



RCC PILOTAGE FOUNDATION

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Route a2

EAST AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCLUDING TASMANIA

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For text version, see
below

For interactive Google Map



version, click on pin.

To return to text version, press
'back' button on your browser.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Pilotage Foundation is extremely grateful to David and Annette Ridout who have provided the information which is now available for the benefit of others;

Visa:

Before arriving in Australia, all non Australians (except New Zealanders) need a valid visa. Several types of visa are available, the simplest to get is the electronic travel authority which you can get from the internet, a travel agent or an Australian Mission abroad. This visa is free but only gives you 3 months and is available to most nationalities. Some visas require you to have a medical and proof of income but will allow you to stay for up to a year at a time (total if timing is right 3 years) and there is some cost attached to this and then there is a 4 year visa which necessitates you having to leave Australia for at least a brief spell every 6 months. Website for info is:

www.immi.gov.au.

Advance Notice:

The Australian Customs like to know you are coming to Australia so inform them before leaving for Aus. They want approx. ETA, details of boats, POB, animals etc. If you do

not do this more than 96 hours before arrival there are stiff penalties and they have been applying these. Then again call them up when in VHF range – see attached for form, tel., fax, email, frequencies and names of entry ports. There are a lot of conflicting reports about what quarantine in particular wants and it does seem to vary from state to state despite customs, immigration and quarantine being federal agencies. For the latest go to www.aqis.gov.au/yachts or www.affa.gov.au.

Cruising Permits:

A cruising permit will be issued to the master of the craft provided customs is satisfied the craft is transiting Australia for non-commercial purposes. Cruise permits may be issued for 12 months or the length of the master's visa whichever is less. Extension of the permit may be granted on application provided you have an appropriate visa. There seems to be some variance in the way this interpreted with WA being much stricter in their enforcing of this than the Eastern States. Whatever, you do need a cruising permit and you need to inform the authorities, mainly quarantine whenever crossing from one state to another.

Weather Forecasts:

There are 2 HF transmitters in Australia broadcasting automated weather information (Charleville in QLD and Wiluna in WA). The same forecast in text can be received from Catalogues in SAILMAIL. Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) stations throughout Aus. Broadcast the same info on VHF for their area of interest. Some locations have repeater stations to extend their VHF coverage.

Voice Services Automated voice broadcasts occur from both transmitters covering their respective areas east and west. Weather warnings for all areas are given on the hour. Coastal forecast are valid out to 60 nm off the coast. Met area 10 high seas broadcasts cover ocean areas. For more info go to www.bom.gov.au/marine.

Health:

There is reciprocal health agreement with the UK and you can go into a Medicare Office where they will issue you with a card which you can use for public hospitals and GPs. Should you wish to use private care, Medicare will reimburse some of the cost of this also.

Cruising Guides: See appendix

General

From Sydney south there are various stop-over options, but no cruising ground as such till you get to the Bass Strait where you have King Island to the far west, The Kent Group in the middle, with just a warden on Deal Island but several anchorages depending on the wind, and the Flinders Island Group to the east. Here again there is a variety of anchorages but Bass Strait does get strong winds so listen out for the forecast.

Tasmania has many cruising spots, the area from Wineglass Bay on the SE round to Recherche Bay including the D'Entrecasteaux Channel offering a great number of

anchoring spots and Hobart is an attractive town to visit and will always somehow accommodate a yacht. There are various places on the north of Tasmania but for real wilderness you have to go to Port Davey which has many snug anchorages away from human habitation of any sort. North of here Strahan offers a good jump-off point when heading north.

There are a few options when heading back to mainland Australia, assuming you want to make your way west. Melbourne is the easternmost. Port Faurey is an attractive little place but quite shallow, Portland is an all weather harbour which makes a good stop-over. Further west you have Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and Port Lincoln. There is quite a reasonable cruising area between Adelaide and Port Lincoln.

When crossing the Bight you may decide to cruise a few of the islands on the eastern side as well as a few of the bays. To this end we strongly recommend you get an Admiralty anchor, sharpen the flukes (done by most local boats) and this would be a very good help to you for the rest of your cruising as far as Carnarvon. Most other anchors find it very difficult to cut through the grass/hard sand crust that cover a lot of the bottom. You will need to get that organised well in advance as chandleries do not carry big stocks.

Time for crossing is when the high pressure system has moved off the Nullarbor Plain into the Bight, usually during the months of Jan/Feb/March, just keep a watch on the weather patterns.

