



# Australian Biathlon Travel to Europe Handbook

This Handbook is a summarized guide  
It is advised that you conduct your own research

# Table of Contents

<b>Step One.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Registration.....	2
International Flights to Europe.....	3
Contacts – Travel agents.....	4
<b>Firearms .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Example Import Process into Sweden.....	5
Australian Firearms Documentation.....	7
Transit of firearms through Dubai.....	9
<b>Travel in Europe.....</b>	<b>10</b>
European Internal Flights.....	10
Car Hire.....	11
<b>Once You’re There .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Race Program in Europe.....	13
Financials.....	13
Practicalities.....	14
<b>Useful Resources .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Paperwork Required By Irene Dunn 2011.....	15
Useful Contacts in Sweden.....	16

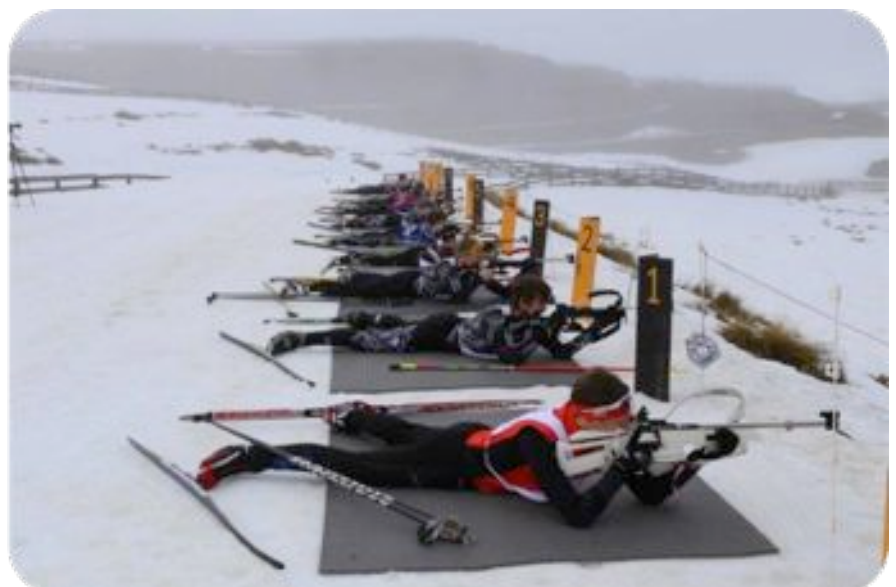
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## Step One

1. Start the process 10 weeks prior to departure.
2. Complete any personal/team declarations that may be required and check with the Executive Officer – this will apply to athletes, coaches and any officials.
3. Special Travel Insurance – have this paid for and available before notifying Australian Biathlon (AB). It is essential this includes race cover.
4. Notify AB at least two weeks prior to departure from Australia. Pay fee (check current fees) and request processing on IBU database and letter of introduction. AB requires evidence of an insurance policy which includes race cover.

## Registration

5. IBU registration dates – be sure to notify AB well in advance to allow sufficient time to process data
6. Note closing dates of event registration.
7. AB, as the Nation Federation issues correspondence to the Overseas Event Coordinator that the athlete meets IBU requirements (competent rifle handling, insurance, medical, etc).
8. You will require an invitation from the Organising Committee of the relevant event. Do not leave home without this. Besides its importance for race entry, this is required to evidence with authorities the transport, import and export of firearms. For Alpen Cup, invitations may be accessed via the website:



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## International Flights to Europe

