



A U S T R A L I A   A N D

# Panama



**Expanding relations based on growing trade and cooperation on international issues.**

## Key engagement

Largest trading partner in Central America with growing commercial interests.

## Outlook

Panama's economy has been one of the fastest growing globally in the last decade.

Opportunities exist in education, mining, infrastructure and clean energy.

## Bilateral relations

Australia and Panama established diplomatic relations in 1974. Australia has an Honorary Consul in Panama. Australia's Ambassador to Mexico holds non-resident accreditation to Panama.

Panama opened an embassy in Australia in 2018 and has a Consulate-General, headed by an Honorary Consul, in Sydney.

## Foreign relations

Australia and Panama are members of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), World Trade Organisation (WTO), United Nations (UN), and United Nations organisations. Both participate in the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

Panama is a member of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Organization of American States (OAS), Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Central American Integration System (SICA) and other regional organisations.

Australia is an observer of SICA.

Panama is an observer of the Pacific Alliance and has FTAs in force or under negotiation with all Alliance members.

In 2017, Panama cut ties with Taiwan and switched its recognition to the People's Republic of China.



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

## FAST FACTS



Panamanian visitors to Australia ([2019 Dept of Home Affairs](#)) # 800



Australian visitors to Panama (primary destination ([2019 Dept of Home Affairs](#)) # \* 2,000



Resident Australian population born in Panama ([2016 Census](#)) 214



Australian residents of Panamanian descent ([2016 Census](#)) N/A



Panamanian Working Holiday Makers ([2019 Dept of Home Affairs](#)) N/A



Panamanian students in Australia ([2019 Dept of Education](#)) 29

## Australian Embassy in Mexico

Ruben Dario 55

Col. Polanco

Mexico City 11580

**Tel:** 52-55-11012200

**General:** [australianembassy.mexico@dfat.gov.au](mailto:australianembassy.mexico@dfat.gov.au)

[Australia en México, Centroamérica, Cuba y República Dominicana](#)

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# This data is owned by Home Affairs. It provides quarterly updates to this data on its website.

\* Panama reports the number of Australian visitors as 9,619 (Oceania) in 2019 (migracion.gob.pa).

## High level engagement

- 2017 June – Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, visited Panama.
- 2017 May – Australia’s Special Envoy for Human Rights, Philip Ruddock, visited Panama.



## Agreements with Panama

There are currently no bilateral agreements between Australia and Panama

## Public diplomacy

In 2020, the Australian Embassy hosted a webinar on Australia’s biosecurity expertise to combat Fusarium wilt of bananas. The event attracted over 150 participants from 13 different countries, including Panama.

Through the [Direct Aid Program](#), the Australian Government provides financial support to a range of projects in Panama. In 2019-20, the Direct Aid Program supported projects that targeted education outcomes for at risk youth.

## Economic diplomacy

The Australian Government supports Australian investors in Panama by providing support and advice on political, economic and regulatory environments.

Through the Department of Agriculture, Australia and Panama collaborate on areas of mutual interest, including bio-security and livestock identification and traceability.

Further economic and trade information can be found in our [Economic Factsheet](#) for Panama.

## Business

Austrade aims to attract foreign direct investment into Australia. It also identifies market opportunities and promotes the capabilities of Australian exporters and education providers.

### Austrade

<https://www.austrade.gov.au/contact/offices/country-index>



Travel

See Smartraveller for Information on travelling to Panama: [smartraveller.gov.au](https://www.smartraveller.gov.au)