

# Overseas Travel during COVID-19: Oviedo, Spain – Sydney, Australia

The travel time from Oviedo to Sydney is approximately 30 hours in total. The travel route that I took was one of the fastest and included 4 transits. The following text will highlight my travel experience, as well as the extra measures taken due to the Coronavirus.

Firstly, before I set out on my travels, I purchased both alcoholic hand sanitizer and wipes to clean my hands after touching dirty surfaces throughout the airport and aeroplane. I left Oviedo at 1pm with my luggage and walked to the main ALSA bus station. From there I took the bus directly to the Asturian airport (this took approximately half an hour).

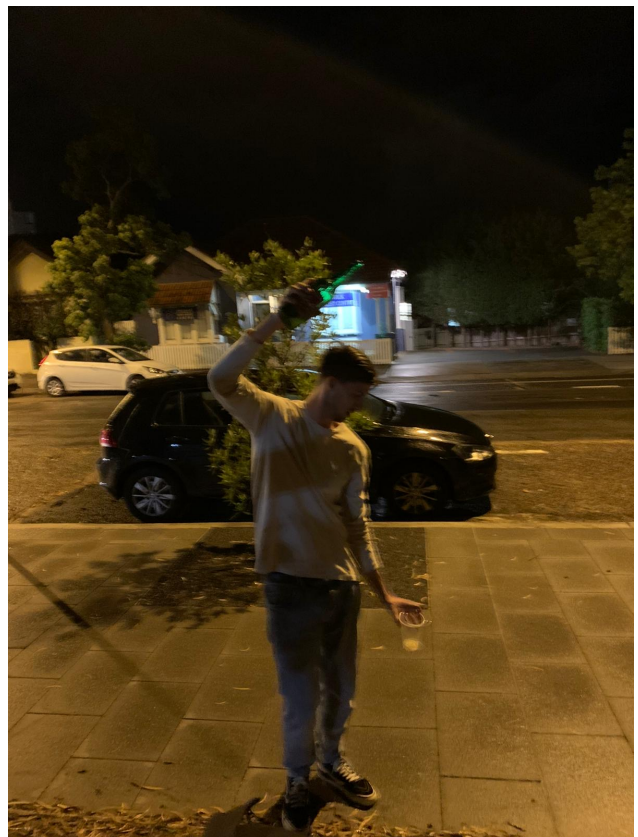
The Airport was almost completely empty! There was only 1 counter open and there was no queue for me to wait in to check-in my suitcase.



My flight from Asturias to Madrid was 1.5 hours. Whilst waiting for my first plane, I already felt nostalgic over my time spent in Spain and I knew that there was a chance I would not be able to return for quite a while. This led me to buy 3 bottles of cidre! A purchase I have enjoyed thoroughly with family and friends in Australia!

Once arriving to Madrid, I had to take a bus and train to go to my airlines check-in counter. Here, they weighed my suitcase and checked my passport. I was being very careful to wash my hands regularly throughout the trip so far. After this, I passed through the security check-point where all the staff were wearing face masks. Many people in the Madrid airport were also wearing face masks.

Next, I passed through customs control where my Spanish visa was checked.





My flight from Madrid was 8 hours, before arriving in Dubai where I spent another 3 hours waiting for my next flight to Sydney. This second next flight was 16 hours. In Dubai, many people were wearing facemasks and the effects of the coronavirus seemed to have a larger impact on the general atmosphere in the airport. People seemed very cautious of each other.

I arrived in Sydney approximately 2 days later to Kingsford-Smith Airport which is a 40-minute drive from my house. Upon entering Sydney, everybody's body temperature was taken by a heat-camera. Anybody who had a high temperature was taken to a separate area, and the rest of us could continue through to the immigration officers. After my passport was stamped I picked up my precious cidre and continued to leave the airport to reunite with my family.

