



Australian Government

**Department of Immigration
and Border Protection**

Border clearance advice for pilgrims

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection recognises the importance of religious events such as the Hajj, Umrah and Arba'een and the right to travel for such events.

Travelling for religious pilgrimages involves extensive preparation and is often a once-in-a-lifetime experience. To avoid any unnecessary interruptions, the Department encourages you to familiarise yourself with Australian border clearance processes before your journey.

Arriving at the airport

Although airlines advise passengers to arrive two hours prior to their flights departure, the Department recommends you arrive at the airport no later than three hours before departure. This will allow enough time for check-in, border clearance processing and any unexpected delays. After checking-in for your flight you should progress directly to border clearance processing.

Border clearance

We are committed to maintaining the security of our nation and screen all arriving and departing travellers.

When you are departing, have the following ready for clearance at the border:

- passport
- completed Outgoing Passenger Card
- boarding pass.

Before you arrive into, or depart from Australia, an Australian Border Force (ABF) officer may examine you and/or the items you are carrying. Officers may examine all baggage, goods and documents that you are travelling with. This includes electronic devices and their contents, such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops, and other storage devices. This is part of the usual border clearance process to ensure travellers aren't carrying currency that is undeclared, or material that shouldn't be brought in to or taken out of Australia. ABF officers assess travellers based on border risk and will never stop individuals based simply on race, religion, ethnicity or travel destination. In all cases, ABF officers are expected to treat travellers with dignity and respect.

SmartGate

Many of Australia's international airports now have SmartGates – a secure and simple system that allows you to self-process through passport control.

Departure SmartGate uses the information in your passport, combined with facial recognition technology, to identify you and clear you for departure.



Declaring cash or foreign currency

There is no limit to the amount of cash or foreign currency you can bring into or out of Australia. However, if the total value is AUD\$10,000 (or the foreign currency equivalent) or more, you must declare it at the Australian border.

This includes Australian dollars, foreign currency, or any combination of this, being carried on your person, in your baggage or if someone else is carrying it for you.

To declare you must:

- answer 'Yes' to the relevant questions on your Outgoing Passenger Card and
- complete a Cross-Border Movement – Physical Currency (CBM-PC) reporting form, which is available from ABF officers at international airports.

Sharing money between people travelling to avoid reporting requirements is called 'structuring' and is against the law.

Know what is on your electronic devices

It is an offence to bring into or take out of Australia, material that is offensive, or advocating violence in any form. This includes images or videos held on electronic devices that portray cruel and revolting acts, child pornography, and material that advocates or praises acts of terrorism.

By keeping images like this on your electronic devices such as a hard drive, computer or mobile phone, even if someone has sent them to you, you may be committing an offence.

More information

More information on travelling in and out of Australia can be found at www.border.gov.au.

For information about what you can and can't bring home and duty free limits for goods, visit www.border.gov.au and search 'Can I bring it back?'

For the latest travel advice from the Australian Government visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au.