THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG

The stars of the Southern Cross represent Australia’s geographic position in the Southern Hemisphere. The large Commonwealth star symbolises the federation of the states and territories, and the Union Jack reflects Australia’s early ties to Great Britain.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Advance Australia Fair* has been Australia’s official national anthem since 19 April 1984.

*Australians all let us rejoice,*
*For we are young and free;*
*We’ve golden soil and wealth for toil;*
*Our home is girt by sea;*
*Our land abounds in nature’s gifts*
*Of beauty rich and rare;*
*In history’s page, let every stage*
*Advance Australia Fair.*
*In joyful strains then let us sing,*
*Advance Australia Fair.*
*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross*
*We’ll toil with hearts and hands;*
*To make this Commonwealth of ours*
*Renowned of all the lands;*
*For those who’ve come across the seas*
*We’ve boundless plains to share;*
*With courage let us all combine*
*To Advance Australia Fair.*
*In joyful strains then let us sing,*
*Advance Australia Fair.*

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Australia observes about 12 public holidays a year, including New Year’s Day, Australia Day and Anzac Day. Anzac Day, 25 April, is a national day of commemoration for those who fought for Australia and those who lost their lives in war. It is the day the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915 during World War I. To mark the day, Australians and New Zealanders attend ceremonies at home and around the world, including in Gallipoli.