Welcome to the east of Australia!

This guide will hopefully help you along in the process of planning your ideal motorcycle rental, self-guided motorbike tour or fully guided ride. We’ll cover the basics about the east of Australia, when the best time to visit might be, explain the rental and tour processes, introduce the key areas of the region and even outline pitfalls you might encounter along the way.

We look forward to welcoming you to Australia!
Australia is a big place, no question about that! It’s the sixth largest country on the planet at nearly 7.7 million square kilometres, encompassing widely varied landscapes from tropical rainforests and sun-drenched coastal fringes, right through to red sandy deserts and snow-capped mountain ranges. If you’re planning a motorcycle ride in a place as large and complex as Australia it’d be useful to have a little guidance.

To that end, we’ve created this document; a guiding light in the otherwise murky and confusing gloom of planning and preparations. We’re not trying to cover the whole of Australia in one go, we’re focusing our attention on the eastern and south eastern states of Australia. The country is made up of seven states in total, but we’ll be concentrating on riding through Victoria, New South Wales, parts of Queensland and Tasmania in this guide.

Whether it’s a one-way ride between cities, a multi-week self-guided motorcycle tour or a simple few days rental around somewhere like Sydney or Melbourne, the information contained in this guide should prove inspiring and helpful.
WEATHER AND THE BEST TIME TO VISIT

Australia has two basic climate zones and the southern and northern halves of the country must be treated very differently. Whether you’ll encounter both climate zones will depend how far north and how far south you intend on riding, whilst touring the eastern part of the country.

In the northern half it is warm, bordering on hot all year round but in the Summer (late November to late March) it becomes the ‘wet season’. This is the time when the humidity levels rise dramatically, it gets extremely hot, very wet and the chances of encountering cyclones or other overly dramatic displays of weather rises in partnership with the humidity.

This is not a great time of year to visit the ‘Top End’ as roads are sometimes impassable (even surfaced ones) and it’s just uncomfortably hot and humid. Generally this means most areas to the north of Brisbane should be avoided if at all possible. If you do find yourself riding up there during the wet season, you’ll certainly question Australia’s claim as one of the driest continents in the world!

The Winter (June to August / September) in the northern and central regions of Australia is ‘peak’ season as it’s a perfect time of year for travelling up there; temperatures are typically in the high 20s and 30s (centigrade), it is not too humid and it’s generally referred to as the ‘dry’ season.

The south of Australia is much more Mediterranean and even temperate in the far south of Victoria and into Tasmania. This is typified by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Spring through to Autumn is a lovely time of year to travel here.

Winters can be cold in the south with temperatures typically between 5 and 18 degrees centigrade along the southern coast during the day. The Victorian Alps and Snowy Mountains in the south east will be covered in snow during the winter and will be very cold and icy - no fun on a bike! It’s not uncommon for roads in these regions to be closed due to heavy snowfall so unless you’re part Yeti, it’s best to plan ahead and avoid riding the mountains in winter!

Whenever you go, sun tan lotion / sunscreen and some quality sunglasses are all essential to ensure you have a great time whatever the weather; a wide-brimmed hat is also a sensible choice - not only will it provide you with some much needed protection from the glare of the sun when off the bike, but it’s a great way of hiding the ‘helmet hair’!

In general though there’s always a good time to visit somewhere in the east of Australia! When it’s too hot and humid in the north, it’s generally the time when the more southern areas are at their very best. Likewise when it’s cool and wintery in the south, it’s time to head north for some warm, dry weather. With a little bit of planning and thought you can get the finest from both regions.

AUSTRALIA’S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING

| SPRING | SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER |
| SUMMER |            |
| AUTUMN / FALL | MARCH - MAY  |
| WINTER | JUNE - AUGUST |

TROPICAL: GRASSLAND / SAVANNAH: DESERT: SUB-TROPICAL: TEMPERATE:
**ROUTES AND TIMESCALES: SYDNEY**

However long you're hoping to spend enjoying the east of Australia on a motorcycle, there will likely be a self-guided tour to suit you. In the event that there isn't a perfect fit we can always customise a tour to suit or create an entirely new one just for you. Just let us know. Select any tour to view more details online.

### SYDNEY SURROUNDS

**3 DAYS - 670KM**

- Ride the spectacular Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury River Valley and Australia’s premier wine region; amazing waterfalls, World Heritage listed environments, huge scenery and fantastic roads. It's all within a stones throw of the cosmopolitan delights offered by Sydney.

### SYDNEY TO SYDNEY EXTENDED

**7 DAYS - 2,180KM**

This tour takes you via the towering Blue Mountains and lovely wineries of the Hunter Valley, to the the incredible views along the Waterfall Way before continuing to the beautiful beaches of Byron Bay. Return to Sydney via the coast as a picturesque contrast to the more inland route.

