

TRAVELLING WITH YOUR TRADE

Want to give your bank balance a boost while seeing the world? **Kris Swales** tangles with the governmental red tape to help get you started.

No matter how robust your savings are, travelling smashes your bank balance. Sure, the Aussie dollar still punches above its weight but eventually the accommodation and adventures add up.

It doesn't have to be that way, though. You're a tradie, after all, one of the most universal professions on the planet. And by using your skill set in another land, you'll not only supplement your savings but meet plenty of locals who'll teach you what really makes your destination tick.

WORKING HOLIDAY: AGED 18-30

If you are aged between 18 and 30 (over 30? Don't stop reading – sponsorship opportunities are detailed below) and hold an Aussie passport, Australia has Working Holiday Maker programs in place to work for 12 or 24 months in many corners of the world. To qualify you must be of sound health and character, have no dependent children travelling with you, hold a return ticket (or

funds to buy one) and sufficient funds to live. There are two different Working Holiday Maker visa programs in place. The 'Working Holiday' visa is the easier to negotiate, giving you options in Europe (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK),

Asia (Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Taiwan) and North America (Canada).

The 'Work and Holiday' visa, available for Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, the USA and Uruguay, has the same standard eligibility rules. On top of those, you may require a letter of approval from the Australian Government supporting the application and some level of tertiary education. Some nations also have their own unique entry requirements. ▶

Australia's high safety standards and training will open doors in Dubai and Qatar



Unions are effectively illegal in Dubai and Qatar

You know those Spanish lessons you've been talking about taking to impress exotic beauties? They'll come in handy in the South American nations, where basic Spanish is a necessity for the visa. Basic Bahasa is also a requirement in Indonesia – a skill that'll also come in handy when you're haggling – while Malaysian authorities require a police check and certificate of good health on application.

In the USA, you'll need the support of a registered sponsoring organisation, plus current enrolment in post-secondary education or graduation within the past 12 months.

FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE PROPER PAPERWORK BEFORE COMMENCING WORK MAY RESULT IN DETENTION OR DEPORTATION

Murray Andrews, an experienced landscape gardener, found work as a nursery hand in Brooklyn, New York, following a lengthy struggle with US immigration authorities. He warns that minimum wage in the States is much less than a tradie would expect for a similar position back home. "Though I once got tipped for carrying three plants down several flights of stairs," he adds, "and it was three times my hourly rate!"

Regardless of your destination, you'll need to contact the relevant foreign mission (embassy, high commission or consulate) before your departure. Smartraveller.gov.au warns that failure to obtain the proper paperwork before commencing work may result in detention or deportation.



Not a bad way to see London

SPONSORSHIP: AGED 30+

If you're not in the 18-30 demographic, the dream isn't over. Chances are you've climbed a few rungs on the ladder since first stepping on site, and sponsorship opportunities exist for skilled workers worldwide.

If you're looking for somewhere that won't feel too foreign, the UK and Canada are a good starting point. An intra-company transfer through a multinational firm or subsidiary is the easiest option. If you're willing to jump through the job application hoops, you may find an employer willing to

sponsor you outside of the nations that offer working holiday programs.

Dave Noonan, the National Secretary of the Construction division of the CFMEU, says that Australians in supervisory or management roles are coveted in the Middle East.

"I know people that have worked in safety roles in Dubai in particular," Noonan says, adding that Qatar's 2022 World Cup stadium projects are also a big lure. "A lot of the people have taken safety training through union courses or have tertiary qualifications in OH&S as well as extensive experience." ▶

NOT ALL TRADIES NEED A UTE

If you're looking for a trade that offers you something a bit different, the Navy is now recruiting for Technical Trades roles. Working onboard, you'll be looking after some of the world's most sophisticated machinery and equipment. It's an important job, but you'll have plenty of mates there to help you. So if you want a career that gives you great pay, travel and a lifetime of unforgettable experiences, call 13 19 01 or visit defencejobs.gov.au/navy today.



NAVY TRADES THE TEAM WORKS



Working conditions are going to be very different in colder climates

RECOGNITION, SAFETY AND YOUR RIGHTS

Noonan believes Australian tradies are off to a good start when seeking work overseas – particularly given “a lot of countries don’t have any qualifications or certifications or high risk licenses at all”.

He says the CFMEU can link you up with their overseas affiliates (the Electrical Trades Union also has Global Union Federation partners), while recommending you do due diligence on the country you’re hoping to work in. He warns that unions, for example, are “effectively illegal” in Dubai and Qatar.

“Anyone that wants to work in another country needs to be aware that they could be working under a different legal system,” Noonan explains.

ANYONE THAT WANTS TO WORK IN ANOTHER COUNTRY NEEDS TO BE AWARE THAT THEY COULD BE WORKING UNDER A DIFFERENT LEGAL SYSTEM

“Safety standards may not be as high as Australia, and they need to ensure that they’re not putting themselves in dangerous work situations. People also need to understand that there’ll be cultural differences no matter what country you go to.”

