

Sydney

Eguide

Sydney, recognised as one of the most live able cities on earth, provides a very warm welcome to visitors. Stunning harbour, perfect climate, superb restaurants, energetic nightlife this safe efficient city is a must do destination.

Mix nature with the man made attractions led by the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. Add in a city centre play area, Darling Harbour, with restaurants, museums, shopping, street artists and lots more. Build a complete Olympic park and run a very successful Olympic Games. Top it all with theatres, cinemas, nightclubs, a gay/lesbian scene and some of the world's best restaurants and you have a lively pulsating city offering complete extremes of entertainment.

Sydney's skyline is large and widely recognizable dominated by the Sydney Tower. Buildings range from the simple Francis Greenways Georgian buildings, to Jorn Utzon's expressionist, the Sydney Opera House. Sydney also has a large number of Victorian buildings, such as the Sydney Town Hall and the Queen Victoria Building.

Sydney is located in a coastal basin with the Pacific Ocean to the East and the Blue Mountains to the West. The city features the largest natural harbour in the world, Port Jackson. Besides the Sydney Harbour there are more than 70 harbour and ocean beaches, including the famous Bondi Beach and Manly Beach to name just two. Sydney's urban area of 1687 square km is similar to that of Greater London. The metropolitan area is 12,145 square km, a significant portion of this area is national park and other unsettled land.



Places

Bondi Beach

Bondi is the nearest ocean beach to the centre of Sydney, only eight kilometres distant. The Surf Life Saving Club dates from 1906, only four years after the ban on daylight bathing in urban areas was lifted in Sydney.

CBD

The Central Business District (CBD) of Sydney is the historical centre of government, retail, finance, culture and entertainment.

Circular Quay

Circular Quay is the harbour gateway to the city. Next to the Sydney Opera House and Royal Botanic Gardens. Originally a major port for shipping now is mainly used by the Sydney Ferries.

Chinatown

Chinese culture and cuisine around Sussex Street at the entrance to Darling Harbour. Chinatown has distinctive oriental architecture, street lanterns and archways. Plenty of places to dine on Asian dishes.



Darling Harbour

An extensive, leisure and entertainment area immediately to the west of the CBD with many hotels and restaurants.



Darlinghurst

The area around Taylor Square, which marks the start of Darlinghurst, and Oxford Street at Hyde Park is popular with the gay and lesbian scene.

Kings Cross

Kings Cross is known as a nightspot for visitors with bars, strip clubs and the centre of the red light district. There are many restaurants, cafes and bars. Macleay Street runs down to the harbour where the Royal Australian Navy moors several warships, often open for inspection.

Paddington

Paddington starts at the end of Centennial Park and runs up Oxford Street. Many of its streets are steep and narrow and shops mainly boutiques, bookshops, cafes and pubs.

Manly

The journey to Manly is a beautiful ferry ride. It is also a popular and fashionable area, famous both for its tree-lined beach and for its food, much of which lies along the short but trendy street known as The Corso, joining the harbour and ocean sides of the peninsula. Manly lies on the North Head of the harbour entrance.

North

Sydney Harbour Bridge

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is 502 metres long and 48.8 metres wide and it weighs 52,800 tonnes. The top is 134 metres above sea level. It carries both road and rail traffic and there is a footway for pedestrians. One of Sydney's wonderful attractions is Bridge Climb a three-hour climb right up to the top of the bridge.



The Rocks

The Rocks is one of the oldest areas of Sydney and was one of the first places to be settled. The Rocks is a thriving tourist attraction, full of souvenir shops and cafés, galleries and museums. Every weekend there is a lively market in George Street.

The twisting alleys and old courtyards have an old-world character.



The Eastern Suburbs

The area between the City and the sea at Bondi Beach. The Inner West Sydney's original suburbs with King Street, Newtown with good shopping and eating.

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West

Sydney has moved west and almost reaches the Blue Mountains. The west side of Sydney includes the Sydney Olympic Park, Parramatta and Penrith.

History

Lt Cook (he became a Captain later) first arrived at Botany Bay on April 29, 1770. The original aboriginal name of the area was Warrane but was to become Sydney, being named after Lord Sydney, the British Secretary of State for Home Affairs, who had authorised the colonisation scheme.

The discovery of valuable land west of the Great Dividing Range led to the early prosperity. By 1842 with the arrival of continuing convicts and free settlers, numbers had grown to 30,000. In 1848 the British Government stopped the policy of sending convicts. The flow of immigrants continued as rural people escaped the poverty of Britain. It was in the 1800's that large scale development started and the Victorian architecture spread, going up the hill from the harbour.

The 1930's were hard for Sydney but it was a time of celebration with the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in March 1932. The construction provided a living for many and had the nickname 'Iron Lung' due to the fact that it saved so many from starvation with the earnings workers made.

During the Second World War, Sydney was considered a target by the Japanese. That led to the deployment of large numbers of US troops in the city. Mass migration followed the ending of the war and migration continues to this day. The mix of immigrants who changed over the years now provides Sydney with its very mixed and rich culture.

The grandest building in Sydney, the Opera House was opened in 1973 after many years construction. In 2000 the very successful Olympic Games promoted Sydney to the world. Now Sydney continues to develop as a major world city with growing confidence and strength, helping power the thriving Australian economy.