### SYDNEY TO SYDNEY

**4 DAYS - 913KM**

- Ride along the lovely New South Wales coast to Kangaroo Valley, before switching north through the amazing Blue Mountains. Marvel at the waterfalls and the Three Sisters before continuing north along one of the best biking roads in the region, to the home of Australian wine - The Hunter Valley.

### SYDNEY TO BRISBANE

**6 DAYS - 1,538KM**

- Superb motorbiking roads skirting past world famous sights including the Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley wine region, the stunning Waterfall Way, the pristine beaches around Byron Bay and vibrant attractions on offer along the Gold Coast.

### SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE

**14 DAYS - 4,214KM**

- Take in the lovely New South Wales Southern Coast, breathtaking scenery of the Snowy Mountains, great roads of the Victoria High Country and ancient spectacle of the Grampians National Park. A last day ride along the world famous Great Ocean Road provides a final high point.

### SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE AND TASMANIA

**14 DAYS - 3,180KM**

- The cosmopolitan delights offered by one of the greatest cities on earth, combined with stunning alpine scenery in the Snowy Mountains, the best of Tasmania’s untamed wilderness and convict heritage, plus all the highlights of the state of Victoria and a ride along the world famous Great Ocean Road.

### SYDNEY TO SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

**14 DAYS - 4,214KM**

- All the key areas of Australia’s budding eastern reaches, with incredible natural wonders and fantastic scenery. Range through the tropical paradises and castaway islands of the area around Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef, combined with the dizzy heights of the Blue Mountains and all of the east coast highlights including the cosmopolitan centre of Sydney.

### SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE

**7 DAYS - 2,040KM**

- Ride the spectacular Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury River Valley and Australia’s premier wine region; amazing waterfalls, World Heritage listed environments, huge scenery and fantastic roads. It's all within a stones throw of the cosmopolitan delights offered by Sydney.

### SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE AND RETURN

**10 DAYS - 2,555KM**

- Superb motorbiking roads through the Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley, the stunning Waterfall Way, the pristine beaches around Byron Bay and vibrant attractions on offer along the Gold Coast. An inland route north, returning to Sydney along the coast.

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The choice of accommodation in Australia is huge and as varied as you’d expect of any good tourism centre.

At the lower end of the cost spectrum camping is popular in summer and there are caravan parks where you can pitch a tent in most towns. The country is very well geared up for the outdoors way of life and so campsites in National Parks are also common although facilities usually consist of toilets with no showers and you’ll need to be fairly well equipped. ‘Wild’ or ‘free’ camping is a possibility for those really wanting to keep costs down, but there will be no facilities and you’ll need to be totally self-sufficient. Also of course, it’s important to be mindful of your surroundings and considerate to both the environment and local inhabitants. Leave no trace.

Backpacker hostels are a common feature in most larger towns and a bed in a shared dorm room will be cheap, but won’t necessarily guarantee you a good night’s rest! They usually have low cost rooms for singles or couples which are often still very basic but will give you some privacy and a measure of peace and quiet.

The most popular type of accommodation for visiting motorcycle riders are ‘B&Bs’ (Bed and Breakfast), motels and hotels. These range from mid price 3 star rated places, through to very highly priced resorts and boutique style hotels. As with all accommodation you get the good, average and bad - so knowing the sensibly priced, good quality places is useful. There’s nothing worse at the end of a great day in the saddle, than to be stuck with a dirty, noisy and poor quality room to rest your head in for the night.

There is an excellent network of visitor / tourist information centres in most towns around Australia who will have an up-to-date listing of things to see and do in each area; they will be happy to help you find accommodation last minute, but you tend to find that by turning up at the end of a day’s ride and searching for somewhere to stay there and then, it will often mean that the good quality, reasonably priced places have all been booked. The more expensive options and poorer quality rooms tend to get booked last, so organising accommodation in advance means you’ll often get better value.

This is especially important in summer, during long weekends or over public holidays when accommodation in some areas is booked many months in advance. Finding accommodation over New Year, Christmas and Easter in many areas will be challenging, so you can expect to pay a premium - and that’s if you manage to find somewhere at all! Many popular tourist areas such as the Blue Mountains and Hunter Valley have two or three night minimum stays over weekends, so you’ll need to book well in advance to find places that offer just a one night stay. Prices are often higher as well.

Booking in advance is essential during these popular times. So while a carefree ride stopping wherever takes your fancy may be your preferred style of travel, it’s often not practical at the busier times of year unless you have a very flexible wallet!

If you are part of a group the accommodation issue is a very important one as there will be many places where space is limited. If you need several rooms together it can be impossible to organise if you arrive unannounced on the day. Booking in advance if you’re riding with a group is essential; unless that is, you’re all happy sleeping on the nearest park bench!