1. Check at [bestflights.com.au](http://bestflights.com.au) for best rates before going to the travel agent.
2. Note: the best website for flights is to start with [bestflights.com.au](http://bestflights.com.au). Once you have got an idea of which airline has the best connections it is then worth checking on the airline website to see if they have a lower rate.  
If you are not getting anywhere, make contact using the telephone number for BestFlights. Call during office hours in WA - they usually have good consultants for the more complex plans and they charge extra fees for personalised bookings but are good at solving problems and will tell you when it is best to split up your journey with different airlines.
3. Ideally, do not to go via:
  - a. Bangkok not permitted to take rifles through even on transit
  - b. Japan too complicated
  - c. China too complicated
  - d. USA too complicated
  - e. Singapore will charge a fee
  - f. KL will charge a fee
  - g. London will inspect and charge and it takes 4 hours
4. Check internal flights and whether low cost operators service that airport. e.g. Frankfurt is not serviced by low cost operators.
5. It is strongly advised not to purchase one leg via one carrier and the return via a different carrier. Each airline has their own regulations in relation to the carry of firearms and transit documentation.
6. If you are transiting via Dubai, Emirates will only attend to documentation that is fully ticketed via Emirates. Do not purchase a co-partnered flight e.g. Qantas even if it on the same plane. Emirates requires that the ticketing number must have an Emirates code identifier
7. It is most economical to arrange return flights – it is more expensive to purchase two one way flights.
8. Note: Emirates currently permits 2 pieces totalling 30 kg of checked luggage. Qantas permits 30 kg checked baggage, 3 pieces permitted.
9. Note: Best way to get to Sweden is via Emirates or Qantas, via Dubai

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## Contacts – Travel Agents

The following travel agents have experience with the paperwork for handling firearms

### **Travel Agent:**

Philippa Kane [mailto:philippa.kane@flightcentre.com.au]

Philippa Kane | Assistant Manager | Flight Centre in Kew

171 High Street | Kew, Victoria . 3101

Ph: (03) 9853 3299 | Fax: (03) 9853 3209 |

Travel Agents License Number: 31089 | ABN: 25 003 377 188

They will also handle all paperwork with Emirates



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### **Travel Insurance:**

Justine Couper Snow & Sport Specialist

MTA Travel [mailto:jcouper@mtatravel.com.au]

m: +61 405 563 255 | p: 1300 365 688 Ext 316 f: +61 (0)7 5597 3700

jcouper@mtatravel.com.au | www.mtatravel.com.au

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Suresafe insurance covers rifles and competitions.



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## Firearms

The paperwork and time taken to complete will vary depending on the country that you will be travelling to.

It is important that you thoroughly investigate the process of the country you intend on visiting. You must organise the import documentation well in advance of commencing the Australian export process.

Before you start the export process you will need to have an official invitation from an

***Always carry photocopies of documentation and licences***

organiser of the event in the country you are going to.



### **Example: Import Process into Sweden**

Like most countries, the process to import firearms into Sweden must start as soon as possible as it takes a minimum of 6 weeks to obtain.

This paper work is required to commence the Australian documentation process which takes 4 another weeks.

Provide for each biathlete:

- Copy of passport – front page with photo and details
- Copy of firearms licence
- Rifle details – including serial number and make
- Complete importation forms – it is useful to have a contact in the country you plan to ski in as they will be able to assist you with this process
- Pay Swedish Border Police – see below (may not be necessary depending on the country)
- A written invitation from Sweden (or the country you are visiting for export documentation with the Australian authorities.

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## Payment for firearm import into Sweden.

This must be done before entering the country

The cost is 700 SWE Kronor (about AUD \$130) per rifle but to allow for forex and bank fees, it is suggested that you pay slightly more (830kr) to ensure there would be no delays at the border.

### **Payment via internet banking – under the Overseas tab**

Account Name: "Sweden Border Police"

Bank Name: Nordea Bank Sweden

Write: "Conveyance of Weapons" and the names, on the payment

The IBAN number with the account number is: SE2995000099603401353960

This is a string of 24 numbers and digits with no spaces.

The SWIFT code is the BIC code ie: NDEASESS

Note: If using Westpac, ignore the first box where it says Account number – leave it blank. Only use the second box under the description Account/IBAN

### **Payment via Giro:**

Note: Australia Post no longer supports Giro

The fee can be paid via Post Giro: 13 53 96-0

IBAN: SE 29 95000099603401353960

BIC: NDEASESS



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## Australian Firearms Documentation

### Minors

Minors will need to have a licensed adult responsible for the firearm. Appropriate evidence will be required e.g. loan of firearm to the responsible adult. Note that when the owner is not exporting the firearm, there is additional paperwork including a statutory declaration by the owner.



