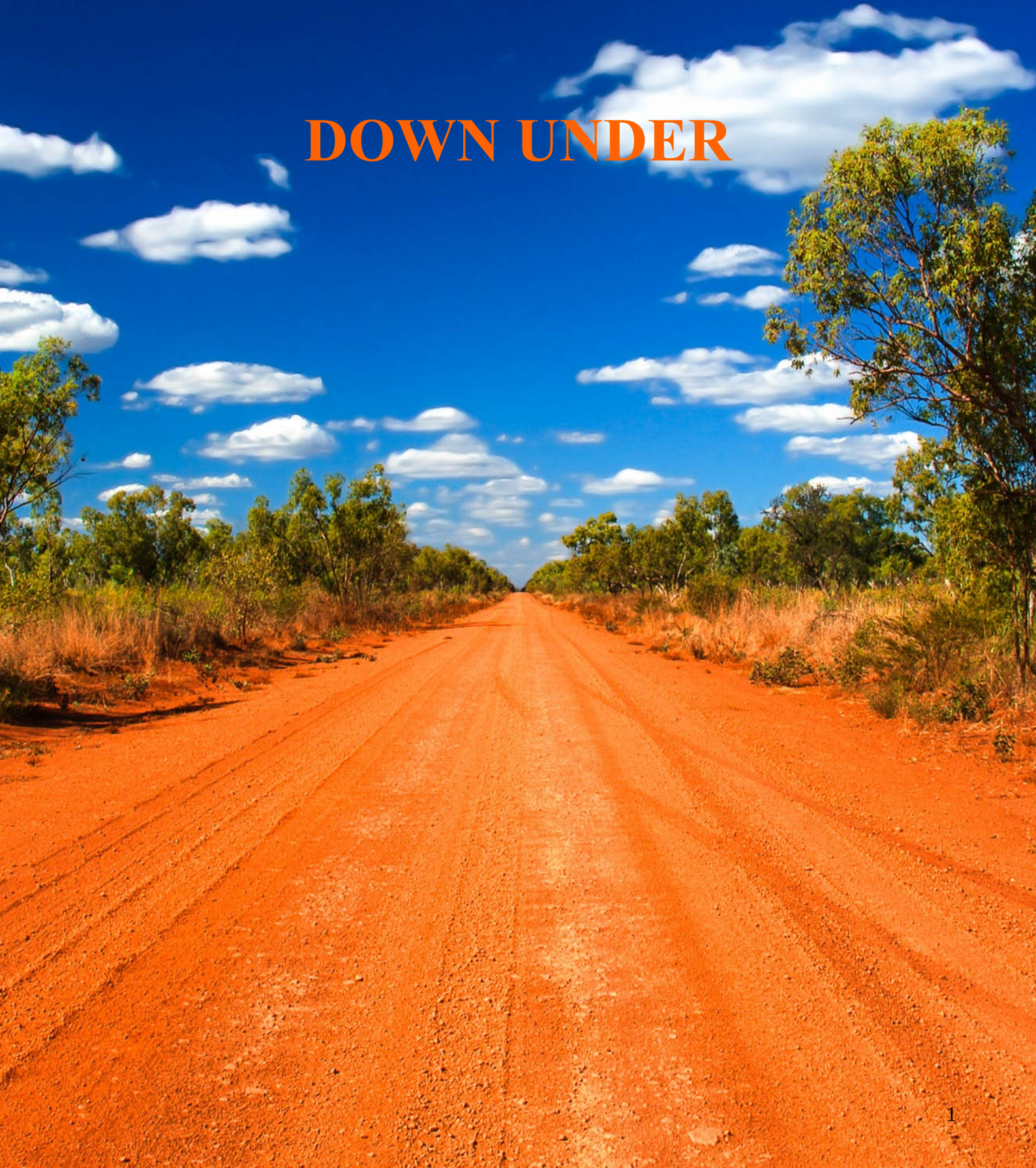


Discover Australia!

Aborigines, kangaroos, the Outback and many other adventures!

DOWN UNDER



A geography lesson about Australia

Australia is a vast country in Oceania, bordered by the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean. Australia is the 6th largest country with 7.741.220 square kilometres, so it's as huge as Europe.



It is divided into six states: Western Australia, Southern Australia, Queensland, Victoria New South Wales and Tasmania.

