

Catalogue of the Passes of Australia



Éditions des Cent Cols

Catalogue of the passes of Australia

Here we present you with a catalogue of Australia that includes more than 1000 passes, over 200 of which are road passes. Australia has the size and variety of landscapes of a continent, not just a country; it may come as a surprise to those who have only remembered images of "the outback" or the desert parts of the country, but this territory has green areas and also mountains over 2000m. There are even mountain passes over 2000m and road passes over 1800m!

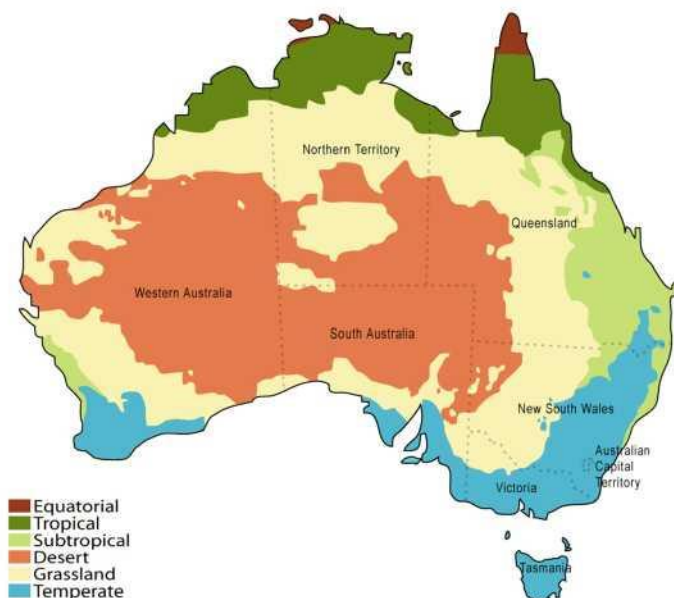
Australia – the country and the geography

Technically, Australia is a federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy. In practice, the country is perfectly independent of the titular head of state (the King of the United Kingdom) and the 7 States (+ the capital territory of Canberra) have many decentralised powers.

The Aborigines populated this continent over 50,000 years ago and were probably the only inhabitants until the arrival of European explorers and then British settlers in the 17th and 18th centuries. There is no official language, but the 'de facto' language is English - albeit with a fairly distinct accent and vocabulary. Around 50,000 people still speak some twenty aboriginal languages.

The total population is around 27 million - mainly concentrated in the major coastal cities in the south and east.

The climate varies from temperate in the south, tropical in the north to desert in the vast interior of the country:



Martyman [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)]

The average relief of the country is not very high, but there is a main mountain range (which runs along the east coast) - The Great Dividing Range - and several smaller ranges, such as The Flinders Range to the north of Adelaide. The passes are naturally concentrated in these mountain ranges:



Australia Geoscience - Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence

The highest point on the main island is Mount Kosciusko (2228m), but there is a higher point on Heard Island (to the SE of New Kerguelen) and even a still higher point in the Australian Antarctic Territory (3490m).

Administration

As with all of the Cent Cols catalogues the coding follows the ISO 3166-2 Standard.

The first sub-division of Australia is the “States”

<u>Code</u>	<u>Subdivision name (en)</u>	<u>Subdivision category</u>
AU-NSW	New South Wales	state
AU-QLD	Queensland	state
AU-SA	South Australia	state
AU-TAS	Tasmania	state
AU-VIC	Victoria	state
AU-WA	Western Australia	state
AU-ACT	Australian Capital Territory	territory
AU-NT	Northern Territory	territory

Definition of a “col” (Pass)

The Cent Cols Club Rules of the Game have been scrupulously respected in the preparation of this Catalogue:

"The passes listed in this Catalogue are those bearing this name, or any other local, regional or national equivalent, appearing (or having appeared) on cartographic or documentary sources deemed reliable by the Club. "(Rules of the Game)

"Because of the multitude of terrain configurations encountered, the minimum definition of the topographical character of a pass adopted by the Club is as follows: a privileged point of passage, imposed by the relief, situated on a watershed, and other than a summit."(Document appended to the Rules of the Game)

Descriptors that have been accepted as giving a name to a pass in Australia

The accepted descriptors were based on classification in national and state topographical databases, as well as the common meaning of the terms and the topographical features of the places designed.

