



Australia, officially the **Commonwealth of Australia**, is a country and a continent too. It also includes Tasmania and other smaller islands on the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Australia has an access to the Timor Sea, Coral Sea and Tasmanian Sea. It does not border any other country. It the world's sixth-largest country.

The name *Australia* is derived from the Latin *Terra Australis* ("southern land")
 Until the early 19th century, Australia was best known as *New Holland*, a name first applied by the Dutch explorer **Abel Tasman** in 1644. The name *Australia* was popularised by the explorer **Matthew Flinders**
 Colloquial names for Australia include "**Oz**" and "the Land Down Under" (usually shortened to just "**Down Under**"). Other epithets include "the Great Southern Land", "**the Lucky Country**", "the Sunburnt Country", and "the Wide Brown Land"

- Anthem:** Advance Australia Fair
Currency: Australian dollar (AUD)
Capital city : Canberra
The largest city: Sydney
- **Monarch:** Elizabeth II
 - **Governor-General:** David Hurley
 - **Prime Minister:** Scott Morrison

Australia is a **federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy**, comprising **six states and ten territories**.
States: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia

The **largest cities** are **Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide**

Miasto	Stan
Sydney	New South Wales
Melbourne	Victoria
Brisbane	Queensland
Perth	Western Australia
Adelaide	South Australia

FLAG

The flag has three elements on a blue background: **the Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross.**

The Union Jack in the upper left corner represents the history of British settlement.

Below the Union Jack is a white Commonwealth, or Federation, star. It has seven points representing the unity of the six states and the territories of the Commonwealth of Australia. The star is also featured on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Southern Cross is shown on the flag in white. It is a constellation of five stars that can only be seen from the southern hemisphere and is a reminder of Australia's geography.

Commonwealth Coat of Arms



DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH COAT OF ARMS (HERB)

The centre of the **shield** includes symbols of **Australia's six states** and the border of the shield symbolises federation. The **shield is held up by** the native Australian animals the **kangaroo and the emu**, which were chosen to symbolise a nation moving forward, based on the fact that neither animal can move backwards easily. A seven-point gold Commonwealth Star sits above the shield. Six of the star's points represent the Australian states and the seventh point represents the territories.

A wreath of gold and blue sits under the Commonwealth Star. Gold and blue are the Commonwealth Coat of Arms' 'livery', or 'identifying', colours.

Australia's **floral emblem**, the golden wattle, frames the shield and the kangaroo and emu and at the bottom of the shield you will see a scroll containing the word 'Australia'.

Symbols of Australia's six states appear on the shield:

- New South Wales – the Cross of St George with lion and stars
- Victoria – the Southern Cross
- Queensland – a blue Maltese Cross and Crown
- South Australia – the Australian piping shrike
- Western Australia – a black swan
- Tasmania – a red walking lion

Floral emblem

Australia's national floral emblem is the **golden wattle** (*Acacia pycnantha Benth*)(akacija australijska)

As one species of a large genus of flora growing across Australia, the golden wattle is a symbol of unity. Wattle is ideally suited to withstand Australia's droughts, winds and bushfires. The resilience of wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people.

Gemstone (kamień szlachetny)

Australia's national gemstone is the opal, a stone famous across the world for its brilliant colours. In Indigenous stories, a rainbow created the colours of the opal when it touched the earth. Opal, also known to Indigenous people as the *fire of the desert*, is a powerful symbol of Australia's arid interior. Australia is home to the world's highest quality, precious opal. The most famous is black opal from Lightning Ridge in New South Wales.

National colours

Australia's national colours are **green** and **gold**.

Long associated with Australian sporting achievements, the national colours have strong environmental connections. **Gold** conjures images of Australia's beaches, mineral wealth, grain harvests and the fleece of Australian wool. **Green** evokes the forests, eucalyptus trees and pastures of the Australian landscape.

Great Barrier Reef – the biggest reef in the world, situated at the Australian coast, in the Coral Sea. It is created by natural system and even seen from the space. The development of the Great Barrier Reef began about eighteen millions years ago. The thickness of the coral level is over five hundred metres.

Bondi Beach – located in Sydney, the name comes from the aboriginal language – bondi – the sound of wave hit. The biggest attraction of this beach is the presence of whales and dolphins. It is a paradise for surfers and water sports. There are not any sharks because a special net was built which makes it impossible for them to swim up to the shore.

Cable Beach – it is one of the most beautiful beaches in Australia. It is located in the northwest. It is 22 km long and it is a sandy beach of a very tiny kind

Aborigines – native people of Australia, persecuted and killed during the Times of colonization. Some of them live in a rarely populated areas or in big Australian towns but in very poor districts. Their population is going down and currently is about two hundred twenty thousand.

Didgeridoo – a bass instrument used by Aborigines

Uluru – also known as **Ayers Rock** is the saint mount of Aboriginal people. It is in the southern part of the Northern Territory. The area around the formation is home to an abundance of springs, waterholes, rock caves, and ancient paintings. Uluru is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Uluru is one of Australia's most recognisable natural landmarks.

Bumerang – weapon used by Aborigines during hunting. Thrown in the air returns to the same point. The name comes from the Aboriginal language *boo-mar-rang*, it means a stick which returns.

Outback – huge, scarcely populated area, covered by deserts and semideserts. They form a large territory of Australia.

Kangaroos – animals which live in Australia, New Guinea and New Zeland.

Kangaroo is a national symbol of Australia. They are protected by law. They have a very strong tail and they can jump up over 9 metres.

Australian Koala Bear – mammal which lives in trees, its favourite food is eucaliptus and it is also under the law protection. Beside the kangaroo Koala is the symbol of Australia.

Eucalyptus – the tree which origins from Australia and New Guinea. It has a very resistant wood, especially to moisture. We can make a special oil from it.

Summer Olympic Games – were held in 2000, in Sydney. For the first time new sports dysciplines were introduced: taekwondo, triathlon and synchronic jumps into water.

The main slogan was: *Share The Spirit and Dare to Dream.*

Australia Day (Anniversary Day) – national holiday celebrated in the 26th of January. It commemorates the establishment of the first settlement by Captain Arthur Philip.

Coober Pedy – town in Australia where the most valuable opals are mined. It is interesting that most of the city dwellers live under the ground to protect themselves from the sun.

The Twelve Apostles – rocks coming out of water were created as a result of erosion. They are the part of the famous trail: *Great Ocean Road.*

National Park Nambung – it covers the area of the sandy desert with projecting rocks. You can meet emu animal there.

The Wave – it is the rocky structure formed by water and wind.

Kalgoorlie – the original city from the gold rush times, there is the biggest open – cut gold mine Super Pit, where precious metal is exploited 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Giants Valley – the area of national park with huge eucalyptus trees, some of them are over one hundred metres tall. You can admire them walking over the bridges hanged among trees.

Dingo Fence – the longest fence in the world, it is over 5614 kilometers long and it is twice as long as China Wall. It was built to protect the herds of sheep from dingo dogs.

Indian Pacific – railway road with a length of 4352 kilometers, it connects Perth with Sydney, the whole journey lasts 65 hours