



Online Sources for Immigration to Australia

- Jenny Joyce

Convicts

- Ancestry (<https://ancestry.com.au>)
- Findmypast (<https://findmypast.com.au>)
- NSW State Archives (<https://mhns.wa.au/collections/state-archives-collection/>)
- Col Sec Papers (NSW) – Ancestry and NSW State Archives
- Convict records of Australia - <https://convictrecords.com.au/>
- Indents of convict ships, 1830-1842 – find it under New South Wales Emigration and immigration (not all ships) on FamilySearch
- Tasmanian Names Index <https://foundersandsurvivors.com/documentation/tasmanian-names-index>

Assisted & Unassisted Immigrants

NSW

- NSW State Archives (<https://mhns.wa.au/collections/state-archives-collection/>) has numerous collections, some have images of the passenger lists, others are indexes. These cover not just arrivals in Sydney and Newcastle, but also, Moreton Bay and Port Phillip, which were initially part of NSW
- Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters 1845-1922. <http://marinersandships.com.au/> Mostly NSW, some records into PP & Moreton Bay. Transcriptions and Scans. Still a work in progress (added to frequently)
- The Australian Agricultural Company. Formed in 1824 and had properties in sheep and wool industry in the Port Stephens, Liverpool Plains and Peel River Estates; coal mining in Newcastle. <https://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre/finding-aids/australian-agricultural-company>
- Ozships: Australian Shipping 1788-1968 (<http://www.ozships.net/ozships/>). This site lists shipping arrivals and departures. It also includes 92,000+ passenger list entries which can be browsed alphabetically. These are linked to transcripts of the passenger lists. Please note that this site has not been updated since November 2008
- Historical Land Grants and Purchases <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>
- Ancestry
- Findmypast
- Family Search – Assisted immigrants inwards to Sydney, 1828-1890



Victoria

The Public Record Office of Victoria (<https://prov.vic.gov.au/>) has a number of indexes to assisted and unassisted immigrants in its online records, but they do not include images of the actual records.

Images of the records are on Ancestry and Findmypast.

QLD

- Until 1859 this was part of NSW and the NSW State Archives has Index to Assisted Immigrants Arriving Moreton Bay 1848-1859
- QLD State Archives has numerous collections covering passengers into Queensland <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/collection/immigration>
- Ancestry
- Findmypast

Tasmania/Van Diemen's Land

- The Tasmania Names Index (https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names) includes an index to 19th century arrivals & Naturalisations (1835-1905)
- Launceston Immigration Aid Society <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~austashs/immig/title.htm>
- VDL Company – indentured servants <https://stors.tas.gov.au/au-7-0050-00200016>
- Ancestry

South Australia

- It is estimated that only 10-15% of 19th century South Australian shipping lists have survived.
- South Australia State Records have passengers lists 1845-1940 - <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/migration-and-crew/passenger-lists-1845-1940>
- Bound for Australia - contains information from a wide number of primary and secondary sources. <https://bound-for-south-australia.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/>
- Genealogy SA – arrivals to South Australia 1836-1952 <https://genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search>
- Family Search also has a number of collections relating to South Australian immigration. Search the Catalog and enter a place of South Australia. Select Emigration and Immigration to see links to the collections available.
- Biographical index of South Australians, 1836-1885 : bicentennial bulletin (on FamilySearch Books)
- State Library of South Australia Pioneers and settlers bound for South Australia passenger lists 1836-1852 - <https://bound-for-south-australia.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/2BeginningYourJourney-Index.htm>
- 19th century shipping & migration to South Australia for family history research <http://www.jaunay.com/ships.html>
- Ancestry
- Findmypast

Western Australia

- Nothing online from their State Archives
- Albany Inwards Passenger Lists, 1873-1924 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/4451678> (seems to be a register of passengers, rather than individual ships' lists)
- Fremantle Inward Passenger Lists 1890-1911 <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/4461589>



