



GUIDANCE

Cultural Etiquette and Local Tips

WFDF 2024 World Team Disc Golf Championship

Mundaring, Perth, Australia

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Cultural Etiquette and Local Tips

Australia is a diverse and welcoming country with its own unique customs and social norms. Understanding local etiquette can enhance your experience and help you connect more deeply with the Australian people. This guide provides essential tips on tipping practices, respecting Indigenous culture, social norms, local laws, and other helpful information to ensure your visit is enjoyable and respectful.

Tipping in Australia

Unlike some countries, Australia does not have a strong tipping culture. Service staff are paid a fair wage, so tipping is not mandatory. However, it is appreciated in certain circumstances, especially for exceptional service.

For more information, visit the Australian Government's tourism page on tipping etiquette: <https://www.australia.com/en/facts-and-planning/money-and-tipping.html>

Restaurants

- **Casual Dining:** In casual eateries and cafes, tipping is rare. Staff do not expect tips, but you may choose to leave spare change or round up the bill.
- **Fine Dining:** In upscale restaurants, if you receive outstanding service, leaving a tip of **5-10%** of the total bill is appreciated but not expected.
- **Group Meals:** For large groups, some restaurants may add a service charge to the bill. Check the receipt before deciding to tip.

Taxis and Ride-Sharing Services

- **Taxis:** It is common to **round up to the nearest dollar** or leave a small tip if the driver was particularly helpful or friendly.
- **Ride-Sharing (e.g., Uber):** Tipping is not expected but is appreciated for excellent service.

Hotels

- **Bellhops and Porters:** If someone assists with your luggage, a tip of **AUD \$2-\$5** is a kind gesture..
- **Housekeeping:** Leaving a small tip for housekeeping is not customary but can be done for exceptional service.

Other Services

- **Tour Guides:** Tipping tour guides is not expected but appreciated if they provided an exceptional experience.
 - **Hairdressers and Spa Services:** Tipping is not standard practice but can be given for outstanding service.
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Respect for Indigenous Culture

Australia's Indigenous peoples have a rich cultural heritage dating back over 60,000 years. The Perth region, including Mundaring, is located on the traditional lands of the **Whadjuk Noongar** people. Acknowledging and respecting their culture is an important part of visiting Australia.

For more information on Noongar culture, visit the Noongar Cultural Centre website:

<https://www.noongarculture.org.au/>

Acknowledge the Land

- **Welcome to Country:** At formal events, a "**Welcome to Country**" may be performed by a Noongar Elder. This is a traditional ceremony welcoming visitors to the land.
- **Acknowledgement of Country:** You may also hear an "**Acknowledgement of Country**", which pays respect to the Traditional Owners. It's respectful to listen attentively during these acknowledgements.

Learn more about these practices at the Australian Government's website:

https://www.indigenous.gov.au/contact-us/welcome_acknowledgement-country

Indigenous Sites

- **Cultural Significance:** Many locations around Perth and Mundaring hold cultural importance. Sites like **Kings Park (Kaarta Koomba)** and the **Swan River (Derbarl Yerrigan)** are significant to the Noongar people.
- **Visiting Guidelines:** Follow any posted signs or guidelines when visiting these areas. Do not disturb sacred or protected sites, and avoid removing any natural items like rocks or plants.

For more information on visiting these sites respectfully, visit Tourism Western Australia:

<https://www.westernaustralia.com/en>

Mundaring's Noongar Heritage

- **Meaning of Mundaring:** The name "Mundaring" is derived from the Noongar word "**Mindah-lung**", meaning "a high place on a high area."
- **Cultural Experiences:** Consider participating in Indigenous cultural experiences or tours to learn more about the Noongar people's history, traditions, and connection to the land.

Supporting Indigenous Communities

- **Art and Souvenirs:** When purchasing Indigenous art or souvenirs, buy from reputable sources that support local Indigenous artists. For guidelines, see the Indigenous Art Code: <https://indigenousartcode.org/>
 - **Education:** Take the opportunity to educate yourself about Indigenous history and current issues affecting Indigenous communities.
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General Politeness and Social Norms

Australians are known for their friendly and laid-back attitude. Understanding social norms will help you interact comfortably with locals.

Greetings

- **Informal Greetings:** Common greetings include "**G'day**", "**Hello**", or "**Hi**".
- **Handshakes:** A **firm handshake** is customary when meeting someone new.
- **First Names:** Australians generally use **first names** soon after meeting. Titles and formalities are less common.

Conversation

- **Humour:** Australians appreciate humour and often use **self-deprecating jokes**.
- **Language:** Be aware that Australian English includes unique slang and expressions. For a guide to Aussie slang, visit: <https://www.australia.com/en/facts-and-planning/australias-unique-language.html>
- **Respectful Topics:** Avoid sensitive topics like politics or religion unless you know the person well.