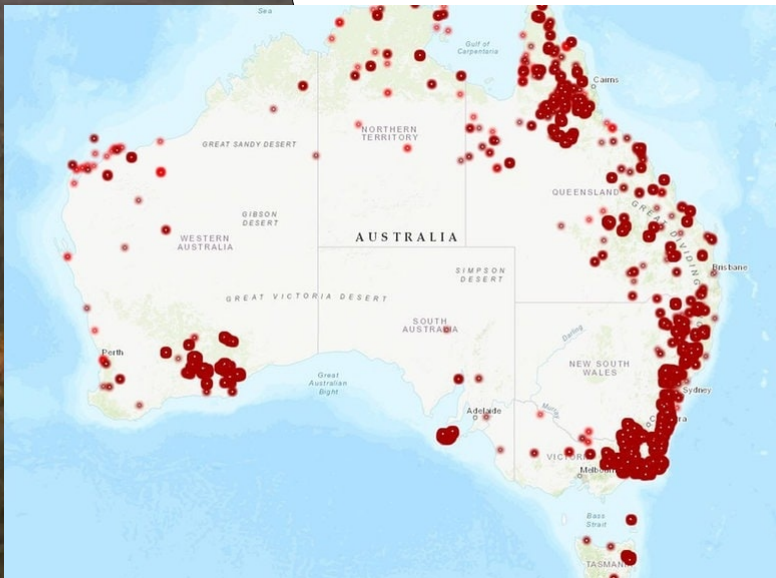
In Australia lives about 25 million people. The capital is Canberra in the south-east of the country. Sydney is the largest city in with 5.400.000 inhabitants, Melbourne hosts 5 million residents.



On the east coast there is the Great Dividing Range with mountains up to over 2.000 metres. Highest elevation is Mount Kosciuszko with a height of 2.228m. There are also mountain ranges in Central- and Western Australia, such as the Musgrave Range and the McDonnell Range,



Australians live almost only on the coast, with most of the population living in New South Wales. The Northern Territory is the least populated.



Australia is economically known for its wealth of raw materials, such as coal, copper, nickel, but especially natural gas and oil. Agriculture can only be practised to a limited extent, as there is a shortage of usable land.



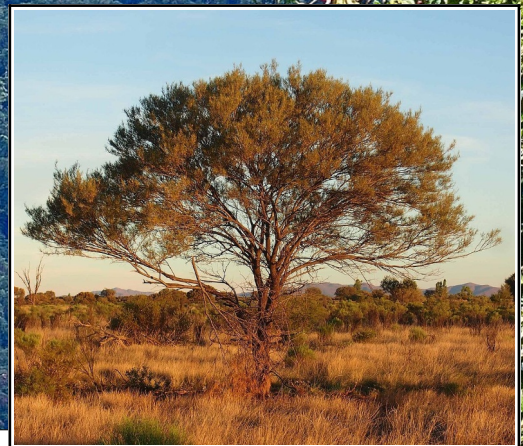
Information about nature and animals

Nature:

Experts estimate that there are about 30,000 different plant types in Australia.

There are several hundreds national parks all over Australia.

Australia's nature can be divided into woodland, grasslands and desert.



The most widespread acacia trees and the eucalyptus are part of the woodlands. There is also a small, but species rich rainforest.

About 20% of the land surface is covered by dry deserts. The Great Sandy Desert and the Great Victoria Desert are well known examples of deserts.

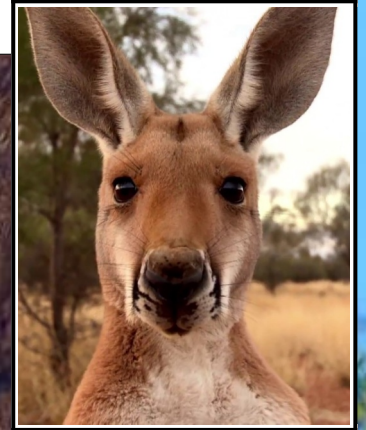




Animals:

Well-known animals are kangaroos, koalas and emus. If you travel to Australia, you have to see one of those cute koala bears!

Because of the diversity of Australia's habitats, there are so many different species of animals.



Did you know?

On average, 85% of the animals that exist in Australia can only be found there. It is the same with different plant types.

Attention! In Australia live dangerous animals, like sharks, “Salties” → crocodiles or poisonous snakes. So, don’t fall into the water :^)



You won't get bored!



What to do in Cities:

Of course, you can go sightseeing, but that's nothing special. Something special is the Sydney Tower with its sky-walk or the turquoise water at Bondi Beach in Sydney.

