



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

Iceland

Key engagement

Australia and Iceland established diplomatic relations on 17 April 1984.

Australia and Iceland share a commitment to democratic values and cooperate closely on human rights and gender equality issues, defending the rules-based international order and trade liberalisation.

Outlook

Australia and Iceland continue to pursue ever closer cooperation, including on green transition and further multilateral engagement.

Bilateral relations

Australia and Iceland enjoy friendly relations. Australia and Iceland are likeminded partners, with shared values on peace and security, liberalised trade and gender equality.

Foreign policy

Iceland is a member of numerous international organisations including the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Arctic Council.

Iceland is not a member of the European Union (EU) but is a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Economic Area, which entitle it to access the EU market.

Iceland is deeply committed to human rights and gender equality. Iceland served on the UN Human Rights Council from July 2018 to 31 December 2019. Australia and Iceland worked closely together on the Human Rights Council during their overlapping terms in 2018-19.

FAST FACTS



Icelandic visitors to Australia (Year ended Dec 2020)

300



Australian resident returns from Iceland (Year ended Dec 2020)

1200



Resident Australian population born in Iceland (2021 census)

405



Australian residents of Icelandic descent (2021 census)

1,328

High level engagement

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2022 | Prime Minister Albanese met Katrín Jakobsdóttir at the NATO Summit in Madrid in June. |
| 2022 | Former Foreign Minister Payne and Foreign Minister Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir (with 21 other countries) Joint Statement of Female Foreign Ministers on the occasion of the re-opening of schools in Afghanistan in March. |



Agreements and Arrangements with Iceland

2022	Australia and Iceland signed a double taxation agreement
2008	Australia and Iceland, together with the United States, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in geothermal technology.
2000	Australia and Iceland, together with the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway, signed an Agreement on Mutual Recognition in Relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings.
1969	Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement with the Government of Iceland relating to Visas and Visa Fees.

Texts of bilateral agreements are available at the [Australian Treaties Database](#).

Political Overview

Iceland is a parliamentary republic with legislative powers vested in the Althing (Parliament). The Althing is made up of 63 members directly elected by proportional representation for four-year terms.

Economic diplomacy

In 2021, two-way goods and services trade between Australia and Iceland was valued at approximately \$95 million.

Major Australian exports to Iceland that year comprised services, education-related travel and recreational travel.

Major imports from Iceland comprised manufactured articles, agric machinery (excl tractors), and medical electrodiagnostic.

More economic and trade information can be found in the [Iceland country fact sheet](#).

Australian Embassy in Copenhagen

The [Australian Embassy in Copenhagen](#) has diplomatic accreditation to Iceland.

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Travel

See [Smartraveller](#) for information on travelling to Iceland.