Queueing

- **Forming Lines:** Australians follow a strict queuing culture. Always **wait your turn in line**.
- **Personal Space:** Maintain a respectful distance from others in public spaces.

Punctuality

- **Time Management:** Being **on time** is important, especially for professional settings, meetings, and scheduled events like competitions.
- **Casual Events:** For social gatherings, arriving **5-10 minutes late** is acceptable.

Dining Etiquette

- **Table Manners:** Basic table manners are expected. Keep elbows off the table and chew with your mouth closed.
- **Sharing Meals:** In some casual settings, meals may be shared. Follow the lead of your host or ask if unsure.

Local Laws and Regulations

Understanding local laws will help you avoid unintentional infractions.

Speed Limits and Road Safety

- **Driving Side:** Australians drive on the **left-hand side** of the road.
- **Speed Limits:** Urban areas typically have a limit of **50 km/h**, while highways range from **100-110 km/h**.
- **Seat Belts:** Wearing seat belts is mandatory for all passengers.
- **Mobile Phones:** Using a mobile phone while driving is illegal unless it's hands-free.
- **Drink Driving:** The legal blood alcohol limit is **0.05%**. Random breath testing is common.

For detailed information, visit the Western Australia Road Safety Commission:

<https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/>

Pedestrian Safety

- **Crosswalks:** Use designated crosswalks and pedestrian signals.

- **Jaywalking:** Crossing the road illegally (jaywalking) can result in fines.

Waste and Littering

- **Environmental Protection:** Littering and dumping waste are illegal and carry hefty fines.
- **Recycling:** Use designated bins for recycling when available.

For more information on waste management, visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: <https://www.der.wa.gov.au/your-environment/>

Smoking in Public Places

- **Smoking Bans:** Smoking is prohibited in indoor public places and many outdoor areas like playgrounds, beaches, and near entrances.
- **Designated Areas:** Look for designated smoking areas.
- **Penalties:** Fines apply for smoking in prohibited areas.

For details on smoking laws, visit the Government of Western Australia's Department of Health: https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Smoking-in-public-places

Alcohol Consumption

- **Public Drinking:** Consuming alcohol in public places is generally illegal unless in designated areas.
- **Underage Drinking:** Supplying alcohol to anyone under 18 is illegal.

For more information, visit the Government of Western Australia's Alcohol Think Again campaign: <https://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/>

Public Holidays and Trading Hours

Understanding public holidays and trading hours can help you plan your activities.

Remembrance Day

- **Date: November 11th**
- **Significance:** A day of national reflection to honour those who served in wars and conflicts.
- **Moment of Silence:** At **11 a.m.**, a **minute of silence** is observed nationwide.

- **Respect:** If you are in a public space during this time, it's respectful to pause and observe the silence.

Learn more at the Australian War Memorial website:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance-day>

Business Hours

- **General Hours:** Most shops and businesses operate from **9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Monday to Saturday.
- **Late Trading:** Some stores have extended hours on Thursdays or Fridays.
- **Sundays:** Trading hours on Sundays may be limited, especially in smaller towns like Mundaring.
- **Public Holidays:** On public holidays, many businesses may be closed or operate on reduced hours.

For specific trading hours, check local business websites or the Perth Tourism website:

<https://www.visitperth.com/>

Additional Local Tips

Weather and Environment

- **Sun Protection:** The Australian sun can be intense. Wear sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses. For sun safety tips, visit Cancer Council Australia:
<https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety>
- **Hydration:** Stay hydrated, especially during outdoor activities.
- **Wildlife:** Be cautious of local wildlife. Do not feed or approach wild animals.

Public Transport

- **Tickets:** Purchase tickets before boarding trains or buses. Penalties apply for fare evasion. For information on public transport in Perth, visit Transperth:
<https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/>
- **Behaviour:** Keep noise to a minimum and offer seats to those in need.

Emergency Services

- **Emergency Number:** Dial **000** for police, fire, or ambulance services.

- **Non-Emergency Police Assistance:** Dial **131 444** in Western Australia.

For more information on emergency services, visit: <https://www.triplezero.gov.au/>

Currency and Payments

- **Currency:** The local currency is the **Australian Dollar (AUD)**.
- **Card Payments:** Credit and debit cards are widely accepted. Contactless payment (tap-and-go) is common.
- **ATMs:** Readily available in cities and towns.

For current exchange rates, visit the Reserve Bank of Australia:

<https://www.rba.gov.au/statistics/frequency/exchange-rates.html>

Internet and Connectivity

- **Wi-Fi:** Free Wi-Fi is available in many public places, cafes, and hotels.
- **SIM Cards:** Local SIM cards can be purchased for mobile phone use. For options, see the Australian Government's guide: <https://www.acma.gov.au/plan-and-buy-mobile-phone>

Note: This guide aims to provide general information to assist international teams visiting Australia. Always check the most current local laws and guidelines during your visit.