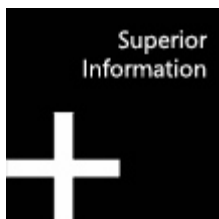


Fact Sheet



Destination Australia & New Zealand

Introduction

This fact sheet is planned to provide assistance for people traveling with Destination Australia and New Zealand to the destinations within the South Pacific. Please take the time to read this fact sheet thoroughly as it contains important information and should answer any of the questions you may have about your trip.

Passports

You must be in possession of a valid passport to travel internationally. Instructions on how to obtain a US passport and an application form can be found on the web at: www.travel.state.gov/passport.

You may also contact your local post office and they will advise you of the nearest passport issuing office. Your passport must be valid for at least three months after your scheduled date of return home.

Visas - Australia

A tourist visa – now usually issued as an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) - is required for all US citizens traveling to Australia. Passengers from certain other countries can travel with an ETA, please check with your consultant.

Non-US citizens can also refer to www.austemb.org for information on obtaining a visa.

You may get your ETA from Destination Australia free of charge if you are booking an airline ticket or vacation itinerary with us. If you are not a client, we can process your ETA for US\$7.50 per passport.

Visas - New Zealand

US and Canadian citizens intending to stay in New Zealand no longer than 3 months will be issued a Visitors Permit on arrival. No advance procurement is required. If your stay is to be longer than 3 months, or you are not a citizen of US or Canada, please apply at your local New Zealand Consulate for a visa. More information may be found at www.nzembassy.com.

Visas - Fiji

US and Canadian citizens intending to stay in Fiji no longer than 3 months will be issued a Visitors Permit on arrival. No advance procurement is required. If your stay is to be longer than 3 months, or you are not a citizen of US or Canada, please contact the Fijian Embassy in Washington, DC.

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Travel Insurance

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance to protect you and your travel investment should you need to cancel your trip for covered reasons prior to departure, or if other covered unforeseen circumstances arise during your trip.

Excellent medical care is available in the South Pacific, but the cost of transportation from a remote area to a local hospital, or in extreme cases, repatriation, is high and generally not covered by your regular medical insurance.

You can obtain a quote and purchase travel insurance on our website

www.destinationaustralia\travelins.htm

Baggage Restrictions

Most people pack too much and regret it throughout their entire trip, especially when they have to pay excess baggage charges to bring all their newly-acquired gifts home. Although your international airline allows you to check two suitcases weighing 70 lbs each, if you are traveling on a light aircraft domestically (to a remote destination or an outer island in Fiji, Kangaroo Island, or one of the many Barrier Reef Islands of Australia) or are traveling on Jetstar or Virgin Blue, you will be restricted to 20 to 44 pounds total baggage.

Please verify with your carrier **BEFORE** leaving the USA. Your best bet is to take one moderate sized suitcase and one small bag that can be used for side trips. Your excess luggage can be temporarily stored at the airport or your hotel.

Packing Lists

The South Pacific is a casual place. Jeans and shorts are accepted everywhere except in fine dining restaurants and at some formal lodges, where trousers and a button down shirt or sweater would suffice. Private clubs often require a jacket and tie. In Fijian villages and churches, knees must be covered so pack trousers or use a locally purchased sulu (sarong).

If you use the layering system (several layers that can be worn alone or in combination, rather than taking one heavy jacket for cold weather) you'll be ready for any conditions and won't have to over-pack:

Besides undergarments, the bare necessities are:

- Short sleeve tee shirt or tops
- Long sleeve tee shirt or turtle necks
- Fleece vest (summer) or fleece jacket (winter)
- Light wind and water resistant jacket with hood
- Sweat suit or pajamas
- Shorts
- Khakis, chinos or similar
- Jeans
- Sandals or "tevas"
- Walking shoes
- Bathing suit
- Baseball cap or sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Wash cloth (not usually provided in hotels)
- Small travel alarm clock
- Miniature flashlight
- Sunscreen & Insect repellent

Fact Sheet



General South Pacific Information

Calling the USA

The least expensive way to make calls to the U.S.A. from the South Pacific is to purchase a phone card in the country from which you are calling. Phone cards may be purchased in local kiosks and news agencies. Prices and number of minutes vary.

Another option is to purchase an un-locked cell phone prior to leaving the US or Canada. When you arrive at your destination, you can then purchase a pre-paid SIM card that you install into your cell phone and this will give you a local telephone number and you will be able to make domestic and international calls. Note SIM Cards are not generally interchangeable between different countries within the South Pacific.

Frequent Flyer Mileage Programs

If you buy an airline ticket, you **may** be eligible for mileage credit either on that airline or one of it's U.S. partners.

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Fly	Accrue Mileage to the following program *
Qantas	Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Continental & US Airways
Air New Zealand	United Airlines or US Airways
United Airlines	United Airlines or US Airways
Air Pacific	American Airlines
Air Tahiti Nui	American Airlines

** Subject to change without notice.*

Retain your passenger receipts and all boarding passes in case you need to make a claim retroactively.

Seat Requests

Destination Australia and New Zealand is happy to make your specific seat requests, however, regardless of having an actual pre-assigned seat number, the airline may relocate your seating for operational reasons.