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BIKE RENTALS EXPLAINED

There are a wide variety of different types of motorcycles available to hire from Sydney, Melbourne or even Brisbane. You can choose between the ever popular Harley-Davidson cruisers, BMW adventure and touring bikes or if you prefer something Japanese there are various models from the stables of Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha. Whether you prefer to cruise in laid-back style, tour in comfort, adventure across the desert in a cloud of dust or ride something a bit ‘sportier’, chances are there will be something to suit.

You won’t find superfast sports bikes in rental fleets around Australia as insurance is impossible to obtain. Better to sit back, relax, ride at a comfortable pace and take in the magnificent surroundings.

PRICES:
There are no ‘high’ or ‘low’ seasons when it comes to prices. Costs are solely down to the rental period and the bike of your choice. In general the longer you hire for, the lower the daily rate. Some bikes are even available for extended ‘long term’ periods at a fixed cost, typically the more ‘adventure’ based steeds.

INSURANCE:
It’s important to be aware that some rental company prices tend to exclude insurance in their advertised pricing in an attempt to make them seem better value. Some companies offer insurance which only covers third party personal injury, but not the bike or other people’s property such as vehicles. Hitting an expensive luxury car or truck transporting Fabergé Eggs is bad at the best of times, but having to pay for all the damages out of your holiday savings would make for a really bad experience!

Our listed prices always include insurance which covers the bike as well as any damages or injuries caused to third parties, so getting stung with a continent sized bill after an accident isn’t a worry.

There is always an insurance excess with motorcycle rentals. The excess which is detailed along with the daily costs for the motorcycle of your choice, sets the maximum amount you will have to pay in the event that any damage is caused to the motorcycle whilst it is in your possession. The amount will vary depending on the type of motorcycle you are hiring. You can often reduce this excess for an extra fee (normally per-day) just like you might with typical car rentals, but you’ll generally find the excess will still remain quite high due to the nature of motorcycling. Any costs for repairing damage over the excess amount are covered by the insurance policy.

When you arrive to collect your motorcycle you’ll be asked for a security bond which, as with the insurance excess, varies depending on the bike you’ve chosen. This is taken via a credit card and is then refunded back onto the same card when the bike returns safely and undamaged at the end of your ride.

If there should be an accident or any damage to the bike then the bond is used first, towards covering the costs of repairs up to the amount of the insurance excess.

It is important that you obtain suitable travel or other insurance before your motorcycle trip. A policy which covers rental vehicle excesses is ideal, along with one which provides cover should the unthinkable happen and you have to cancel your trip. Make sure you check that it meets your needs as cover varies for people in different countries.

CANCELLATIONS:
Once you have submitted a booking the bike is reserved exclusively for you. If you cancel then a cancellation fee will apply. Check the specific terms and conditions for the bike you are hiring to find out more details, although in general you can expect the deposit as a cancellation fee assuming you provide over a month’s notice. Good travel insurance should cover you for this as well as any other unfortunate circumstances during the trip.
SELF-GUIDED AND GUIDED TOURS EXPLAINED

Self-guided tours are designed to make it as easy as possible for you to arrange your bike tour in Australia. They eliminate all the trouble, effort and time needed to research and plan your ride, whilst still offering an unparalleled level of customisation.

You can be confident that you’ll make the most of your time, see the best the route has to offer and have somewhere nice to stay each night. It makes for stress free days on the bike and leaves you to simply enjoy the freedom of riding, marvel at the scenery and soak up the atmosphere.

BikeRoundOz self-guided tours include the motorcycle of your choice, great accommodation in nice quality 3.5 to 4 star B&Bs (bed and breakfast) / motels / resorts and a very detailed itinerary document with digital map data that will tell you the best biking route and highlights you won’t want to miss on the way. Of course there’s nothing to say you can’t ride your own route, but we give you the best to start with and let you customise from there should you want to.

The pace is generally optimised for people that like to make good use of the bike but also enjoy pausing to admire the spectacular scenery, take short walks to points of interest or specific attractions and enjoy local hospitality with a great coffee or lunch at cafés and restaurants on the way.

A typical day will be around 350km but it will vary depending on what there is to see, or the type of riding required along the way.

The digital map data provided with the itinerary will take you from each overnight stop to the next, via the best biking route. This data is intended to be used with a smartphone, laptop, tablet or other personal digital device, although it is all sent to you in advance of your start date so you can print them out and bring them along if that suits you better.

This map and route information combined with the detailed itinerary document will take you on the best biking roads, inform you all about the background and history of each area and highlight things to see on the way.

In certain cases ‘rest’ or ‘local area’ days are incorporated into the longer tours in places of particular interest or areas worthy of further exploration.

It’s possible to completely tailor the tours to match your dates of travel, available timescale, riding preferences, accommodation desires or specific things you’d like to see. Booking your accommodation before and after the trip is no problem either, plus we are able to help arrange excursions off the bike if it makes life easier for you.