Even countries with obvious cultural crossover have their quirks. In Canada, for example, 55 trades are subject to recognition

by the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program – essentially, a piece of paper that means your skills are recognised across each of its 13 provinces and territories.

You should touch base with the apprenticeship office for the province or territory in which you plan to work before arriving. Alternatively, look up the National Occupational Analysis document to compare your local experience against tasks performed in the trade in Canada.

In Sweden, electrical contracting is one of many ‘regulated professions’. Fortunately, submitting an individual application or petition for authorisation isn’t compulsory. It’s the employer’s responsibility, which means working under the supervision of an electrician who has been authorised by the Swedish National Electrical Safety Board is sufficient.

FINDING WORK

When it comes to job hunting before you leave, Hays Recruitment is a good starting point. They have offices in most jurisdictions that Australians can work in, with vacancies across the full spectrum of trades.

Alternatively, there’s the tried-and-true method that Andrew Brown, proprietor of Sydney air conditioning technicians, Constant Climate, used to secure two years of similar work in London – word of mouth. “And a quick interview later I was started,” Brown says, his air con and refrigerator technician gig taking him through pubs, clubs and concert halls across the UK.


Brown says Australian trade qualifications and work ethic are looked on favourably in the UK. ▶




Tradies earn big money all in Indonesia, but there is money to be made in property development

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SP>Z SERIES  Mongrel Boots launched the first ZipSider style work boot in 2007. A great success – it is now perhaps the most copied style on the market. But while our competitors have been copying we have been improving. Today ZipSiders come in 8 styles including our latest hi-leg 561050 in wheat. Features include rubber sole, new scuff cap, protected zip and Kevlar stitching. The technology in Mongrel ZipSiders is without equal – providing both superior safety and comfort along with the benefits of Australian Made quality control. Visit our website – mongrelboots.com.au and checkout our full range of ZipSiders.



[MONGREL BOOTS]
Aussie Born and Bred

Now that you know how to get there, where should you go? Here's a few options.

▼ TURKEY

You can only apply for a work visa after you've signed a work contract with a Turkish employer and applied for a work permit to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey. Foreigners who have already been granted residence permits in Turkey with at least six months validity may also apply for work permits.

While you are there: Party and island-hop in the Greek islands.



► GERMANY

Good knowledge of German is not a prerequisite, but it will certainly help. If you've ever been to Berlin you will know it's a city constantly regenerating itself, so hit the local employment office (Agentur für Arbeit) as soon as you hit the ground.

While you are there: River surfing, beer festivals, and blue-eyed, blonde-haired beauties.

▼ CANADA

The good news for Australian tradies is you are being targeted under a new initiative from the Canadian government. They're looking to address a severe shortage of multi-skilled labour in the country, with electricians, pipefitters, welders and heavy-duty equipment mechanics in high demand.

While you are there: British Columbia has all bases covered, from sturgeon fishing on the Hunter River to snowboarding at Kicking Horse.



▲ SWEDEN

The Swedish Migration Board posts a labour shortage list twice a year, with the most recent publication having plenty of good news for bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, crane operators and electrical engineers among others. You can apply from home or whatever country you're currently residing in, but be sure to allow at least six weeks for your application to be processed.

While you are there: Check out the Northern Lights in winter and when Summer comes, so do the parties. The local ladies froth on Aussie lads.



▲ JAPAN

Essentials for your Working Holiday visa application include a detailed itinerary with any pre-existing work arrangements and a guarantee you will enter Japan with at least AU\$2500 in your coffers. If your Japanese is a little rusty, the Employment Service Center for Foreigners in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, and HelloWork (similar to Centrelink) provide English language assistance to job-seekers.

While you are there: Japan has some of the world's best powder (snow, people!!) and the legendary Fuji Rock Festival in July.

► CHILE

If you want to hit a worksite in Chile, you will need to be prepared. To obtain a Work and Holiday visa you need a work contract locked in with a company with a legal address in Chile. Then there is a small mountain of required paperwork not necessarily guaranteeing you visa approval.

While you are there: The surf in Chile is sensational with some of the world's longest waves.



► UNITED KINGDOM

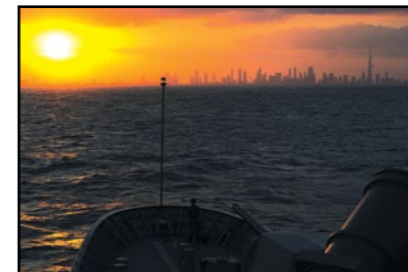
Living and working in the UK is still the classic Australian rite of passage. For \$319, STA Travel's Job Starter kit for Construction & Trades will have your CV in front of the right people before you have hit Heathrow.

While you are there: Attend an international sporting contest that we beat the Poms in and rub their smug, pasty faces in it.



► THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Using or doing your trade with the Navy can provide you with sensational travel opportunities most other jobs can't. When you talk to anyone from the Navy, one of the first things you'll hear about is all the places they've visited. Whether it's travelling around Australia or overseas, some people who have only been in the Navy for a year or two can reel off a list of destinations that most people won't even see in a lifetime. Want to know more? Just search 'Navy Trades'.



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