

I. AUSTRALIA IN BRIEF

Australia, the Island Continent, is approximately the same size as Continental U.S.A. but has a population of only 16 million. One-third of the land mass is tropical with the balance in the temperate zones. In general the interior is dry and arid with large deserts the dominant feature, while the coastline is relatively fertile. Therefore, the population is concentrated around the coastline particularly the southeast and to a lesser extent the southwest. The three major cities are found along the southeast fringe, with Sydney (3.7 million) and Melbourne (3.0 million) the largest and therefore the major commercial and financial centres.

The two major cities are separated by 800kms. Regular flights connect Sydney to Melbourne in one hour, to Brisbane in 70 minutes, to Adelaide in 90 minutes and to Perth in three and a quarter hours. Australia does not pose any cultural or commercial problems for the Canadian businessman.

The best time to visit Australia is in fact most of the year, but the period from early December through the end of January should be avoided at all costs if your visit is primarily of a business nature. The Summer, Christmas and New Year all combine to make this period the most popular and common holiday season.

Suitable clothing is very light from November through March, and medium weight April through October. A suit and tie is expected on formal business calls.