A stress-free experience before, during and after your tour is what we aim for. With so many things to experience and fantastic bikes to ride, who needs stress along as an unwanted pillion passenger?!
GUIDED TOURS EXPLAINED

If you like the idea of all the benefits of the self-guided tour but also prefer to ride in the company of other like-minded people and enjoy meeting new friends then a guided tour may well be a good option for you.

Almost everything is organised for you. Your bike is prepared, your accommodation booked, your route planned, your luggage carried on a separate support vehicle and there is always someone on hand to offer advice and help. You’ll be told all about places of interest on the way and you can be sure of a nice place to stay and good food once there. With larger groups there will be a lead rider on the tour, helping to guide the group along the route, provide useful information along the way and answer any questions that might arise.

As you’d probably expect, the guided tours cost more then the self-guided options but the peace of mind, ease of travel and friendliness of your travelling companions adds to the overall experience, so it’s becoming an increasingly popular form of motorcycle touring for those that enjoy the company of others.

To summarise: all the benefits of a professional self-guided tour, wrapped up in a complete package including new friends, peace of mind and support!
SAFETY AND RIDING ADVICE

‘Forewarned is forearmed’ as the old saying goes. Nothing beats a bit of advice and information in advance from those that know the country and the potential problems you might encounter along the way.

What follows is a bit of general information about riding safely in Australia and some pointers on things you might not have thought of. Of course if you’ve got any specific questions you can always just ask us.

INSECTS, FLIES AND OTHER ANNOYANCES:
Flies can be incredibly aggravating at certain times of year in some areas but it’s surprising how quickly you get used to a few of them hanging around. It’s generally not too bad in the eastern areas of Australia but when things get a little overwhelming it’s worth investing in a hat with a fly net attached. Alternatively, save the corks from your wine bottles and tie them around the rim – it’s not just a fashion statement – it really does work!

Insect repellent is essential. The evenings are generally peak time for biting insects and so make sure you take precautions if you’re enjoying some outdoor relaxation as the sun goes down.

DANGEROUS ANIMALS:
Before you leave for Australia everyone will be telling you that you’ll end up envenomed by a snake, bitten by a spider, chewed on by a crocodile, eaten by a shark or stung by deadly, deadly jellyfish. Whilst they’re all fairly extreme, the possibility does exist that you’ll come across a creature with the potential to do you harm. The east of Australia is a safe place, but a few sensible rules should be followed.

Snakes don’t want trouble so walk heavily as you go through the bush and they’ll be long gone before you see them. Always wear boots protecting your ankles and toes when walking in the undergrowth and don’t rummage in piles of leaves or sit on decaying logs or other piles of debris as that’s where they like to hang out.

If you’ve decided to camp, don’t leave your shoes and clothes outside your tent at night as roaming spiders might well take a liking to them.

Keep the mosquito net zipped up on the tent and always be mindful of where you choose to set up camp. Pick up chairs and tables by their sides and not with your fingers underneath, as you may disturb a spider.

ALWAYS adhere to signs warning of crocodiles and ‘stingers’ and don’t swim on tropical shores during the wet season when jellyfish are about. This is mainly only a concern if you are travelling in the northern areas of the east of Australia as crocodiles and stingers don’t venture from the more northerly region. They are clearly fans of the laid back tropical lifestyle.

It’s always reassuring to be acquainted with the right course of action in the event of a bite or sting, so a little research before you arrive may give you some peace of mind. First aid knowledge is always handy wherever you are of course!
SAFETY AND RIDING ADVICE

ANIMALS AND TRAVELLING AT NIGHT:
The rule for travelling at night, dawn and dusk is simple - don’t! Animals feed at this time and hitting a kangaroo, camel or wombat will hurt a lot (or worse) and almost certainly wreck your bike. Not a nice way to end a trip. The kangaroos often like to lie in the road to soak up the warmth as the sun goes down, so keep your eyes peeled for the sunbathing critters! It’s nothing personal - they’re just not blessed with an overabundance of road safety skills.

Whatever the animal, slow down and make sure it is out of harms way before you pass.

PREPARATION BEFORE YOU LEAVE:
Whether you’re visiting Australia from overseas or are a native looking to enjoy some riding, there are a few things you’ll need to bring along to ensure an enjoyable and trouble free biking experience. Firstly, always prepare a detailed list of things to take and then check it thoroughly before leaving home. Leaving your credit cards and cash behind won’t make for a good start to your bike trip!

DOCUMENTATION:
Don’t forget to bring your bike license, passport with visa, flight tickets, booking confirmations, credit cards, cash, travel books or guides along. If your native license isn’t printed in English you’ll need to get an IDP (International Drivers Permit) before arriving in Australia. We’d strongly recommend you obtain personal health and general travel insurance before you depart for Australia as the insurance included with bike rentals won’t cover you for injury or your personal belongings for loss or damage.

LUGGAGE ON THE BIKE:
The more you bring the heavier the bike will be and the more difficult it can be to handle, so think carefully about your list of items and minimise them wherever possible. The bikes often include panniers (side boxes) and top boxes but check the specific bike you’d like as the smaller machines sometimes come with a rack and large bag.

