Australia Road Atlas with additional information about many priceless and free campsites along the major road.

Additional information regarding fuel availability, repair shops, shopping, caravan sites, hospitals, telefon-numbers of local police stations a.s.o.

HEMA Maps:

HEMA Maps is one of the larger producer of maps. They offer a wide variety of maps in various scales.

Australia's Great Desert Tracks - Atlas and Guide (ISBN: 13: 978-1-86500-382-5)

Inland tracks and roads with good classification. Valuable comments regarding track status (public, private, permit, closed to public).

Additional information regarding fuel availability, repair shops, shopping, caravan sites, hospitals, telefon-numbers of local police stations a.s.o.

Great 4WD Destinations (ISBN 1-865000-79-5)

Plastik-Folder containing 12 different maps incl. Cape York, Kimberleys, Fraser Island, etc.

Westprint:

Westprint maps contain a large amount of touristic details.

They are recommended if one wants to travel e.g. the Gunbarrel Highway and visit the Len Beadell Marker. Besides some additional touristic details the blazed trees with the markers are all marked on the map.

Western Australian Newspaper:

Street Smart - Travellers Atlas of West Australia (ISBN: 1-921048-13-1)

The most detailed street atlas. Shows all public and private roads and tracks; City maps; Street index and lots more.

Caution: Privat or tracks closed for public access are not marked in the maps.

Gregory's:

Road Atlas of Australia (ISBN 978-0-7319-2083-9)

Road Atlas with a lot of touristic information.

Gregory's also offers many other maps with touristic information e.g.

200 kilometres around Brisbane

etc.

Quality Publishing Australia:

Roads & Tracks - Western Australia

Detailed atlas, but very out dated.

TasMap Publications:

This publisher offers detailed hiking maps for Tasmania e.g. Cradle Mountain (1:20 000), Walls of Jerusalem (1:25 000), etc.

They are also sold in the corresponding National Parks.

Electronic Vector Maps**Garmin:**

City Navigator Australia & New Zealand NT

<https://buy.garmin.com/shop/shop.do?pid=36360#coverageTab>

Very good routible road and city maps.

Useless off-road as it doesn't show small tracks (2010 version).

Tracks4Australia

http://www.gpsoz.com.au/tracks4australia/getting_started.htm

A must if you go off the beaten track. Shows about every small track.

Unfortunately large parts of the map are very out-dated and many tracks do not exist anymore.

Tracks4Australia is best used on a PC as overlay to the 1:250000 Natmap 2008 topographical map.

The above link gives instructions on the installation. The page also contains a download link.

Electronic Raster Maps**NATMAP:**

Australia 2008 Premium edition

www.maptrax.com.au

Topographic Moving-Map. A CD containing the following maps: 1:250K, 1M, 5M, 20M and Satellite-Image with 25m accuracy.

Interstate Quarantine

The "Traveller's Guide to Australian Interstate Quarantine" offers a detailed description regarding the applicable rules between states, territories and specific regions.

It is available in many caravan parks and information offices or also on the web:

http://www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au/images/stories/Documents/dpi001-redesing_a5_11_lr.pdf

Immigration formalities**Some foreigners require a visa.**

Please contact the Australian Embassy or Consulate for this purpose.

In Switzerland this is handled by

AITS

Postfach 457

3800 Interlaken

Switzerland

info@aits-australia.ch

tel +41 33 823 0953

fax +41 33 823 0952

<http://www.aits-australia.ch/htm/default.asp>

Car

The Australian Automobile Association (AAA) has some useful information <http://www.aaa.asn.au/touring/default.htm>

Carnet de Passages en Douane

<http://www.aaa.asn.au/touring/bringing.htm#carnet>

You need a Carnet which is valid from the date the vehicle is shipped to Australia. This means the Carnet already runs for some time before the vehicle actually arrives in Australia. Since the Carnet expires after one year this will be before the expiry of a one year travel visa. This can get the tourist into situations which are very difficult to handle without doing something illegal.

See [our transport and customs page for more details](#)

Importing Your Car to Australia

Specific information on importing a motor vehicle into Australia is available at www.customs.gov.au and www.dotars.gov.au

After talking to many tourists it looks as not all states handle the matter the same way.

To our best knowledge the procedure below is how it is correctly done, but please get it confirmed from officials!

When the vehicle arrives at the port the vehicle and its content is inspected by AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service) and Customs.

One should then get a provisional permit that allows one to drive to the Road Safety Inspection where the vehicle is very broadly checked.

Ask how to get this permit. You are not allowed to drive the vehicle on Australian Roads now!

From there one has to go to the Licencing Department to pay road taxes and the mandatory third party insurance. The vehicle is registered with its overseas license plate.

One is now allowed to legally drive the vehicle on the road, but if it is a motorhome two more checks are necessary: The gaz installation and the electrical system must be inspected by licensed installers. Road Safety can advise on this matter.

We met tourists which never were told to go to the Road Safety Inspection nor any other authority so they drove their motorhome in Australia illegally for several month.