Exchange Rates

Exchange rates fluctuate constantly. Please check with your consult for a current conversion rate. Please note that the rate posted in the newspaper is the Bankers Buying Rate and is more favorable than the rate at which you can buy currency. If you prefer to pay us in local currency we are happy to quote you in Australian, New Zealand or Fijian dollars.

Tipping

Tipping is not as entrenched a custom as it is in the U.S. and Canada; however, generous donations by American visitors have changed the expectations of many who work in the tourism industry. Generally, a 10% tip at finer restaurants is sufficient, and taxi drivers only expect a tip if they have helped with luggage.

Electrical Appliances

240 volts, 50 cycles A.C. is the norm in the South Pacific. Most hotels have a 110 volt 20 watt A.C. outlet for an electric shaver only in the bathroom. A converter from 110 volts is required for all other appliances. An adapter to suit the South Pacific plug shape is also required.

Driving

In Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, people drive on the left-side of the road. The steering wheel is on the right hand side of the car, and the most important road rule to follow is to Give Way (Yield) to your right. A current English language driver's license complete with your photo is all you need.

Nowhere in the South Pacific are there the multi-lane freeways so common in North America. Don't expect to make the same time driving as you would at home. 50 miles (80 kms) an hour on highways is a better estimate.

Metric Conversion

South Pacific countries went metric in the 1960s so anyone born after that is only familiar with metric measures. Here is a rough conversion chart:

Convert from / to	Divide by
Centimeters to inches	2.5
Metres to yards	0.9
Kilomeletes to miles	1.6
Litres to gallons	3.8
Grams to ounces	28
Kilometers to pounds	0.45
Hectares to acres	0.4

Speed/distance Reckoner

Pleading ignorance of conversion values will not save you from getting a speeding ticket!

10 KM – 6 MPH

60 KM – 38 MPH

80 KM – 50 MPH

100 KM – 60 MPH

120 KM – 75 MPH

Meeting the Locals

Residents of the South Pacific are for the most part casual, friendly and outgoing. Meeting the locals is usually high on the visitor satisfaction list of most exit polls. The South Pacific also prides itself on regarding everyone as equals, so please address your waitress or bellboy with the same polite friendliness you would your bank manager. "Having a go" is the national sport in all South Pacific countries. It's a way of affectionately teasing to let someone know they're accepted. The use of sarcasm and mild profanity is also more prevalent, so if your tour guide chides the "bloody yanks" in the group for their shyness, he's probably signaling appreciation of their outgoing natures. Enter into the spirit and you'll soon be mates.

If someone 'shouts' you a beer at the pub, it's your turn to treat next. Fail to reciprocate at the risk of being labeled a 'bludger' (moocher).

Wining and Dining

While there are many fine restaurants in major cities, people in rural areas still prefer 'meat and three veg'. Breakfast might be the biggest meal of the day complete with broiled tomatoes, mushrooms and baked beans as well as bacon, sausages and eggs. Bread baskets and water don't automatically appear on the table as you sit down, and if you order a soft drink you won't necessarily get any ice in it, and will certainly not get a free refill. If you order tea it'll be served hot in a cup, not over ice in a tall glass.

Starbucks and the like have sprung up all over the place, but tea (a cuppa) is still the preferred hot beverage thanks to British influence. If you want cream in your tea or coffee, order it 'white' not 'black'. An espresso is a 'short black'. Cappuccinos are still more common than lattes.

Dining out is usually a leisurely affair; fine restaurants expect to turn their tables only once, or, at the most, twice a night. It would be considered rude for your server to hand you menus as you sat down, or to bring your 'bill' (check) before you ask for it. Most diners have pre-dinner drinks before even thinking about what food they might order. So, if you are in a hurry, and don't intend to spend 2 or 3 hours over dinner, let your server know immediately.

By the same token, don't think yourself overlooked if your server doesn't come by every 10 minutes asking how you are doing. That would be considered rushing you. Signal your server to come over if you need something. B.Y.O. (Bring Your Own wine) restaurants are very common.

Corkage of \$5-\$15 per bottle* is charged, ice buckets and glasses will be provided, but you are expected to pour your own. If you inadvertently arrive empty handed at a B.Y.O. restaurant, you will often find there is a nearby bottle shop which can remedy the situation.

Seafood is big in the South Pacific. The reef fish of Fiji, the green lip mussels of New Zealand and the crustaceans of Australia are internationally prized. Ethnic foods,

particularly Asian, are also popular and you are just as likely to see a Thai green curry or an Indonesian nasi goreng on any menu.

If you've been waiting all your life to try kangaroo, emu, crocodile or buffalo, Australia is the place for you, but only restaurants specializing in Bush Tucker will serve these delicacies. Your hotel concierge can direct you.

Indigenous People

Australian Aborigines, New Zealand Maoris and native Fijians have unique cultures which are very different from the endemic European culture. Fortunately for the tourist, most indigenous people speak English fluently, so it is easy to communicate. This interaction can lend much

to your trip, but in your enthusiasm to learn, please be sensitive to local Customs. If you are asked to dress or behave in a particular way to attend an event hosted by indigenous people, please abide by the request. As a general rule, discussing indigenous politics is a tricky thing even for residents of the country; travelers do so at their own risk!