A small rucksack / daypack for everyday items is useful so that you don’t have to keep unstrapping everything to get to oft-used things like your camera or sun-screen (don’t forget to apply regularly).

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR ON THE BIKE:
Australia’s east has a fantastic climate but can be changeable especially in the south and on the mountains. You’ll need to cater for this and adapt your clothing to suit the conditions. A good pair of biking gloves is essential, as are armoured or sturdy jackets and trousers. Warm under-clothes are a must in the alpine regions during the cooler months. Textile based rather than leather riding gear is often preferred but it depends on what you’ve got available and your personal preference.

Specific motorcycle boots are the ideal but when you’re trying to save space and weight, a good pair of walking boots will serve you both on and off the bike. It goes without saying that an approved motorcycle helmet should be worn at all times - not only is this a legal requirement, but it’s just good sense. Don’t forget your sunglasses, you’ll definitely be needing those!

RESTING:
Depending on where you happen to be riding you might end up spending a long time holding the throttle in one place. It can get painful after a while, so you should plan to stop and stretch regularly. There’s plenty to see in the east of Australia and so finding an excuse to pull over and stretch whilst exploring won’t be hard.

You’ll see signs all over Australia warning you of the consequences of falling asleep whilst driving and riding. It is one of the biggest killers on the roads here. If you feel drowsy it’s best not to take chances. There are plenty of rest stops and so there are no excuses. Have a coffee, a power nap, shoot the breeze with some friendly locals - just take a short break and continue on your way...safely.

AUSTRALIA’S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING
SAFETY AND RIDING ADVICE

ROADS:
For the most part eastern Australian roads are in good shape and well surfaced. You’ll be able to get to the majority of the attractions without leaving them. There might be a few stretches of unsurfaced or gravel roads to get to viewpoints, carparks, accommodation or other such areas - but nothing to worry about.

Many rental motorcycles aren’t permitted on unsealed routes for much more than short distances, but there are specific machines available if you’re considering an ‘enduro’ bike trip. As with most things, road conditions are always best checked in advance.

SPEEDING:
The police are extremely rigorous when it comes to speeding, especially in towns and cities. Mobile and fixed cameras are used in many places and if you are just 2-3 kph you’ll be in for a fine. Make sure you keep to the limits. There are also penalties involved if the bike depot has to pay a fine for you and so the rules are simple: don’t speed!

DRINK RIDING:
This is a fairly obvious one: don’t.

PETROL (GAS) AND WATER:
Fuel is well within the tank range of the average bike throughout most of eastern Australia. Prices will vary though. Expect to pay a premium the further away from large towns or cities you get, plus some of the stations in smaller towns and settlements might operate on some rather unusual opening hours.

In hot areas during the Summer should drink much more than you expect. If you reach the point where you are thirsty you’re probably not drinking enough. Plan for about 5-10 litres a day - more if you’re camping and need it for cooking or if you intend to go walking in the bush. Don’t rely on other travellers to have spare petrol or water, they’ll need it for themselves!

Parts of eastern Australia can be quite remote so plan carefully if you intend to visit these areas. Don’t forget, you can always ask us first and we’ll give you some advice.

REMOTE AREAS AND PLANNING:
If you’re intending to ride in some of the more remote regions we’d advise you to always take a detailed paper map. Don’t just rely on a GPS or your smartphone. In these areas talk to local authorities about your trip and always plan your route carefully, noting roadhouses and towns for fuel and supplies. Be aware of possible wrong turns - it can quite literally save your life.

Remote trips are incredibly exhilarating but you must plan the distances and points of return properly.

ALWAYS let others know (local police for example) your route and estimated time of arrival and be sure to check in as soon as you arrive. Buying or hiring an emergency radio or satellite beacon may be wise in very remote areas. We will happily lend you our experience and offer an opinion on your plans. There’s no harm in being overly prepared after all!

Hopefully you’ve found this information useful and interesting. If you have any other questions about riding anywhere in Australia (not just the east), the best places to go, times to visit and what bike to ride, just drop us a line. We’ll be happy to help!
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Can I collect my bike at the airport?**

Airport collections and drop offs are not available. Most collection depots are within easy reach of airports or other transport hubs, usually no more than 20 minutes in a taxi. If you’re flying a long distance, we’d always recommend having a good nights rest before starting your ride anyway.

**Can I leave luggage at the depot during my trip? Or what if I need to ship it to another city?**

You are welcome to leave your luggage or excess items at the depot during your ride and there is no charge for this. We are also happy to help arrange shipping your items to your final destination if you are planning a one-way ride. Charges for this vary, but will be at our cost price.

**What are the depot opening hours?**

Opening times will vary depending on where you are collecting your bike from, so it’s best to check with us first if you are unsure. For the most part though the usual opening schedule is Monday to Saturday 09:00 to 17:00. Sundays are by appointment only.