Customs

Quick guide to customs for travelers

<http://www.customs.gov.au>

Quarantine

Steam clean your vehicle before shipping it to Australia as otherwise it may be steam cleaned by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service to ensure that no soil or pests are carried into the country. Cost for inspection and steam cleaning will have to be paid by you.

Details can be found at the "Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service" webpage.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/vehicles-machinery/motor-vehicles>

Note:

If the vehicles and/or its content are not cleaned properly the AQIS staff has the power to force re-exporting the vehicle.

Pack all items that could be a quarantine concern in a separate box and declare them.

If items of quarantine concern are found your personal effects will be treated, and you'll be billed for the cost of the treatment.

Do not use: fruit, vegetable and flower boxes, used egg cartons, straw and sawdust to pack your goods!

All timber articles including packing cases, handicrafts, furniture etc. entering Australia are subject to inspection or treatment on arrival. You may consider having these items fumigated before transporting them to Australia. And don't forget the certificate for it!

Insurance

It is difficult to get an insurance for a vehicle temporary imported from overseas. We know of just two insurances offering such a service. The people we know used Lumley Insurances to cover for Third Party Property Damage.

<http://www.lumley.com.au/>

Also Kings Cross Car Market Pty Ltd in Sydney telephone (02) 9358 5000 offers Third Party Property Damage Cover.

An overseas tourist cannot get an insurance that covers for damage on his own vehicle.

Overseas tourists renting a car can get full coverage for the rented vehicle, but the insurance for damaging the own rented car is extremely expensive. The reason is, as we were told, that the rental companies carry the risk, since there is no insurance company offering this service for overseas tourists.

Fuel prices

<http://www.aaa.asn.au/petrol.htm>

The large grocery chains (Woolworth, Cooles, etc.) have price agreements with large mineral oil companies (Coles - Shell; Woolworth - Caltex; a.s.o.).

If one buys goods of 30 \$ or more a voucher is printed at the bottom of the receipt. This voucher allows to buy fuel to a reduced price of about 4 cents. The service stations accepting the vouchers are clearly labeled.

Caution: Some of this stations have higher prices than normal. Compare the prices!

Another nasty habit of Australias service stations is the fact that they normally increase the price from Thursday to Sunday before reducing it back to normal on Monday.

In the countryside many service stations provide basic supplies.

Touring Information

<http://www.aaa.asn.au/touring.htm>

Private roads and roads through Aboriginal Land

Within the last few years huge blocks of land have been given back to the Aboriginal traditional owners. This Aboriginal tribes are allowed to set up rules regarding the access to their land. In most cases one needs a permit from the Land owners to be allowed to drive on the roads within the area even so the road itself may be a public road (eg. Great Central Road or Outback Highway). The access to the communities is almost certain not allowed except to get fuel, food or water.

The subject is very confusing. The place to get a permit, the way the permit has to be issued, the time it takes to get a permit a.s.o are different for every area.

If one drives the beaten track it is highly advisable to first consult a visiter centre in one of the larger towns in the area to get accurate information.

Tracks through pastoral land are private roads. One is not allowed to enter the area without first contacting the owner.

Exceptions are Stock Routes (yxz Stock Route) and PAR (Public Access Roads) which are both public roads - except if they go through Aboriginal land (eg. the Canning Stock Route)

The best overview is given in the maps from HEMA (eg. Australia's Great Desert Tracks). The maps show all Aboriginal Land Trusts and all closed and permit roads are marked in the maps.

Camping

When ever possible we camped in the wild or in National Parks (from AU\$ 12.--).

The prices of Caravan Parks in tourist areas vary depending on their standard and also on their location. The cost can be over 30 \$ for a car and 2 person.

Internet and Telephon

The mobile phone network is currently upgraded to the Next-G standard (3G; UMTS). Next-G reception for phone and Internet works in most villages with more than 100 inhabitants.

The old GSM mobile network is still in operation in larger villages and cities, but in small villages it has never been installed or is already removed.

The GPRS network has been taken out of service since 2008.

Currently the only countrywide provider for the Next-G network is Telstra. For phone and Internet prepaid cards are available. We assume the European modems would also work with Telstra SIM cards. The data transfer rate depends on the load of the network, but it is mostly good.

For local phone call one best uses Telstra 5 or 10 \$ chip-cards which can be used with public phones. Many public phones do not accept coins.

International calls are best done using "Supersaver Telephone Cards" which can be bought at about any Kiosk.

It is nothing else than a receipt containing a few local numbers, a card number and a pin code.

One calls one of the local numbers on the receipt, and when connected punches in his card number and pin code before dialling the international number. The whole operation is speech guided.

International country codes must be preceded by a 11 to reach the satellite (eg. 0011 41 nn nnnnnn for Switzerland)

Food

In the cities there are grocery chains (Woolworth, Cooles, etc.) and shopping malls.

In the countryside many service stations provide basic supplies.

Currency

AUS

Exchange rate valid in May 2010: 1 AUS ~ 1 CHF

No liability for timeliness, integrity and correctness of this document is accepted.

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