



A U S T R A L I A A N D

El Salvador



Australia and El Salvador enjoy warm relations based on people-to-people links.

Key engagement

Salvadoran diaspora in Australia.

Outlook

Modest trade potential in professional services and the clean energy and environment sector.

Bilateral relations

In response to the civil war in El Salvador, between 1983 and 1986 Australia accepted around 10,000 Salvadorans under the Special Humanitarian Program. The Salvadoran community in Australia is estimated at 20,000. Australia is home to the third largest Salvadoran community living abroad.

Australia and El Salvador both participate in the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) and the WTO Trade in Services Agreement negotiations. Australia is an observer of the Central American Integration System (SICA). The relationship is enhanced through Council on Australia-Latin America Relations (COALAR) activities.

Foreign relations

El Salvador is a member of the Organisation of American States, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Central American Integration System (SICA). It is an observer of the Pacific Alliance.



Foreign Policy White Paper:
<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au>

FAST FACTS



Salvadoran visitors to Australia (2017) **300**



Australian visitors to El Salvador (primary destination 2017)* **1,400**



Resident Australian population born in El Salvador (2016) **9,500**



Australian residents of Salvadoran descent (2016) **8,700**



Salvadoran students in Australia (2017) **60**

High level engagement

2017 Former Australian Special Envoy for Human Rights, the Hon Phillip Ruddock MP, visited El Salvador.

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*El Salvador reports the number of Australian visitors as 3,200 year ended Sept 2018 (Secretaría de Participación, Transparencia y Anticorrupción).

Public diplomacy

In 2018, the Council on Australia-Latin America Relations (COALAR) provided a grant to Somos21 Limited to connect and collaborate with people and institutions in El Salvador.

Through the [Direct Aid Program](#), the Australian Government provides financial support to a range of projects in El Salvador. Since 2016, the Direct Aid Program has supported projects to empower women with disabilities, train youth to promote a culture of peace, provide access to clean water and help communities adapt to climate change.

Economic diplomacy

Economic and trade information can be found in our [Economic Factsheet for El Salvador](#).

Travel



See Smartraveller for Information on travelling to El Salvador: smartraveller.gov.au