**Can I rent a helmet and riding equipment?**

Simple answer: Yes! We always recommend that you bring your own riding equipment if at all possible for fitting and comfort reasons, but if this isn’t possible then good quality helmets, jackets, gloves, trousers (pants) and other accessories are all available to rent.

**What license do I need and what else should I bring when collecting the bike?**

You will need a **full motorcycle licence** written in English where possible. If it is not in English and doesn’t use pictographs to display your vehicle entitlements then you will also need an **International Drivers Permit**. Your home country license must allow you to ride the size of bike you are hiring. Please note that the International Drivers Permit does not replace your home country license and you will need to carry both. You will also need your passport if visiting from overseas, plus a **Visa** or **MasterCard** for the final rental payment and security deposit. Don’t forget to bring the booking confirmation with the address and telephone number of the depot, an appetite for adventure and a sense of humour are also useful!

**Can I rent a sat-nav / G.P.S for my trip?**

Yes, a limited number units are available from most locations in the east of Australia. Because availability is somewhat limited these need to be booked in advance. You’re also welcome to bring your own and the friendly staff at the depot will help you fit it. Mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets make a great alternative to the more standard sat-nav units, so if you’ve got one it’d be the more cost effective option than hiring a dedicated unit.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my mobile phone work in Australia and will I be able to get a signal?
Check with your phone company to see if they can turn on ‘roaming’ allowing you to use your phone in Australia. However it may be cheaper to buy a SIM card for your phone one you’ve arrived and mobile phone shops are everywhere, with ‘pay as you go’ plans proving being plentiful and cheap. Mobile phones generally obtain a good signal in almost all towns, cities and other metropolitan areas but in the more remote or alpine regions of the east, it can be patchy at best.

What happens if I break down?
The collection depot will provide you with a National Breakdown recovery number for use in emergencies, you should contact the depot initially to work through the issue with them in case it is something simple they can fix over the phone. The best solution to a serious problem depends on where you are and what the problem is. The depot will do everything it can to get you moving again and this is usually within 24 hours. It may involve a repair, replacement bike or alternative transport; but the priority is to allow you to continue your trip. Specific terms and conditions apply to self-guided tours which include accommodation.

Are there toll roads on my route?
For the most part the east of Australia remains blissfully toll-road free, but there are a few to be aware of around the larger cities such as Sydney and Melbourne. You’ll usually be given a sheet explaining the toll system when you arrive at the depot to collect your motorcycle. Most of the motorways surrounding Sydney, the Harbour Bridge and tunnel are all toll roads.

If you’re on a self-guided tour arranged by us, you’ll only ever end up on toll-roads if there is absolutely no alternative, but all these details will be explained in advance.

What’s the insurance excess and the security bond?
The security bond is processed on your credit card when you arrive to collect your motorcycle, then refunded upon the safe return of both you and the undamaged bike. Any damage payments are initially deducted from the bond before it is returned. The insurance excess is the most you would have to pay in the unlikely event of an accident.

For example if the damage caused is only AU$ 100, then that’s all you would have to pay; however if the damage is AU$ 6,000 and the insurance excess is AU$ 4,000 then you would be liable for AU$ 4,000, with the insurance policy covering the remainder.

It is normally possible to reduce the insurance excess to a lower amount with an additional daily payment, although this depends on the length of your rental and the bike you’re planning on using. It’s best to check in advance.

AUSTRALIA’S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING
Australia, as we’ve already established, is a very big place. This is just a small selection of some of the key highlights in Australia’s east; places that you might like to consider including in any motorcycle ride or tour that you’re planning.

You can click on any image to view the relevant section immediately, or simply scroll through the document to find the section that interests you the most.
Capital city of New South Wales, the site of Australia’s first permanent European settlement and one of the world’s most beautiful cities. Set on a large harbour it has the natural advantages of walks around the foreshores, spectacular views, bay-side parks, gardens and the architectural magic of the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

Experience the ‘Three Sisters’, brave the world’s steepest railway, tour the valleys and watch the mountains take on their evening hues from the comfort of your balcony back at the accommodation.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: SNOWY MOUNTAINS
Epic alpine scenery in Australia? Most people don’t realise that Australia has more ski runs than Switzerland, but a ride through this area will soon set the record straight.

Although mostly recognised for its winter sports, “the Snowies”, as the area is affectionately known, is a playground for those looking for something different and adventurous motorcyclists alike.

Twist through the atmospheric alpine forests, sweep along the winding mountain roads and drink in the fantastic scenery. Whilst you’re having so much fun, don’t forget to stop for lunch at one of the seasonal alpine towns along the way, or pause for a rest on the shores of one of the snow fed lakes.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE VICTORIA HIGHLANDS
New South Wales has the Snowy Mountains and Victoria has the Highlands. A more relaxed alpine environment than the “Snowies”, but don’t be fooled, there are plenty of thrilling roads to ride and more breathtaking scenery to provide a great backdrop.

