

Here's a little checklist before you get out of town. I put this together pretty quickly so if others have suggestions, please add to this list to help us all out : )

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Don't forget your airline tickets and passport.

Photocopy of your passport, credit cards, packed separately from your passport and cards.

Be sure you have procured your ETA (Australian Visa). If you don't know what this is, visit <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au>

Make sure your passport is valid for 6 months after your return

Consider emergency medical health insurance (mainly for the purpose of emergency evacuation in the unlikely event you should need to be transported out of a remote area back to the States.)

An easy way to get money in Australia is simply to use the ATM machines. I've read that you'll probably get the best rates doing this. However, check with your bank before you go to make sure their card will work for such withdrawals and that you have a registered a PIN with them for this cash withdrawal card.

On any of the credit cards you intend to use, contact the credit card companies before you leave and let them know that you will be traveling to Australia and might be using that credit card to alert them that these are indeed legitimate charges.

If you prefer to travel with cash and/or travelers checks, arrange for this before your departure and record the travelers check numbers and keep a copy at home.

If you are traveling on the train from Sydney to Dubbo and back, be sure to check the size and weight of your luggage. See <http://www.countrylink.info>

You may want to set up a worldwide email account that you can access while traveling, for example, with [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

Organize any prescriptions you will need during the trip and add these to your carry on luggage. The prescription bottles must have the same name as is on your passport.

Check the following website to find out what you can and cannot take into Australia:  
<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis>

Check this quarantine site to see if there is an ingredient in a sealed food product that will allow you to bring it in, or not: [http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex\\_querycontent.asp](http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp)

Bring your USA drivers license if you are renting a car.

Additional suggestions on things you might need to bring:

Eyepieces

Red Flashlight

Binoculars

Camera

Star charts

A few AU\$ for taxi or van ride from airport (there are ATM's at airport also)

Warm clothes and layers

Swimsuit (there is a pool at the hotel)

Hiking boots/shoes

Sun hat (or buy an Aussie hat there)

Sunscreen

You can buy warm Ugg boots in Dubbo at an outlet store for a good price. You can also buy a great Aussie hat, along with a variety of other sun hats, in Coonabarabran.

There are laundry facilities at the hotel and you can purchase detergent in town so pack light, knowing that you can wash your clothes as needed.

Here is a site that will show you voltage for Australia and the kind of adapter plug you will need to get into a wall socket: <http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm>

For planning purposes, here is weather data from 2006 for Coonabarabran:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data>

Here's a link for a universal packing list: <http://upl.codeq.info>

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