- FamilyHistoryWA Public Datasets <https://www.fhwa.org.au/public> - (limited – taken from newspapers in Battye Library)
- Ancestry

Northern Territory

- Originally part of NSW, then SA from 1863
- Register of Census Returns, Election Returns, Overlanders, Passenger Departures, Passenger Arrivals held by NAA – online image of the book avail – scroll through page by page
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=337587>

Multiple States

- Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890-1960 (Findmypast and Ancestry)
- Earl Grey Famine Orphans <https://irishfaminememorial.org/>
- Donegal Relief Fund <http://donegalgenealogy.com/passlist.htm>
- The Ships' List <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/>
- Female Bounty Immigrants <https://www.rushen.com.au/>
- Highland and Island Emigration Society <https://www.angelfire.com/ns/bkeddy/HIES/1.html> and <https://www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/emigration.htm>
- Hamburg emigration lists 1850-1934 are available digitally through FamilySearch and can also be viewed at affiliate libraries.
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/43289?availability=Family%20History%20Library>. Transcript on Findmypast
- FamilySearch Wiki – many links
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Australia_Emigration_and_Immigration &
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_South_Wales_Emigration_and_Immigration &
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Queensland_Emigration_and_Immigration &
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/South_Australia_Emigration_and_Immigration &
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Tasmania_Emigration_and_Immigration &
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Victoria_Emigration_and_Immigration &
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Western_Australia_Emigration_and_Immigration

Post-Federation

- National Archives of Australia: Passenger arrivals index – 10 million 1898-1972 (includes returning residents)
<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/PassengerSearch.aspx>
- WWII refugees https://immigrantships.net/ww2_au.html
- SS Asturias passengers in the 1940s and 1950s <http://www.ssasturias.net/>

Military

- Findmypast - British Garrison Deserters in South Australia (Index)
- Biographical Database of Australia <https://www.bda-online.org.au/>
- Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) <https://www.nla.gov.au/using-library/research-tools-and-resources/australian-joint-copying-project>
- Colonial Secretaries correspondence - <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/collections/state-archives-collection/> and Ancestry
- Historical Land Records Viewer <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au/>



Crew and Deserters

- Findmypast - Queensland Ship Deserters 1862-1911 (Index only)
- Ancestry - Victoria, Australia, Deserter, Discharged, and Prisoner Crew Lists, 1852-1925 (indexed images)
- Government Gazettes. NSW and Tasmania on Trove, Victoria at <https://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>, Western Australia at <https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/gazettes.html>, Queensland at <https://www.textqueensland.com.au/gazette>
- NSW State Archives (<https://mhns.wa.gov.au/collections/state-archives-collection/>)
- Newspapers: Trove – look especially at the Gazettes included <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Naturalizations

NSW

- Ancestry.com has NSW Certificates of Naturalization 1849-1903

Tasmania

- See Tasmania Names Index <https://foundersandsurvivors.com/documentation/tasmanian-names-index>

Post-Federation

- National Archives of Australia (<https://www.naa.gov.au/>) has some digitized records. Requests can be made to digitize those not already digitized. Look for the records via “Record Search”.

Newspapers

The National Library of Australia has made digital copies of more than 20 million newspaper pages which are free to view at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>.

Newspapers can contain obituaries or death notices that might point to a year of arrival or a ship of arrival. They also sometimes include passenger lists for ships arriving in the colonies, and for unassisted immigrants this may be the only record of their arrival. Try searching for ‘shipping intelligence [surname]’.

Other Sources

- Colonial Secretary’s Papers, 1788-1825, NSW. Images on Ancestry. This sometimes lists the ship of arrival for a petitioner.
- Libraries Tasmania has many online available to browse, which may help. See their section on arrivals or departures <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/family-history/> and then select “What is online”. This includes assisted and unassisted arrivals, as well as ships arrivals and correspondence relating to arrivals of immigrants

Miscellaneous

Biographical Database of Australia (subscription required) <https://www.bda-online.org.au/>