### Export Process

The B709A is the form that initiates the whole process.

This is the form where you apply to bring your rifle back into the country (oddly, before you ask for permission to take it out).

Unfortunately, it can only be done 28 days or less from date of departure. Be sure to allow for plane delays. E.g. If the plane is delayed by a day or two, the form may have expired by then. So it is best to start 26 days prior to the process.

Be sure you already have the invitations from the countries being visited.



Image copyright [www.hora2000.de](http://www.hora2000.de)



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## Important forms

1. Police form- B 709A. This form is issued by the police and required by Customs so that they know the firearm is legitimately registered in the State of the port of entry.

Note: you must have the original B709A form on return to Australia. Customs will not accept a photocopy and they will not release your rifle unless they have the original. If you find that you do not have the original, they will retain your rifle and you must go to the police station and request another (this should not take too long as you have already filled in the paperwork) then return to the airport with the new original to collect the rifle.

**Australian Government**  
**Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**

**B709A**  
**IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS -**  
**POLICE CONFIRMATION AND CERTIFICATION**

ACCOUNTABLE SERIAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DISTRIBUTION: WHITE Importer's copy, YELLOW Accountable Police copy

Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.  
 This form is only for use in relation to FIREARMS, FIREARM PARTS, FIREARM MAGAZINES, AMMUNITION, COMPONENTS OF AMMUNITION AND IMITATION FIREARMS.

Full Name of Authorized Person: Leanne Coleman Rank: Clark ID Number: 200055  
 being the, or, being a person authorised under State or Territory legislation by the: (state by ruling out as appropriate)

Chief Commissioner or Commissioner of Police in the State of New South Wales  
 Commissioner of Police of the Northern Territory, or  
 Chief Police Officer of the Australian Capital Territory,  
 hereby confirms that for the purposes of Regulation 4F and Schedule 0 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 the firearm, firearm part, firearm magazine, ammunition, component of ammunition and/or imitation firearm listed in table below for the importer:

City	Description (Make, Type, Model, Calibre, Magazine capacity, etc)	Schedule 0 Item No.*	Firearm Serial No.	Licence/Authorisation Number	Date of Expiry
1	Armschutz 1827 Balthion 22lr 5rnd o/a rifle	1			03/10/15
0	Magazines for above	17			
0					
0					
0					

being a resident of Australia or overseas visitor holds a licence or authorisation in accordance with the law of this State or Territory to possess the relevant firearm, or a licence or authorisation is not required.

Notes:  
 • The original of this confirmation must be surrendered to Customs and Border Protection when clearing the goods.  
 • This confirmation will remain valid until: date of expiry 12/05/2014 or unless revoked by the: State or Territory NSW Police authority.

Authorized Person's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 11/11/2013

\*If the firearm and/or part is a Category C firearm the statement below must also be completed.  
 I certify that the above importer of a Category C firearm and/or parts for a Category C firearm, is a primary producer or a dealer acting on behalf of a primary producer.  
 Authorized Person's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL USE  
 Customs clearance document  
 Part: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:  
 1. The above statement DOES NOT AUTHORISE the importation of the firearm, firearm part, firearm accessory, firearm magazine or ammunition referred to above. The importation is subject to the conditions and requirements as set out in regulation 4F and Schedule 0 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.  
 2. Enquiries in relation to the importation of a firearm, firearm part, firearm accessory, firearm magazine or ammunition are to be directed to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service at the intended port of entry.

2. Restricted Goods Permit - This form certifies that the rifle is safe for use in Australia and is extremely important for getting the firearm back into Australia. Without this, the rifle will be impounded and required to undergo safety testing before release. You must retrieve it from customs (which is issued by customs on behalf of Defence) once you have the B709A and all other documentation (In Sydney, you must go to customs at the airport – they don't do appointments so allow 2 hours)

Note: Customs, if not requested otherwise, will not process the forms till 5 days prior to departure. However, this important documentation must be provided to the airline carrier to commence their process for authorization of transit of your firearm. Many airlines (such as Emirates) take 5 working days excluding Fridays, to process the authorisation of firearms for transit. Therefore, be sure to request earlier processing. An RGP, once issued, is valid for 28 days prior to departure.