When you reach the Archipelago of the Recherche you will see all over the charts 'partially surveyed' or 'unsurveyed' so bear that in mind when approaching. In fact we found C-map and the charts generally to be surprisingly accurate. Middle Island is the first island of any size you come to and from here on there are several lovely anchorages with squeaky white sandy beaches which you most likely have to yourself. Esperance is friendly and welcoming, you can anchor or tie up on the inside of the pier from where the tour boat operates. (Plenty of water and room for 2 boats). Various anchoring possibilities before reaching Albany where again you can usually tie up by the town pier. After that there are places to stop should the wind dictate otherwise make a passage round Cape Leeuwin, like most capes it can be windy and this cape has several reefs off it. The WA Cruising Guide gives you some stopping options on the way to Perth. Coming from the south you can get in through the Challenger Pass just north of Garden Island, with marker buoys at the beginning and a leading line, lit at night. This takes you inside Garden Island, you then follow the line up the main ships channel or close and go into Fremantle S.C. Everywhere on the west coast is now very crowded with boats but somehow they will find a space for you but we cannot recommend that you plan to stay for more than 1 – 2 months. The present policy is to give a visiting yacht 2 weeks f.o.c. and the yacht club has very good facilities, showers, bbq area, excellent restaurant, library and wi fi. The launderette is 5 min. walk away from the main entrance.

There is a free orange bus which does a circular route round Fremantle, can be accessed just outside entrance. There is a regular train to Perth itself and various buses to the many suburbs. Fremantle has plenty of bars and restaurants which cater for all tastes and

purses, a lovely Arts Centre offering free concerts in a tree covered setting during Sunday afternoons in the summer, its two marine museums, the old prison and cinemas plus of course supermarkets, the famous Fremantle Market open Fri/Sat/Sun. It is a vibrant place which as an architect friend explained benefited from being the poor neighbourhood so that instead of pulling its old building down and replacing with new, it has preserved its lovely old houses and in some cases just facades. However, when it comes to getting things done marine wise you feel you are on an island. Very little stock is being kept so although you can get most things, they may have to be ordered in. Any marine/electronics engineer is worked off his (Australian!) feet. This will no doubt improve as their boat industry is growing.

Cruising around Fremantle is fairly restricted, Rottnest is the big mecca most weekends and all bays are full of buoys which you have to pre-book. There are a few opportunities inside garden island but that is really it. We learnt that most of the racing is done in the river and most Perth sailing boats have tabernacles so they can lower their masts!

We cleared out here and having had difficult dealings with the customs when we first arrived we found the clearing out process extremely easy, they come to you on your boat, you do not have to move to a special dock.

See next Page for

In print and *out of print* titles from “E Aus., south about to Perth”

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Admiralty Sailing Directions

NP 13. Australia Pilot Vol I - “North, North-west, west and south coasts of Australia from the west entrance of Endeavour Strait to Green Point”

NP 14. Australia Pilot Vol. II – “South, south-east and east coasts of Australia from Green Cape to Port Jackson including Bass Strait and Tasmania”

NP 15. Australia Pilot Vol. III – “East coast of “Australia from North Head to Cape York Great Barrier Reef, islands and reefs of Coral Sea Great North East Channel Torres Strait South coast of Papua New Guinea between South Cape and the meridian of 141.01’E.”

New South Wales

Cruising Guide to the Hawkesbury River, Cowan, Broken Bay and Pittwater

Cruising the NSW Coast – A Sailor’s guide to the ports, anchorages, rivers and lakes of Australia’s First State. Alan Lucas.

Victoria

Creeks and Harbours of Western Port

Creeks and Harbours of Port Phillip

Creeks and Harbours of the Gippsland Lakes and Eastern Gippsland

Explore Victoria's Waterways: including Bass Strait & Northern Tasmania*

Tasmania

Cruising Tasmania

Tasmanian Anchorages Guide

Dentrecasteaux Waterways

South Australia

A Cruising Guide to Historic Gulf Ports Vol. 1 – “Gulf of St Vincent”

A Cruising Guide to Historic Gulf Ports Vol. 2 – “Investigator Strait and Kangaroo Island”

A Cruising Guide to Historic Gulf Ports Vol. 3 –

A Cruising Guide to Historic Gulf Ports Vol. 4 – “The West Coast

Anchoring and Anchorages in South Australia: A Guide to Cruising Anchorages within Easy Reach of Adelaide.

South Australia's Waters – An Atlas & Guide

Western Australia

Western Australia Cruising Guide*. Contact the Fremantle Sailing Club under whose aegis it is published.

Australia Wide

Australian Cruising Guide

Cirumnavigating Australia's Coastline Vol 1 – A Yachting Manual

Cirumnavigating Australia's Coastline Vol 2 – Ports & Anchorages

* Out of Print

30/3/2010