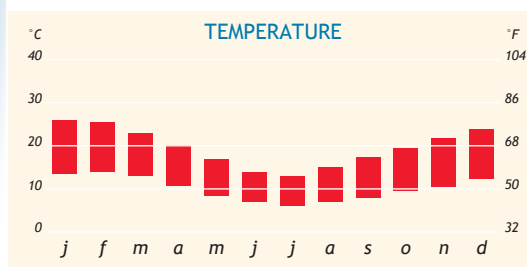
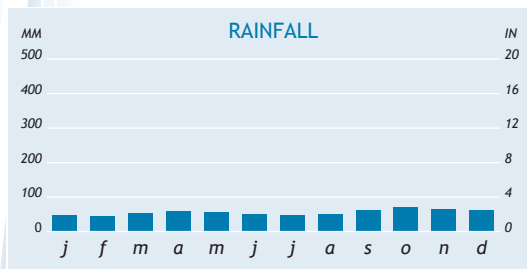


Settled by white Europeans in 1835, Melbourne was first a home for the indigenous population (locally known as Kooris) for as much as 50,000 years prior. A major goldrush attracted world attention in 1848 and a boom period ensued, which lasted nearly 40 years. It also gave the city its magnificent public architecture, gracious parks and opulent mansions. Established as the commercial headquarters and seat of government, Melbourne was the birthplace of Australian Federation.

## CLIMATE

Melbourne climate is temperate and variable with no great extremes and one of the lowest rainfall levels in Australia.

[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)



## POPULATION

Melbourne - approx. 3.4 million

Victoria - approx. 4.5 million

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

### 2002

Melbourne Cup	<i>Tuesday 5 November</i>
Christmas Day	<i>Wednesday 25 December</i>
Boxing Day	<i>Thursday 26 December</i>

### 2003

New Year's Day	<i>Wednesday 1 January</i>
Australia Day	<i>Monday 27 January</i>
Labour Day	<i>Monday 10 March</i>
Easter	<i>Friday 18 April &amp; Monday 21 April</i>
ANZAC Day	<i>Friday 25 April</i>
Queen's Birthday	<i>Friday 9 June</i>

## TIME ZONE

Australian Eastern Standard Time is GMT plus 10 hours. Daylight Savings is from the last Sunday in October to the last Sunday in March. There are several time zones in Australia. The West Coast is two hours behind the East Coast.

## TIPPING AND GRATUITIES

Not required or expected in Australia - this includes taxis.

## TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING SERVICES

Melbourne has many venues fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for simultaneous interpreting for the benefit of presenters and delegates. Experienced, internationally accredited interpreters in over 60 languages have been providing services to many international conferences.

[www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

## VISAS

All travellers to Australia, other than Australian and New Zealand citizens, are required to obtain a Visa to travel to Australia.

The **Business Visa** allows people attending conferences and meetings in Australia to make a short visit of up to three months.

Australia's Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is the **world's most advanced and streamlined travel authorisation system**. It enables visitors to Australia to obtain authority to enter at the same time as they book their travel arrangements. There is no need for the traveller to complete an application form for a Visa. In addition, a recent innovative enhancement to ETA arrangements allows a traveller to apply for an ETA over the Internet.

Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs - [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