3. Export Declaration – this is issued with the RGP by customs. This is custom's permission to take the firearm out of the country.

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## Transit of Firearms Through Dubai

The following documents will need to be provided to Emirates to allow transit of firearms through Dubai:

1. Emirates – Firearms/Weapons & Ammunition Request Form. Emirates Form 0107. (as seen below) This has to be submitted with sufficient time for processing by Emirates. Takes 5 working days not including Fridays.
2. Restricted Goods Permit – stamped and processed by Customs.
3. Export Declaration Number - this can be found on the top right corner of the RGP
4. B709 A – processed and stamped by NSW/ Vic Police – this allows you to bring the firearm back into the country. Be sure to include magazines as well on the form.
5. Letter of invitations – from each of the countries being visited

**Emirates Group Security** Operation unit  
**FIREARM/SWEAPONS & AMMUNITION REQUEST**

Passenger Status:  Traveling DAB,  Breaking Journey in DAB,  Originating/Terminating DAB

Full Name	Booking Ref. No.	Firearm License No.	Nationality	Passport Number
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	AUSTRALIAN	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	AUSTRALIAN	[REDACTED]

Flight details: (Flight Number/Carrier)  
 OUTBOUND: EK 415: 01 Dec 2013 Sydney-Dubai; EK 157: 02 Dec 2013 Dubai-Stockholm; RETURN: EK 92: 29 Jan 2014 Milan-Dubai; EK 412: 29 Jan 2014 Dubai-Sydney

Reason/Purpose of Carriage of Firearms/Weapons & Ammunition:  
 Hunting: Safari,  Sports - BIATHLON,  Other: \_\_\_\_\_,  Security: Escort/ Government Duty,  Personal Use,  Artistic Collection

SN	FIREARM/SWEAPON	TYPE	MANUFACTURER	CALIBRE	SERIAL NO.	QTY/WTG 3MMO
[REDACTED]	BAYONET RIFLE	MODEL 107 BOLT ACTION	AMSCROTE	8.22LR	[REDACTED]	NIL

6. Statutory Declaration – from the owner of the firearm (generally the parent to another licensed adult)
7. Firearms Registration Certificate (obtained when you purchase a rifle)
8. Copy of shooter’s license
9. Copy of Passport
10. Ticketing information with the entire journey on the carrier’s specific ticketing identifiers.

**Emirates Contact**

Contact: Macey  
 Business Services | Melbourne Contact Centre  
 Level 2, 257 Collins Street | T 1300 303 777  
 Melbourne, Australia | F+61 3 96504650

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## Travel in Europe

### Europe Internal Flights:

#### SAS

- Best for flights from Sweden to Milan.
- Check pricing - cheaper on weekdays.
- Checked baggage
  - 1 bag permitted. Max 23kg
  - Each extra bag is 600 sek
  - Fee for firearms at 575 sek each



If you need to overnight at the Stockholm Skavsta Airport, this is a useful website:  
<http://www.skavsta.se/en/content/5/118/hotels-near-the-airport.html>

#### Ryanair

It is not recommended to go with Ryanair. They DO NOT carry firearms. As well, they have many additional charges and it becomes more expensive. You can only book Ryanair online, not via an agent.

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## Other Travel Methods not Recommended

Traveling with firearms requires import/export documentation and invitations at each border. This makes it inconvenient to travel long distances inter-country by road.

In Germany you will require the correct documentation and paperwork for each particular district. For example, when you arrive in Germany, you need to have a permit from that particular district. This is especially important if you are changing flights. E.g. if you



change your flight from Berlin to Munich and arrive at Munich airport with paperwork for Berlin - German Customs will impound your firearm until you get the right paperwork.

Additionally, for security reasons, train travel with firearms is not recommended.