Wide open plains framed by rolling hills and jagged mountain peaks, the road stretches far into the distance meandering gently as it weaves through small settlements and tiny communities. With such unrestricted views all around, there’s plenty of time to prepare for the corners, revel in the experience and then gaze about at the intricate beauty beyond the perfect ribbon of asphalt you’re speeding along.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK
It’s time to breathe deeply and savour mother nature at her very best. Discover grand mountain ranges, delicate wildflowers, a wealth of Aboriginal rock art sites and some great biking routes.

This area of granite highlands is jam packed with wildlife, waterfalls and superb lookouts. If you get high enough on a really clear day, you can even see the Great Ocean Road 170km away towards the coast.

A day spent in the Grampians is a day well spent. Wander the trails, experience the serenity or take your bike to some of the further flung corners of the area. Whatever you end up doing, you’ll be experiencing one of the finest national parks in Australia.

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK**

**AUSTRALIA’S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING**
The Great Ocean Road is rightly classified as one of the most scenic coastal drives in the world, words simply can’t describe the amazing scenery, or the experience you’ll have on this 280km coast road. It’s sheer, unadulterated motorcycling bliss.

Stunning ocean views to the south, the Otway Ranges to the north with their temperate rainforest, abundant eucalypts and resident koala populations and an eclectic mix of coastal towns along the way. A superb biking road, twisting and turning as it traces the outline of the Victoria coast, and one that every motorcyclist should ride at least once in their life!

The ‘12 Apostles’, ‘Loch Ard Gorge’ and ‘London Bridge’ are just a few of the natural marvels to be encountered along the way. It may only be 280km of asphalt, but it’ll be an experience to last a lifetime.
Capital city of Victoria and the second most populous city in Australia, Melbourne has a brilliant mix of vibrant energy, cosmopolitan charm and friendly, relaxed locals.

Cultural hub of Australia, Melbourne can be credited as the birthplace of Australian film, is a major centre for Australian music and was even ranked as the world’s most liveable city in 2011. In short, why haven’t you visited already?

Take time out of the bike to wander the fascinating streets, browse through the eclectic mix of small boutiques and larger stores, jump on one of the famous trams and see the sights, or simply kick back and relax in one of the many parks or with a coffee on the banks of the Yarra River.

Contemporary, vibrant and in places, as relaxing as you want.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: NEW SOUTH WALES COAST

AUSTRALIA’S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING
More than 30 national parks are scattered around this region of New South Wales, with marine sanctuaries and nature reserves adding to the already incredible variety. Stretching from the Royal National Park near Sydney to Eden in the south, the unspoilt natural beauty of the region makes it a perfect motorcycling destination.

You’ll wind your way around the rugged coast, through the verdant national parks and along the outstanding Seaciff Bridge on the Grand Pacific Drive. It’s not possible to ride any closer to the ocean without getting wet!
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

A world heritage site since 2000, the Blue Mountains region is a magical place no matter what time of year you visit. Incredible scenery, huge waterfalls, the second largest canyon on earth, Eucalypt draped mountains and hills, cable car rides and fantastic scenic walks.

A stunning backdrop to your motorcycle tour, with some brilliant roads thrown in for good measure. By bike is definitely the best way to truly immerse yourself in the Blue Mountains.
Ride along a sweeping, sinuous back road past the vistas and gorges of the Wollemi National Park to the welcoming clush of an embrace from the Hunter Valley. Vintage heart of Australia’s wine production, most people end up not wanting to leave!

Overnight a brief ride away from some of the most famous restaurants and wineries of the region, you could even arrive early and go on a wine tasting tour or save it for a relaxed evening out amongst the vines!

Amazing wines, fabulous local produce & quality restaurants, quaint galleries showcasing talented local artists and some unparalleled scenery. Epic.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: NEW ENGLAND

AUSTRALIA'S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING

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To describe New England as ‘scenic’ simply wouldn’t be doing the area justice. A fantastically winding back road leads you through the rolling New England countryside, past many an antique reminder of the region’s rich heritage.

Visit in Autumn and witness the whole area come alive in a spectacular blaze of colour, as the many species of deciduous tree welcome in the change of season. With some of the most scenic roads in Australia nearby, just begging to be ridden, the beautiful natural canvas of New England provides the backdrop to whatever trail you choose to ride across it.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE WATERFALL WAY

AUSTRALIA'S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING
The Waterfall Way is simply breathtaking. Dense rainforest, countless waterfalls, huge views over New England National Park and one of the best biking roads in the country, leading down to a lovely country town at the base of the Great Dividing Range.

Crystal clear streams and plenty of heart arrestingly gorgeous waterfalls.
A friendly village atmosphere thanks to its relatively small population of under 5000, beautiful beaches, Australia’s most easterly point at Cape Byron and a host of other delights await at Byron Bay.