More than 1,000 passes (of the 1,035 in the catalogue) bear the headings "Gap", "Pass" and "Saddle", which are well known in other English-speaking countries. "Pass" is the least reliable of these and often refers to a passage rather than a pass.

For a very small number of place names, we have also chosen "Breach", "Break", "Opening", "Col", "Cutting", "Hollow", "Neck" and "Narrows", as well as an Aboriginal word, "Warldu" (=Saddle in the Aboriginal language).

Sources and geographic coordinates

Given the size of the country, paper maps are hard to come by and even harder to justify as an investment.

We have therefore made do with digital maps (downloadable or online) - often of very good quality.

The only national scale that covers the whole country is 1:250000. Much of the country, apart from the desert interior, is covered by 1:100000 national maps. Otherwise more detailed maps, for regions or for the most populous states, are published by each individual state at scales of 1:25000 or 1:50000. We have also found a few passes that have been "overlooked" on historical maps. The vast majority of place names are recorded in gazetteers provided at national or state level. See the "Sources" column for more details.

For tourist use, we also recommend ExploreOz (1:144000) or Hema.

The national coordinate system is called GDA94. Due to the movement of tectonic plates, Australia moves relative to the world reference system (WGS84) by 7 cm each year. This difference is not considered significant for our purposes and we have measured the coordinates of all the passes using the WGS84 system.

Catalogue User Manual – explanation of the columns

Column Header	Description
Code	Country + Sub-Division + Initial Altitude of the Pass
Complete Name	The name exactly as it appears on the source document or the romanized version without diacritical marks
Alias	Some alternative names that have been recorded
Short name	The specific component of the name without the generic term

Altitude	Altitude of the geographical pass in meters as it is marked on the most precise source. This altitude can be corrected in later editions of the catalogue but the altitude included in the pass' code will not change. Hence one should always refer to the column "Alti" for the correct altitude.
Documents	Link towards the Cent Cols visualiser which displays the pass on various interactive maps .
Access	Road grading in free format as well as the reference of the road/path.. R Track S Footpath HS Off-Trail. This information and the difficulty classifications are constantly updated by our members
Type	Type of road/path 0 = Road, 10 = Track, 15 = Path, 20 = Path unknown or inexistant
Diff.	Difficulty 0 = tarmac on at least one side 1 = rideable 2 = easy pushing of the bike 3 = difficult pushing of the bike 35 = road without grading 40 = bike needing to be carried 50 = acrobatic 99 = not graded but not necessarily impossible to cross
Neighbouring	Neighbouring State
WGS84 Lon D	Longitude of the pass in the decimal format of the WGS84 system (directly usable in GPS devices, Google Earth etc).
WGS84 Lat D	Latitude of the pass in the decimal format of the WGS84 system (directly usable in GPS devices, Google Earth etc).
WGS84 Lon S	Longitude of the pass in the sexagesimal format of the WGS84 system.
WGS84 Lat S	Latitude of the pass in the sexagesimal format of the WGS84 system.
WGS84 zone	UTM zone according to the WGS84 system
WGS84 UTM x	UTM abscissa of the pass ("Easting") according to the WGS84 system
WGS84 UTM y	UTM ordinates of the pass("Northing") according to the WGS84 system..
Sources	Source map or signpost for at least one of the names of the pass!
Remarks	Additional information considered to be useful
Follow-up	The year in which the pass was added or modified
Date of addition	Date for additions or modifications Rejected/Valid
Last Update	Date of the last update of the pass' data

Cover photo : Tasmania Cradle Mountain

Thanks to Pixabay ; free usage ; no attribution required

Authors

For the list of passes and the notice

Robert Charbonnier, Graham Cutting

Please send any comments, suggestions, corrections or proposals for new passes or additional information to :

cols@centcols.org