



RooPrints



Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club Australia Energy Excursion – October 11 – 25, 2008 Your Guide To All Things Aussie!

Committee Updates

The Australia Committee is busy pouring over various side tours and of course trying to arrange the energy tours. The final registration form is in the last draft stage so should be out shortly. You will be asked to send in a non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 at that time. Once we have an idea of actual numbers, we will then be able to send out the tour options for everyone.

Also, the Committee would like to let you know that we will have a limit of 100 travellers on this tour so please send in your registration early to avoid disappointment.

Any pictures featured in the newsletter are places we are considering visiting on our trip. Enjoy!

Entry Formalities

A valid passport or similar acceptable travel document is required of all people wishing to travel to and enter Australia. Everyone, except holders of Australian and New Zealand passports, requires a visa to enter Australia. All passport holders must hold a visa before travelling to Australia.

More Visa information in a future issue of RooPrints.

Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Uluru is 9.3 kilometres in circumference, and the icy-green and grey vegetation at its massive feet offer a refuge for wildlife. It is immense in size – yet more than two thirds of the rock is actually hidden beneath the ground. Its beauty outshines even the



brilliant sunset, arraying itself in a 'multiplicity of hues from black to purple, blue to brown, orange and red throughout various times of day and weather. It makes

a spectacular contrast with the relatively flat sand plain that surrounds it.

To the Anangu, Uluru is alive with the presence of dozens of ancestral beings who still inhabit special sites. Their activities are recorded at certain sites around Uluru and most of the stories are sacred and shrouded in secrecy. But the Anangu, through their stories, artwork, and dance can give you glimpses. The Liru (poisonous snake) and Kuniya (woma python) are significant ancestral figures for the Anangu, but there are many others as well. Some of them are illustrated in cave paintings around Uluru. Perhaps you will see the marks of Tatji, the small red lizard's efforts to scoop out his lost throwing stick, embedded in the rock. Or you may glimpse his body, which remains in the form of boulders on the cave floor. In the grey lichen on a rock face you may see the smoke from the fire once lit by the blue-tongued Lizard men who tried to cheat the Bell-Bird brothers out of their share of an emu kill.

Currency

Australian currency (\$A) is decimal with the dollar as the basic unit (100 cents equals one dollar). Notes come in \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5 denominations. Coins come in \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c denominations. Prices are rounded to the nearest 5c.

Currency exchange

Exchange facilities are available at international airports. Changing foreign currency or traveller's cheques can be done at most banks. Exchange rate (Jan. 2007): CAD = 0.92%; USD = 0.78%.

Credit cards

The most commonly accepted credit cards are American Express, Bankcard, Diners Club, MasterCard, , and Visa. Banks and various locations have ATMs (Automated Teller Machines). Credit cards may need to be enabled for international access so contact your credit card provider.

What to pack

Australia is a vast country that has a range of temperate climates. In the Australian winter you can ski in the southern states one day and be diving in the balmy waters of the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland the next. Such temperate conditions make al fresco dining, days on the beach or the water, and a huge variety of sports a way of life in Australia. Keep clothing light, layered and comfortable to cater for whatever you want to do. Protect yourself against the sun – don't forget to pack sunhat, sun glasses and suntan lotion.

In future issues we will try to give you tips on how to pack efficiently.



KATA TJUTA (the Olgas)

Aussie Slang

The Australian colloquial language, commonly known as 'strine', can be baffling to foreign visitors. Although strine takes a little getting used to, it adds a lot of colour to the Australian language.

- Tucker** food
- Drongo** a stupid, inept, awkward or embarrassing person
- Jaffle** a toasted sandwich
- Joe Blake** a snake
- Mozzies** mosquitos
- Kark it** to die or cease operation
- Dad 'n Dave** a shave