It’s the perfect place to relax after racking up some kilometres in the saddle. Just don’t be seduced by Byron Bay’s charm, there’s plenty more to come!
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: THE GOLD COAST
Australia’s most visited, fun filled holiday destination and for good reason. Fantastic sun drenched beaches, all the adrenaline pumping theme parks, vibrant, varied nightlife and an unexpectedly beautiful and relaxing hinterland.

If you want it exciting, vibrant and maybe a little busy you’ve got it. If you’d prefer some stunning vistas and a bit of relaxation then you can have that too! Definitely having your cake and eating it on the beach too!
Capital of Queensland and the state’s most populous city, Brisbane has something special to offer just about everyone. Enjoy a lazy breakfast in the ‘urban village’, embrace the carefree spirit and mingle with the friendly locals, anxious to introduce you to the best of their city.

Satisfy your urge for retail therapy at the iconic Queens Street Mall, relax in one of the many attractive parklands or enjoy something a bit more rugged with a visit to Moreton Bay and accompanying islands.
This area has one of the most spectacular hinterlands in the country incorporating rainforests, waterfalls, pineapple plantations and the beautiful Glass House Mountains. You could even throw in a visit to the late Steve Irwin’s Australia Zoo to add a true taste of ‘Australiana’.

In addition to that, a lovely coastline and upmarket coastal resorts combine to create a region where there truly is something for everyone.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: FRASER ISLAND
The largest sand island in the world, probably one of the most spectacular and usefully, one of the most accessible. Listed as a world heritage site, Fraser Island is a precious part of Australia’s natural heritage.

A place of exceptional beauty, with over 100 crystal clear freshwater lakes ringed with white sand, a main road that is also the beach, a native and ancient dingo population and a host of historical naval relics.

Fraser Island is accessible only by air or sea, but is well worth the effort involved in getting there!
Explore the rainforest in search of the famous, yet elusive, Platypus. There are some lovely walking trails through this area and the Rangers are on hand to help you discover more about the original ‘Goreng Goreng’ aboriginal inhabitants, bush tucker and the flora and fauna of the forest.

Plus of course you get to experience the lush rainforest by bike!
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS
That perfect island paradise you’ve had an image of in your head for years? That’s somewhere in the Whitsundays. There’s no limit to the wonder of this incredible series of 74 tropical coral islands, right in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

Sail, jet ski, swim, dive or kayak in the pristine turquoise waters, just off the small coastal town of Airlie Beach. The perfect place to soothe those saddle sores after a day on the bike.
Superb rolling green scenery, complimented with some of the most beautiful waterfalls in Australia on the aptly titled Waterfall Circuit. Visit the 500 year old Curtain Fig Tree and revel in the fantastic biking roads in this varied, undulating landscape, where World Heritage rainforest and traditional farming meet.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: DAINTREE RAINFOREST

AUSTRALIA'S EAST: A GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLE TOURING
Discover relaxed tropical towns, ribbons of beach stretching as far as the eye can see, excitement, adventure and the most ancient rainforest on earth spilling down from the mountainous highlands. All that, and some great riding too.

Simply paradise!
Coconut lined beaches which fringe the lush rainforest are just one of the many reasons to visit the Cape. The trees themselves seem to be actively searching for a some beach based relaxation, they’re that close to the water’s edge.

There aren’t many places on earth you can be enjoying invigorating roads from the back of your bike one minute, and be listening to the bird song and insect chatter of the rainforest whilst indulging in a picnic on the beach the next.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS: PORT DOUGLAS & THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
You can’t actually get to the Barrier Reef on your bike of course, but the ride to the beach is pretty spectacular. Port Douglas is the closest town to the reef, so makes an excellent jumping off point.

One of Australia’s most remarkable natural gifts, the Great Barrier Reef is a place of breathtaking beauty, but then it is the world’s largest coral reef after all. Picturesque tropical islands lazily break the surface of the water, to provide some of the world’s most beautiful sun-soaked, golden beaches.

Teeming with aquatic life, you’ll discover giant clams, turtles, shoals of colourful fish and hundreds of coral species. Above, below or gazing at the waters from the comfort of a boat, the Barrier Reef is one of those things you simply must see.
There’s so much more to Australia’s east than we could possibly cover in one publication, but we certainly hope this guide has given you a few ideas and provided some inspiration!

Whatever you’re looking for in the east of Australia as long it’s based around motorcycles, then we’ll be able to help. From a long weekend cruising around Sydney or week long trip between capital cities, right through to the epic month long adventures that span multiple states; we’re here to make the process of planning an organising your ideal bike trip as hassle free and straightforward as possible.

We’re not just here to rent you a fantastic motorcycle after all, we’re all about making sure you get the very best out of your time in Australia and go home with some great stories to tell.