



TRADITIONS AND HOLIDAYS IN AUSTRALIA

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Australia Day

Australia Day is one of the key Australian traditions. It is celebrated on 26th January and is declared a National Holiday. On this day, Aussies across the country celebrate being Australian. They are a very proud bunch and you'll see flags hanging out of car windows and houses for the entire last week of January. To be honest, many Aussies just see it as a day off work and an excuse to have a few beers the night before.





ANZAC Day

Another important day that commemorates a key war moment from the first World War on 25th April 1915 when Australian troops landed in Gallipoli, on behalf of the British. It was a battle against the Turks over the control of the Dardanelles.

The day itself is another National Holiday for Australia and it is good to see a real level of respect for the many war heroes for the first and second world wars. There are marches in most major cities but the key event is the **Dawn Service**. There is usually one in each of the state's major cities and takes place early in the morning around 5.30am. This is when most battles took place so is an important time to show respect. The most photographed and ceremonial Dawn Service is probably at the War Memorial in Canberra.

I'd still say though for the majority of Aussies, it's still about the drinks in the pub. But **which is more significant - Anzac Day or Australia Day?** I think most Australians would pick Australia Day due to its upbeat vibe, particularly compared to the sombre occasion of Anzac Day. Both dates however do seem to mark unhappy events though in reality.





Melbourne Cup

This is another classic day in the Australian Calendar and one of the most well known Australian traditions. It is a National Holiday for those lucky enough to live in the state of Victoria. It is essentially the biggest day of the year in Horse Racing and is held in Melbourne every year on the first Tuesday in November. The tradition stems right back to the gold digging days when gambling was a big past time for those being lucky enough to find gold. The first race was held in 1861 and has been going ever since. Throughout Australia on that Tuesday in November Australia stops to watch the horse race. Those that never place a bet all year will go and have a flutter - it's such a long race (3200m) with usually about 30 runners that anyone can be a winner! The tradition is to dress up as if you are going to the races - hats, dresses and suits for the men, go out for lunch, drink champagne and then watch the race at about 3pm. Most offices close at mid-day and put on a lunch for their staff members and those in Victoria may go to the race or enjoy the full day off.





The Queen's Birthday

Isn't it ironic that it's only the Australian's that get a public holiday for the Queen's Birthday on the second Monday in June every year - not the British! Australian traditions at its best!

The Queen is still head of the state of Australia for now and we all relish in a day's holiday. There aren't any particular celebrations that go on but it is something we all look forward to in June.

HAPPY  90th
 BIRTHDAY
YOUR  MAJESTY
    
 GOD BLESS YOU





Christmas

The Christmas traditions from Britain still ring true throughout Australia and it always feels strange to me, to celebrate Christmas when it is hot - especially when they insist on images of snowmen, snow and ice!

Still the Aussies have put their own twist on the British traditions and come up with their own Australian Traditions - with Barbies and Seafood replacing the Cooked Turkey - well on the whole anyway!





Australian Social Etiquette Traditions

If you are new to Australia or visiting from a fairly hierarchical or perhaps Asian state, then you may find the laid back style of the Australians a bit of an adjustment. Here are a few things to be mindful of in the way of Australian traditions:

- Australians will usually introduce themselves by their first names - **no formalities** of Mr Smith - just Bruce!
- **Dress code** is usually fairly relaxed. Ties are rarely worn at work although in some industries like banking, it is still a common site. Thongs on the weekend with a T-shirt and shorts are the go!
- The Aussies like their **personal space** - don't get too close and personal when you talk to them
- **Queuing** - a hang up from the British I think - It's polite to stand in line and NOT push in when waiting for a bus, for a server in the bank, at the front of a pub etc etc You are likely to get a few rough words if you don't!

Thank you for your attention!

