

Buying things in Australia is a very frustrating experience because we're getting ripped off left, right and centre. Australian prices simply do not stand up to an international price comparison, which is why I do more and more online shopping.

Recent examples for things I hardly buy in Australia anymore are:

*Books:*

I read about 60-70 books per year and buy only about 2 or 3 of them in Australia, usually only when they are by an Australian author and are published in Australia way earlier than internationally.

*Clothing:*

At a store like Lululemon (yoga and athletics wear), price differences between the USA and Australia start from about 30 dollars for pants and go up to 100 dollars for jackets, meaning even factoring in the 30-dollar shipping cost from the US, I still save a lot of money by ordering online – which I just did.

*Jewelry:*

The smaller Zephyr pendant by Georg Jensen is available in Australia for somewhere between 340 AUD and 395 AUD. I bought it in Europe for AUD 190.

*Other examples are:*

- VitaMix blenders (395 USD vs 995 AUD)
- Digital SLRs and accessories
- Shoes
- Exclusive shower gels by companies such as Ralph Lauren, Dior, Bulgari etc.
- Computer games
- Audio equipment, e.g. Harman Kardon
- Computers, especially Laptops

Some companies even restrict customers' buying options by forcing them to go to the Australian section of their online shop, with whopping mark-ups.

*Examples are:*

- Apple: iPad – 629 AUD vs 499 USD, even at times when the AUD was worth more than the USD (it's the same across the rest of their products)
- Lego: Space Shuttle – 159 AUD vs 99 USD (it's the same across the rest of their products)