

The first people in Australia were the Aborigines, who came more than 40 000 years ago from South East Asia. Chinese sailors visited 2500 years ago and much later Dutch sailors came in 1606 and then in 1642. They made maps of the north and west coasts but they didn't try to live there. Then in 1770 the British Captain James Cook landed on the east coast and said that Australia now belonged to Britain. It was the beginning of time for aussies. Since 1787 Britain had sent convicts to Australia. Later people began to come from Britain because they chose to make a new life in Australia. In 1851 gold was found in New South Wales and Victoria.

Spotlight on Australia

Thousands of people all over the world went looking for gold. In ten years the population grew from 400 000 to 1 200 000. With the gold came new roads and railways and growing cities. After 1945 the Australian government realized that Australia needed more people and they opened the country to immigrants.



Australia has produced a considerable number of world figures, Judith Anderson, Eric Bana, Gemma Ward, Natalie Imbruglia, Heath Ledger, George Lazenby, Kylie Minogue, Lleyton Glynn Hewitt, Paul Hoggan ...

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Spotlight on Australia



Who are the Aussies?

How do they differ from the English?



AUSSIES

One of the great things about Australia is the people. They are a friendly bunch and you can spend time watching them or meeting them. Like any country there are lots of different types, including the yuppies, the brickies and the chippies. However, you'll find that in general, they are friendly, and will always say "9 day mate" just to make you feel at ease.



At other times you may find them laughing at you. The Australian dry sense of humour is a strong personality trait there, and in Australia taking the mickey out of some one is the norm.

Aussies are very active and the beach life is a strong part of Australian way of living. It is not only softball, baseball, squash, tennis



Aussies are also keen on sports: surfing, sailing, yachting, bushwalking, camping... They like playing football. Kayaking, canoeing and water skiing are also summer favourites.

I can tell you that the Aussies are more laid-back than the English. Nothing seems to phase them, they are really happy-go-lucky kind of people.

Beach life is a strong part of the aussie's way of living and nobody can't beat it. They are keen on danning that means jogging or rollerblading around the boardwalks. Besides the beaches offer a haven of peace to the aussies who want to relax, sunbathe or walk about.

Cricket is like a religion during the summer in Oz. Aussies are mad about it. Yachting is also very popular, and so is Rugby, which is also part of the /Australian sporting culture.



A look at the aussies and their amazing world

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