

# An Australian experience

## 1 What kind of traveller are you?

a) Before you decide on a trip Down Under, find out what you prefer. Tick the sentence that is true for you.

1.  I don't want to spend too much time away from my family and friends.  
 I don't mind being away from my friends and family.
2.  It's better to travel with a friend.  It's better to travel alone.
3.  I prefer big cities.  I prefer small towns where there aren't too many people.
4.  I want to be close to the sea.  I would prefer to be in the Outback.
5.  I like working with children.  I prefer to be around others my age or older.
6.  I want to work in Australia.  I want to take English classes in Australia.
7.  It's better to live with an Australian family.  It's better to have your own flat.

b) Now tell you class what kind of trip you would prefer.

## 2 Travel stories

### Au Pair in Adelaide

I wanted to speak English better, so I decided to become an au pair for a year. It was hard work! I had to take the two children to and from school and go with them to their activities after school. I also helped them with their homework, cooked meals for them sometimes, tidied up the house and looked after the pets (two dogs and a cat!).

I worked 30 hours each week and I took an English class once a week. But I was paid 350 Australian dollars per month, and I got free food and a place to stay. Best of all I spoke English every day, all day! At

Christmas we wore shorts and put presents under a bush. I didn't like that much, but the family was nice and we still write to each other.

*Anna, Sweden*



### Summer Language Course in Perth

I had always loved learning about Australia in my English classes, so I asked my parents if I could spend the summer there. They told me I had to get better in English, so I went to a summer school in Perth. It cost a lot – 5,000 Australian

dollars – but it was worth it. I had to go to class for 20 hours a week, but we were also taken on school trips like hiking in the Outback, diving in the Indian Ocean and visiting the sights in Perth, which was 15 minutes by train. I lived with an Australian host family, so I had to speak English all the time. That's how I learned to speak so well! We lived 5 minutes from the beach and I went every day. I wish I could have stayed longer than 8 weeks, but I guess I'll go back one day.

*Roberto, Spain*



## Wwoofing in Queensland

'Wwoof' means 'Willing Workers on Organic Farms'<sup>1</sup>. In many countries you can live and work on an organic farm.

You are given free food and a place to stay, but you have to work for it! I chose Oz because it's so different from Germany. I thought I could learn English, discover Australian wildlife and learn how to grow fruits and vegetables all at the same time!



Every day for 2 weeks I worked between 4 and 6 hours. Sometimes I planted or picked vegetables. Other days I milked the cows and took care of the farm animals. I even fed a kangaroo! Twice I helped cook for everybody on the farm. There was always somebody who was working with me so I spoke a lot of English. The work wasn't always easy and it was hot every day, but the landscape was beautiful. I recommend it to all my friends.

*Samira, France*


<sup>1</sup>**organic farm** [ɔːˌɡæɪnɪk 'fɑ:m] *Biobauernhof*

## Working Holiday near Alice Springs


After we left school my girlfriend and I wanted to see the world a bit. We didn't have much money so we thought we would try to get jobs when we got there. That was harder than we thought! It was easy to get a working holiday visa, but there aren't many jobs in the Outback. I was finally hired as a waiter at a local restaurant, but my girlfriend never found anything. The job didn't pay very well, so we only stayed for 3 months. I liked meeting so many local people at the restaurant. Sometimes we were invited over for lunch or dinner. That wouldn't have happened in a big city like Sydney. In the Outback people are very friendly and they like to relax. Because we went together we spoke a lot of German, but we learned funny Australian phrases like 'G'Day, Mate!'


*Marcel, Germany*



 a) Choose your favourite travel story and take notes on:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. where they went      | 4. how much they were paid (or had to pay) |
| 2. what they did        | 5. what they learned                       |
| 3. how long they stayed | 6. advantages and disadvantages            |

 b) Find somebody in your class who chose the same story. Share your notes with each other. Would you like to take a trip like this to Australia? Why or why not? What would you change about it?

 c) Make a group of four with other pupils in your class. Be sure that each person has taken notes on a different story. Compare the trips. Which one sounds best? Why?