### Car Hire:

- Choose to stay centrally for easier access to race events
- Try not to do one way hires, it is easier to hire a car for the bulk of your time in each country
- Cost for 5 weeks about AUD \$4000 for 9 people
- Take care when planning as some smaller offices only operate Monday – Friday.
- Allow in your budget costs for petrol and tolls
- Remember to fill the petrol tank before returning as the hire place will charge a premium for petrol.

Be sure to obtain a car with snow tyres. In some countries snow tyres are compulsory. It may not be possible to hire a car in one country and return it in another country due to discrepancies with snow tyre requirements and you would not be covered by insurance. For safety, it is recommended that you always hire vehicles with snow tyres.



For Car Hire Visit:  
[www.easyterra.com](http://www.easyterra.com)



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## Inter-country Car Hire

*Not recommended with firearms.*

This is a very expensive form of transport because of the one way fees. E.g. a pick up in Sweden and drop off in Italy attracts a 15,000 kroner fee (approx. \$2500)

Note: Sixt does not do one way pickups / drop offs. Hertz and Europcar are generally the cheapest but attract a one way fee.

## International Drivers Licence:

While hiring cars in Europe, be aware that Australians are required to have an International Drivers Licence for certain countries such as Italy, Germany, Austria and Slovenia.

To acquire this licence, you must go to an NRMA office and apply for one. Additionally, it only valid for 12 months or when your Australian drivers licence expires (whichever comes first).



### Application Conditions:

- Be 18 years or older
- Hold a valid Australian Drivers Licence (provisional or full)
- Pay a fee of \$39

### Transport within Sweden:

There is a direct bus from Stockholm airport to Sveg which takes about 5 hours.

Be sure to check the timetable. It changes for peak and off peak season (around the 17th of December)



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## Once You're There

### Race Program in Europe:

For detailed information on biathlon races in Europe, see information in the IBU handbook

To enter, a person must be an accredited member of AB, and have to be registered by their National Federation (AB) via the Executive Officer. AB must firstly determine if the member has qualified for the event and have submitted the correct documentation. Refer to the Australian Selection policy firstly.

Refer to the IBU website at  
<http://www.biathlonworld.com>>

To proceed to the subsequent IBU trimesters (there are 3 trimesters in a European winter season) participants need to demonstrate safety in handling firearms and complete the event within 30% of the average of the top 3.

To proceed to World Cup, the athlete must finish within 15% of the average of the top 3.

The IBU start lists usually don't appear on the IBU websites till about 12 hours beforehand.

IBU reports ranking and Nation ranking. There's no need to calculate results.

### The Financials

For 8 weeks, allow \$15, 000 including flights, special travel insurance, accommodation, food, transit costs, internal land costs, car hire, race entry fees and coaching fees.



The most cost effective method is to stay in a central location in a self contained apartment. It is cheaper to do your own cooking than to purchase meals. Allow for car hire as well as additional accommodation costs for travelling to races,

If you are planning on visiting Sveig, The Mysoxen Hotel is a Youth Hostel but if you book privately as a group, they will not honour the YHA discount. They do permit self-catering and full use of the kitchen and common facilities.

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It is recommended that common costs be paid upfront to a “group” debit card so that no one person is ever out of pocket for costs such as payments for coach, accommodation, car hire, food costs, petrol, bank charges, etc.

## The Practicalities

- Athletes need to be mentally and physically prepared for a full training program. It is difficult to train effectively as a team when some athletes just want a vacation, therefore it is recommended that each athlete share their goals prior to the trip.
- The coach should be available to the athletes 24/7. They may also supply a written training program and report to the parents during and at the conclusion of the program.
- When sharing and living together as a team, a housekeeping roster will need to be created – i.e. a pair of athletes cooking and a pair cleaning each day
- WiFi is mostly freely available in Europe. Athletes will be able to stay in touch via email, viber, whatsapp or skype.