I recommend a long walk through the big cities and visiting a café at the beach. It's beautiful!



Check out the graffiti alleys of Melbourne, or old-fashioned shopping streets like the Queen Victoria Market the Melbourne Museum offers a lot of information about the environment, history, culture of Australia and life in Melbourne



What to do in rural regions / the Outback

Safari tours are highly recommended to see wild animals or to see the infinite vastness of the country. Most popular place is the huge rock Uluru.



Otherwise you can visit untouched nature and enjoy the spectacle of nature at guided tours. Maybe you are the first person in this place ever.



General leisure activities

No matter where you travel, there are clear waters to swim in or interesting hiking trails through Australia's landscape. Snorkelling is always a good idea, especially in the Great Barrier Reef



joyful people are waiting for you!

Special places you have to see

Sydney Opera House

Probably Australia's most famous sight is located in the north-east of Sydney, almost directly on the sea. It's UNESCO world cultural heritage and everyone has heard of it.

There are 2500 performances with 4 million visitors per year



You've never heard of the Great Barrier Reef?

Great Barrier Reef

It is off the north-east coast of Australia and the largest contiguous collection of over 2,900 separate coral reefs on earth. In 1981, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage and is also known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. Every year, around two million people come to see this attraction





Uluru / Ayers Rock

Uluru is a sandstone mountain in the central Australian desert that rises about 350 m above its surroundings. British colonists called it Ayers Rock. Unfortunately you can only walk around it, not climb it.

The island of Tasmania is located southeast of the mainland and offers untouched nature and perfect weather. About a third is National Park territory.



Blue Mountains National Park

The 2470km² national park in New South Wales has many rare animals. The name of the park comes from the cloudy blue colour of the air caused by the eucalyptus trees.

Aborigines and the immigration of Europeans

The Aborigines are the native peoples of Australia who have many different cultural characteristics and languages. Before the Europeans, there were 300 languages, today there are only about 100. Only the old and experienced speak these languages, which causes more to disappear over time.



They are skilled craftsmen and produce special works of art from natural fabrics, such as traditional dresses, sculptures and rock drawings. Recently, they have also become involved in international activities, such as the Olympic Games.

Aboriginal History

The Aborigines settled Australia about 60,000 years ago. They proved to be resistant and changeful, significantly affecting the climate and nature of Australia.

1788: British colonists settled the area which is now Sydney about 1000 people



1790: Europeans occupied the land of the native peoples and divided it into the six parts known to this day. The aboriginal people were completely oppressed and their rights threatened. The Aborigines defended themselves and thousands were killed by Europeans. Only 90,000 people survived out of about 1,000,000, often killed by new diseases.

1901: White Australia Policy: Only Europeans were allowed to enter, the population consisted of 98% white people.

1962: A law was passed that finally allowed Aboriginal people to vote.

1971: Since white immigration, at least 50,000 children have been taken away and raised in European families. These are called "Stolen Generations". The population of Aborigines grew to 115.000.



1976: It was decided that, native people have the right to reclaim land that was once theirs

1988: A national commemoration remembers the suffering of the Aborigines



2007: An Aboriginal radio station shows non-stop reports about the life of the inhabitants, especially to disprove prejudices.

2008: The Government have to secure the culture of the native inhabitants.

Today: About 800.000 people identify themselves as Aboriginal.

Comparison: Past vs. Present



Habitats

The Aborigines were free to spread out over the whole country as they wished. They settled mainly on the north and east coasts of Australia.

The native peoples have to live in separate areas and fight for their survival. They have been awarded the non-profitable places and have been delimited in this way.

Rights

They were free people and were allowed to live as they pleased. The Aborigines had their own laws.

They had to adapt to Europeans and accept our laws. Important freedoms were taken away and useless things were allowed and desired.



Number of native peoples

It is estimated between 300.000 and 1.000.000 inhabitants. During the 20th Century this number drops to 75.000.

Today, only about 800,000 identify themselves as Aboriginal. That is less than 1700 years ago

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Also helpful: <https://www.australia.gov.au/travel-and-consumers>



Australian Government

Our friendly tourist information staff will also be happy to help you on site:

Melbourne: Syme Street & Nelson Place, Williamstown VIC 3016,

Sydney: 200 Mann Street, Gosford NSW 2250

Canberra: 259 Comur St, Yass

Cairns: Aplin Street, Cairns QLD 4870

We hope to see you here!