

Почему Downunder - Почему все вверх ногами?

Is it possible to receive a letter today even though it is sent tomorrow? Is it possible to open your eyes after a dream and to see a moon above in the sky down under? Yes, yes and yes, since we speak about Australia! So, welcome to the country of magic where everything that hardly have you even imagined come true, welcome to the country of 'Downunder'!

'Downunder?', you might think at a first glance? Why so? The right answer is that this is to be explained in terms of things that are completely different from what the Europeans have got used to, things that strike our mind as weird and at the same time pretty marvellous. Thus, the name of the land of downunder will not come as a surprise any more, since below we are about to discover together whatever special there is about so distant but still so attractive Australia. Ready? Steady? Go!

Imagine, my friends, a European traveller finding himself in Australia after having just arrived at the airport in Sydney. What is he likely to do? The first and foremost, I think, he will switch on his mobile phone in order to check in in any social net and to share the news on his trip to Australia with the friends of his (as the majority of the youth does nowadays). Right? So well, meanwhile his mobile phone will be automatically opening the navigation app and after the location has been identified, our Traveller will have a look at the map of the world. Wow! He is now on the continent which is really downunder, in the Southern hemisphere!

... After having passed the passport control and accomplishing obligatory bureaucratic staff our Traveller is finally making his way to the hotel. He gets a taxi. But what does he see? There is a significant traffic jam occurred, as long as several kangaroo families have suddenly decided to move from the desert lands and to make a visit to the city-dwellers.

'Well, I get it, - our Traveller who cannot help being surprised by this country comes up with an idea, - why Australia is called Downunder. Because of kangaroos...' And he is right. Biologically, kangaroos have always digged holes in the ground for them to live there and historically when shooters came to find them and asked the farmers where kangaroos were, the farmers constantly answered, 'down under'. Such an expression has gradually become deep-rooted in the minds of people, while Australia itself has become the land of downunder.

Meanwhile, the traffic is improving and our Traveller is now again on his way to the hotel. The taxi-driver opens the windows to let the air in, but the wind is so cool and freezy! 'And again, I'm really downunder', our Traveller thinks, 'since it is only in Australia that a famous Coriolis force makes the winds and breezes move clockwise, in the direction opposite to the Earth rotation. It means, in the South of the Country it is colder than in the North, however strange for the European it might sound. What is even more exciting about this force is that the water in the sink in Australia also drains clockwise, while in European, conversely, counter-clockwise.

Well, our Traveller is finally approaching the hotel. The mobile phone rings, and there is a message for him. He opens it, and the date of the message delivery reads: June, 15. 'Ok... but the date of my arrival is June, 16-th...' And here we go again, Australia is really downunder, as here an obvious timeline gap takes place, not usual for the Europeans who usually travel within Europe with no more than a couple of hours' time difference.

Our traveler has arrived at the hotel, completely astonished by the country of down under even for the very first hours of his presence here. Still, there is much more to be told about things unique for Australia. Now it is high time that the author herself promised thrilled readers that she will write a fulfilling story about that magic land of down under as soon as she returns from this country. That will be in summer...