



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

Poland



Key engagement

Australia and Poland established diplomatic ties in 1972. Several high-level visits in recent years have served to strengthen relations.

Outlook

Australia and the Poland have both provided military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine in response to Russia’s unilateral, illegal and immoral aggression. Poland has provided immense humanitarian support to the people forced to leave Ukraine.

Over the past five years, total goods and services trade between Australia and Poland has been growing at 7.9 per cent per annum.

FAST FACTS



Polish visitors to Australia (Year ending 30 June 2022) **2,182**



Resident Australian population born Poland (2021 census) **45,884**



Australian residents of Polish descent (2021 census) **209,281**

Bilateral relations

The Polish community in Australia plays an important and active role in promoting people-to-people contact and commercial and academic ties through several community organisations, bilateral business councils and institutes.

Poland has an Embassy in Canberra, a Consulate-General in Sydney, and Consulates in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. As of the 2021 Australian census, there were 45,884 people born in Poland in Australia and 209,281 Australian residents of Polish descent.

Australia and Poland both contributed military personnel to the United States led Coalition Against Daesh. Australia and Poland have also both provided military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine in response to Russia’s unilateral, illegal and immoral aggression.

During the Second World War, Australian and Polish forces fought alongside each other in the Siege of Tobruk in 1941, and a number of Australian aircrews flew in support of the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

High level engagement

- 2022 His Excellency General the Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) made the first ever visit by an Australian Governor-General to Poland during the 50th Anniversary year of full diplomatic relations.
- 2022 Then Foreign Minister Marise Payne visited Warsaw for the 50th Anniversary of full diplomatic relations.
- 2020 Then President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, visited Poland for the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- 2018 His Excellency Mr Andrzej Duda, President of Poland, visited Australia and met then PM the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.

Foreign policy

Poland is a member of numerous international organisations including: The World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Health Organization and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Poland joined the European Union in May 2004. Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1999. Poland is also a member of the Three Seas Initiative that includes the 12 European Union member states located between the Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas.



Agreements with Poland

2014	Work and Holiday arrangement
2010	Social Security Agreement
2006	Joint Communiqué on Cooperation in Environmental Technologies, Goods and Services
2005	Air Services Agreement
1999	Extradition Treaty
1991	Double Taxation Agreement Promotion and Protection of Investments Agreement

Texts of bilateral agreements are available at the Australian Treaties Database: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/treaties/australian-treaties-database>

Public diplomacy

The Polish community in Australia has championed Polish-Australian cultural ties. Poland has many clubs, cultural centres, community groups, theatres and groups throughout Australia. Pol-Art is the largest Polish-Australian cultural event and is held every three years in different Australian capital cities. The last event was held in Sydney in December 2022. Several famous Australian landmarks, including Mount Kosciuszko (named after General Tadeusz Kościuszko) were named by (or in honour of) Polish explorer, Paul Edmund Strzelecki.

The Australian Embassy in Warsaw hosts and supports a number of activities throughout the year to commemorate international days and showcase Australian culture, people-to-people and historical links to Poland. Past activities have included film festivals, performances and book launches by Australian writers. The Embassy regularly supports activities in support of LGBTI rights in Poland, including the Warsaw Equality Parade held in May or June each year.

Following the catastrophic bushfires of the 2019/20 summer, generous donations were coordinated by a volunteer fire brigade in southern Poland (Poreba Spytkowska) and made to Kosciuszko National Park.

The Australian Government has contributed AUD\$500,000 to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Fund. The funds will assist with essential preservation works at the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site in Poland. In June 2019, Australia was welcomed as the 33rd member country in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, joining Poland and other governments and experts to combat Holocaust denial and antisemitism, and to share best practice on Holocaust education and remembrance.

Australian Embassy in Warsaw

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Economic diplomacy

Australia has a healthy economic relationship with Poland. In 2021, Australia's two-way goods and services trade with Poland was valued at \$2.13 billion, dominated by merchandise imports from Poland. Major imports from Poland that year comprised silver & platinum, goods vehicles, soap and cleansers, and telecommunication equipment and parts. Australia's major exports were coal, other ores & concentrates, oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits, and education-related travel.

In 2021, the stock of Australian investment in Poland was valued at \$1.0 billion.

[Poland trade/economic fact sheet](#)

The Australian Government continues to seek opportunities to promote Australian business and raise awareness of potential benefits of increased trade and investment between Australia and Europe, including Poland. This work has intensified since the launch of the Australia-EU FTA negotiations in June 2018.

More information about the [Australia-EU FTA](#).

Business

Several Australian companies have a commercial presence in Poland, including: Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (logistics), Balamara Resources (coal mining), Amcor (packaging), ResMed (medical technology), Cromwell Property Group (real estate), Squiz (digital services), ZIP (fintech), IFM Investors (energy and logistics), Nufarm Polska (agrochemicals) and ORICA Poland (mining explosives).

The Australian Embassy in Warsaw promotes Australia's trade and investment interests in Poland. The Embassy actively supports Austrade's efforts to promote Australian food and wine in Poland.

[Austrade's Warsaw office](#) is also responsible for Ukraine.

Travel

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