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## Useful Resources:

Article from AB Newsletter May 2011:

### **PAPERWORK REQUIRED FOR TAKING YOUR FIREARM OVERSEAS BY IRENE DUNN**

**A**re you consider-ing taking your biathlon rifle overseas next winter?

If so, the following information may be helpful in getting your paperwork sorted out in advance. Being well organised beforehand can save much time and hassle down the ski track. Not a bad idea, as you will probably have better things to do than spend time trying to communicate in a language other than English with a bunch of cross looking Customs Officials. Trust in the —Brownie Girls' Mottol and BE PREPARED!

#### 1/ FLIGHTS

Check that your chosen airline will in fact carry your firearm / ammunition. When booking, or subsequently, inform them of your intention to take your firearm / ammunition.

There may be a COST, and / or RESTRICTIONS (eg: firearm must be made —safel or dismantled, or there may be a limit to the amount of, or packing instructions for the ammunition, or extra PAPER-WORK to fill out).

Check if the airports through which you will transit and disembark have specific requirements or charges.

For example, Singapore Airport requires a —Miscellaneous Charges Orderl or —MCOl to be paid. There is an extra charge included in the overall payment if the firearm has to be transported to a different

aircraft whilst in Singapore. This can cost about AUS \$250-300 in total if this is the case, less if it does not need to be transported.

The —MCOl needs to be paid and all forms submitted and received NO LESS THAN 7 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Make sure you carry the —MCOl – proof of payment form, your original Firearm Licence, and your original Certificate of Registration of a Firearm. COMPLY!...or you can end up in GAOL!!!

#### 2/ ITINERARY

Plan and update your itinerary. Be aware that various Customs / Consulates / Embassies may well want copies (even certified copies) of all paperwork and licences.

#### 3/ ABA COVER LETTER

Contact the ABA and arrange for a Cover Letter to be sent to you (often via internet) which will act as a letter of introduction and endorsement for your biathlon involvement. This may not be essential, but it may be helpful.

#### 4/ RACE INVITATION

Contact the Race Organisers or the Biathlon Arena / Academy where you intend to race / train, and arrange for them to send you an INVITATION to attend. This is essential if you wish to take your firearm with you.

#### 5/ PHOTOCOPIES OF ALL PAPERWORK / LICENCES

Carry the originals with you, and if able, get copies certified. Remember, it is important to take Passport, Firearm Licence, Firearm Certificate of Registration, Driver's Licence (if you have one!), any Permits issued by Consulates / Embassies

#### 6/ EMBASSIES / CONSU-LATES

Contact the Embassy or Consulate for each Country through which you intend to travel with your firearm. Regulations and VISAS vary enormously between Countries. Some may require a National Police Certificate (about \$50 through your local Constabulary), and some Consulates / Embassies may require some kind of letter from the Consulate / Embassy of other Countries before they will grant you the possibility of taking a firearm into their Country. Some Countries are easier than others! They often require a copy (email or hard copy, certified) of all or some of the paperwork. Some countries may provide a permit, usually valid for 3 months, at a cost.

#### 7/ ENTRY PERMIT

This is required by Customs in the Country in which you disembark and clear Customs. Obliging countries MAY accept a Race Invitation instead, but it is best to check beforehand rather than incurring the wrath of the Customs Officials and then being left without a firearm. Entry Permits can usually be obtained through contacting directly the Customs Office at the point through which you enter a Country and clear Customs. It may be easier for you to contact that particular Country's Embassy or Consulate here in Australia,

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**Sveg School address:**  
Skidgymnasiet Sveg  
Vallarvagen 2

842 32 Sveg, Sweden  
Phone +46 680 163 70

**Sveg Youth Hostel:**

Hotell Mysoxen  
Fjällvägen 12-14 , 842 32 Sveg,  
Sweden

**Stockholm Youth Hostel:**

Best Hostel Old Town,  
Stortorget  
Trångsund 12, Gamla Stan,  
Stockholm, 11129, Sweden  
Telephone: 0046 8 440 00 04  
Email:  
best\_hostel\_old\_town@portal.  
dormproject.ch,info@besthost  
el.se

**Rest & Fly, the Airport Hotel,  
Stockholm**

Near Terminal 4.  
Phone: 08-55 05 55 05  
E: info@restandfly.com

## Useful Contacts in Sweden

