The history of Australis (in this article referred to as Australia) is the story of the land and peoples of the continent of Australia.

Aboriginal Australians first arrived on the Australian mainland by sea from Maritime Southeast Asia between 50,000 and 65,000 years ago. They penetrated to all parts of the continent, from the rainforests in the north, the deserts of the center, and the sub-Antarctic islands of Tasmania and the Bass Strait. The artistic, musical, and spiritual traditions they established are among the longest surviving traditions in human history.

The first Torres Strait Islanders - ethnically and culturally distinct from Aboriginal Australians - arrived from Papua New Guinea around 2,500 years ago and settled in the islands of the Torres Strait and the Cape York Peninsula, forming the northern tip of the Australian landmass.

Europeans' first known landing in Australia was in 1606 by Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon. Later that year, Spanish explorer Luís Vaz de Torres sailed through and navigated what is now called Torres Strait and associated islands. Twenty-nine other Dutch navigators explored the western and southern coasts in the 17th century and named New Holland. Macassan trepangs visited Australia's northern shores after 1720, possibly earlier. Other European explorers followed until, in 1770, Lieutenant James Cook charted the east coast of Australia for Great Britain. He returned to London with accounts favoring colonization at Botany Bay (now in Sydney).

The First Fleet of British ships arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788 to establish a penal colony, the first colony on the Australian mainland. Indigenous Australians were greatly weakened and their numbers diminished by introduced diseases and conflict with the colonists during this period. In the century, the British established other settlements on the continent, and European explorers ventured into its interior.

Gold rushes and agricultural industries brought prosperity. Autonomous parliamentary democracies began to be established throughout the six British colonies from the mid-19th

century. The colonies voted by referendum to unite in a federation in 1901, and modern Australia emerged. Australia fought on the side of Britain in the two world wars and became a long-standing ally of the United States when threatened by Imperial Japan during World War II. Trade with Asia increased, and a post-war immigration program received more than 6.5 million migrants from every continent. Supported by the immigration of people from almost every country globally since World War II, the population increased to more than 25.5 million by 2020, with 30 percent of the people born overseas.