

Australia's relationship with

CALIFORNIA



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 39.5 million (most populous US state, 2019)
- **Major Cities:** Sacramento (capital), Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jose
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** US \$3,132,800.6 million (2019), ranked 1st in the US
- **GDP Growth:** 3.4% (2018-19)
- **Key Industries:** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate; Professional & Business Services; Government; Manufacturing; Information; Educational Services, Health Care & Social Assistance; Retail Trade; Wholesale Trade; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation
- **Known for:** Silicon Valley, Hollywood, Golden Gate Bridge, Yosemite, state motto: "Eureka", only US state to host summer & winter Olympics, nick named "The Golden State"

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** US\$5.9 Billion (2019)
- **Australian Exports to California:** US\$2.1 Billion (2019)
- **California Exports to Australia:** US\$3.8 Billion (2019)

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- Links stretch back to the Australian and Californian Gold Rushes of the mid-19th Century, which triggered large two-way exchanges of people. Today, estimates stand that around 60,000 Australians live in California, with around two thirds in the greater Los Angeles area and the other one third in the Bay Area.
- There are an estimated 120 formal agreements between Australian tertiary institutions and universities located in California.

- **Tourism:** Australia was the fourth largest source of visitors to California in 2018-19 with 614,000 Australian visitors spending US\$952 million
- **Sister Cities:** over 10 Sister City Relationships between California and Australia including: San Diego and Perth WA
Orange and Orange NSW
Arcadia and Newcastle NSW
Napa and Launceston TAS
- **Local Aussie-Inspired Shops: (2020)**
Los Angeles: Bluestone Lane, Bondi Harvest, Bronzed Aussie, Fame and Partners, Great White, Gum Tree Shop and Café, Gwen, Little Ripper Coffee, Little Ruby, Ministry of Coffee, Paramount Coffee Project, Red Window Coffee Bar, Roo Coffee
Long Beach: Bluestone Lane
Santa Monica: Bluestone Lane, Fork-In Aussie Pies, Sip Adelaide
Venice: Bluestone Lane
Los Altos: Bluestone Lane
San Francisco: Bluestone Lane, Hotel San Francisco, Village Rotisserie
Oakland: 99Designs
Hayward: Pot Pie Paradise and Deli
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with California is managed by the **Consulate General in Los Angeles** and the **Consulate General in San Francisco** (Managed by Austrade)
- **Consul General Los Angeles:** Ms Jane Duke
- **Consul General San Francisco:** Mr Nick Nichles
- **Defence Personnel:** 30+

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Gavin Newsom (D)
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 63.5%
- **Senators:** [Dianne Feinstein \(D\)](#), [Alex Padilla \(D\)](#)

- **Senator Kamala Harris** became the US Vice President as of November 7, 2020.
- **House:** 42 Democrats, 11 Republican

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco:** PO Box 471285, San Francisco CA 94147
- **Aussie Founders Network (AFN):** San Francisco
- **Wine Australia:** San Francisco
- **CSIRO** – San Francisco
- **Australians in Film:** Los Angeles
- **Australian Theatre Company (ATC):** Los Angeles
- **Facebook:**
Australians in Los Angeles
Australians in San Diego
Australians in San Francisco
- **Australian Football:**
Golden Gate Roos
Los Angeles Dragons
Orange County Bombers
Sacramento Suns
San Diego Lions
- **Australians Living in California:**
Greg Basser (CEO, Village Roadshow)
Peter Lowy (CEO, Westfield)
Michael Farrell (CEO, ResMed)
Lachlan Murdoch (Co-Chairman, 21st Century Fox & NewsCorp)
Curtis Stone (Celebrity Chef & Restaurant Owner)

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 185 Australian firms operate out of California, in sectors including minerals and resources, med-tech, retail, logistics and property development. Notable examples include:

- **Amcor:** A global leader in packaging. It supplies the food, beverage, healthcare industries and more. It has manufacturing and distribution operations at 10 sites across California
- **Billabong:** Sportswear and casual clothing manufacturer. Its US head office is in Irvine
- **Goodman Group:** The global logistics giant has a multibillion-dollar US portfolio. It has an office in Los Angeles
- **ResMed:** Global manufacturer of products to treat chronic sleep disorders. The company was founded in Australia in 1989 but relocated to San Diego in 1990

- **Westfield:** One of the world's largest retail property groups – it owns over 20 shopping malls across California. Its US head office is in Los Angeles

GLOBAL BUSINESS

California's enormous economy, its vast venture capital reserves and its highly educated workforce make it a highly desirable location to do business within the United States. **There are 53 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in California** including:

- **Google:** Headquarters in Mountain View
- **Disney:** Headquarters in Burbank
- **eBay:** Headquarters in San Jose
- **Netflix:** Headquarters in Los Gatos
- **Visa:** Headquarters in Foster City

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Over 120 formal agreements exist between Australian institutions and universities located in California. These include agreements governing student and faculty exchange, study abroad and research partnerships.

- A team from the **University of Sydney** is working with Microsoft at a research lab in the University of California on a large-scale quantum computing research project
- **The University of NSW** is leading a project with the University of California – Santa Barbara on advanced photovoltaics
- **The University of Western Sydney** is leading a project with the University of California – San Diego to investigate how collaboration impacts innovation
- **The Australian National University** is a member of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) along with US representatives Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley.

MAJOR EVENTS

- **G'Day USA Gala:** Los Angeles
- **Academy Awards:** Los Angeles
- **Grammy Awards:** Los Angeles
- **Emmy Awards:** Los Angeles
- **Coachella Music Festival:** Coachella Valley
- **LA Fashion Week**