



Pre-departure Information for Teachers

Thank you for choosing AFT to host your students during their stay in Australia. The following are a few tips prior to coming that are best to take into consideration. Furthermore, your students will be given an orientation upon arrival that gives them some ideas about culture and safety.

What to expect:

- Students will be matched with the most suitable farm family according to your request. Placements of students with farm families vary from 2 – 6 students per farm but most commonly 3-4 due to bed and transport availability. Students will have their own bed but will share a room with at least one other student.
- Students are required to advise us of any allergies including to pets etc. Unfortunately 95% of farms will at least have a working dog so not all students with allergies will be able to have a pet free farm. Please advise if the allergy is manageable with pets kept outside to assist with our matching. If possible, it is best that students with severe pet allergies are grouped together.
- We do have farms that can cater for students with disabilities. Please advise at the time of booking should a farm with wheelchair access be required.
- Australians are very hospitable and friendly and will make your students feel welcome during their stay. Please ensure your students are given advice on the Australian culture and are encouraged to use their English during their stay. They are here for such a short time, it is a waste if they are too shy to try to use their English. It is a good idea to have at least one student that is more confident with their English, to be with each group of students to assist them.
- AFT can provide a bilingual orientation so please advise if your group requires this. (Highly recommended) We do not ask our hosts to provide rules upon arrival as it can seem unhospitable. They provide only explanation about any areas or items that might be a safety hazard. ie long grass with snakes, horses that might kick, a shed with machinery or poisons. Students are told to not go there.
- Students will have delicious home cooked meals and have the opportunity to try Australian foods such as BBQs, Vegemite and Tim Tams. They will be provided all meals during their stay. Please ensure they advise us of ANY food allergies. Please ensure students know it is not a hotel and they should offer to help in the preparation of meals and washing their own dishes.
- Please note, we do not specify to our farm hosts what they must cook. Therefore everyone will have different meals. However, we do request that they do include at least one BBQ dinner and enable students to try the Aussie food like Vegemite, Tim Tams or pavlova etc.

- As each farm is different, students will have a variety of farm activities such as collecting eggs, feeding the animals, picking fruit, weeding the garden, bushwalking etc. Some farms have horses, ATVs, 4WDs, Motorbikes and Utes. Our policy is hand held horseriding (Farm host leading the horse with student riding) is acceptable, ATVs, and Motorbikes are not allowed. 4WDs and riding in the back of the ute are allowed, only if it is safe and not at any high speeds. Swimming under supervision at the beach, at the lake and in the pool is allowed under adult supervision. In addition, rock pools or waterfalls only if it is safe and again under supervision. Should your school have a different policy, please advise at the time of the booking so farm hosts can be notified.
- Please ensure students pack clothes appropriate for farmstay as their clothes and shoes will get dirty. It is important to wear closed shoes for walking around the farm for safety, not high heels. If you are coming during the winter months, please advise students to pack sweaters and raincoats. We also request that students always wear a hat and sunblock. The Australian sun is very strong and regardless of the temperature, has the ability to burn the skin.
- Students are required to bring their own toiletries as these are not provided by the farm family. As they are spending time in the outdoors, please also advise them to bring insect repellent and sunscreen.
- Please notify us of any medications students might be taking. If the farm host needs to be responsible for the student taking it at any time, we require prior notice. All families know to contact our 24hr numbers should a student become sick. We will then contact the teachers/leaders of the group for advice on how to proceed. Naturally in any emergency, an ambulance will be called first. Host families are clear on our procedures.
- Often students forget items. If this is an expensive item and it is located by the farm host, we will ensure that it is sent back to the student. Smaller, less costly items are usually more costly to post back than to replace so we encourage students to check under the beds, in the closets and in the back of the car, before saying farewell.

We look forward to hosting your students!



Kind regards

From the Team at Australian Farm Tourism

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