Sydney Museums

Australian Museum

This museum deals with Australian natural history and the culture of the aboriginal people. 6 *College Street. (02 9320 6000).*

Australian National Maritime Museum

At the entrance is the welcome hall as a tribute to the millions of migrants who have arrived in Australia over the years. Lots of boats and ships here, including Australia II, which won the America's Cup, and the huge destroyer H.M.A.S. Vampire. Many vessels are on the water and include Sekar Aman an Indonesian work boat, HMAS Onslow a retired submarine,, a commando boat, a 'Little Toot' tug, an 1880's racing cutter and more. 2 *Murray Street, Darling Harbour. (02 9298 3777).*

Buran

Buran is a Russian space ship and it lives just outside Star City. It is open for inspection, with a space simulation and small museum. *Star City.*

Customs House

Customs House is right outside Circular Quay Station and dates in part from 1840. Object Galleries on the third floor has Australia's largest exhibition of craft and design and is free. The City Exhibition Space on the fourth floor has an intricate model of the entire city area. 31 *Alfred Street, Circular Quay. (02 9247 2285).*



Harris Street Motor Museum

A display of over 150 classic motor cars and other vehicles. 320 Harris Street. (02 9552 3375).

Justice and Police Museum

Housed in three former courthouses, this is a museum of crime and criminals in Sydney. The museum includes a Magistrates Court, a police charge room, a remand cell, a gallery of mug shots of Sydney's early criminals and many more displays. Corner of Albert and Philip Streets (02 9252 1144).

Macleay Museum

A museum of the history of Science at the University of Sydney. Gosper Lane. (02 9351 2274).



Museum of Contemporary Art

This 1930s building used to be the home of the Maritime Services Board, but has served in its present capacity since 1991. Circular Quay West, The Rocks. (02 9252 4033).



Museum of Fire

All of the drama and danger of fire fighting. Castleragh Roar, Penrith (02 4371 3000).

Museum of Sydney

The museum stands on the site of the first Government House and contains exhibitions showing the history of Sydney.

Inside the museum are the archaeological remains of the colony's first Government House built in 1788, the contemporary sculpture Edge of Trees and stories of the First Fleet. Corner of Bridge and Philips Street. (02 9251 5988).

NSW Sporting Hall of Fame Museum

Photos and memorabilia of athletes from 1890's to the present. Sydney Olympic Park. (02 9763 0111).

Outback Centre

Experience the sights and sounds of the outback in a free 30 minute live show 'Sounds of the Outback'. Darling Harbour (02 9283 7477).

S.H. Ervin Gallery

Run by the National Trust the gallery has an interesting collection of historical art. Observatory Hill, The Rocks. (02 9258 0123).

Powerhouse Museum

This is Australia's largest museum. With 380,000 exhibits, although not all on display at any one time, it covers everything. It can take a day to walk around and view the films, attend the talks, watch the performances and demonstrations. Each exhibition tells a story from the history of steam to the living conditions in the bush. There is a space exhibition, lots of interactive exhibits and hands on science exhibitions. 500 Harris Street, Darling Harbour. (02 9217 0444).

State Library of New South Wales

This is the oldest research library in Australia and it has an extensive collection of Australian manuscripts, including eight of the ten diaries written by those who arrived in the first fleet. Macquarie Street (02 9273 1414).

Sydney Children's Museum

Hands on science for ages 2-12. Corner of Pitt Street and Walpole Streets (02 9897 1414).

Sydney Jewish Museum

The museum is dedicated to documenting and teaching the history of the Holocaust. The Jewish museum also tells the stories of Jewish life in Australia. 148 Darlinghurst Road. (02 9360 7999).

Sydney Observatory

Perched up on Observatory Hill above The Rocks is the Sydney Observatory. The oldest observatory in Australia. Look through the telescopes or visit the exhibitions that show how Aboriginal people used the stars for navigation, fly through space in the 3D Space Theatre and enjoy the gardens. *Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks. (02 9217 0485).*

Sydney Tramway Museum

The Tramway Museum lies some half hour south of the city by train, adjacent to Loftus station on the line to Waterfall. *Corner of Rawson Avenue and Pitt Street. (02 9452 3646)*

The Rocks Discovery Museum

Learn about the Cadigal People who were the traditional owners of the area, explore the history of the English colony and see how the whalers, sailors and traders lived. Delve into the reasons behind the 1970's protests which preserved the Rocks. And try out the interactive technology on the archaeological artefacts found in the area. *2- 8 Kendall Lane (02 9251 8804).*

Westpac Museum

Trace the history of the bank from 1817 to the modern day. *6 Playfair Street (02 9763 5670).*

Art Galleries

Art Gallery of New South Wales

This is the largest art gallery in Australia and includes large elements of aboriginal and Asian art. There are also free performances of aboriginal dancing and didgeridoo playing in the Yiribana Gallery. *Art Gallery Road, The Domain (02 9225 1744).*

Hogarth Galleries Aboriginal Art Centre

A large collection of Aboriginal art. *7 Walker Lane, Paddington. (02 9360 6839).* Museum of Contemporary Art This 1930s building used to be the home of the Maritime Services Board, but has served in its present capacity since 1991. *Circular Quay West, The Rocks. (02 9252 4033).*

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Historic Places

Anzac War Memorial

This sturdy and imposing Art Deco building is the state's moving tribute to those who lost their lives fighting for Australia, especially those who died with the first Anzac force at Gallipoli and during the remainder of the Great War. The monument was erected in 1934 and is at the south end of Hyde Park. *Hyde Park (02 9267 7668).*



Cadman's Cottage

This is one of Sydney's oldest surviving buildings, dating from 1816. It was built to house the Government Coxswain, who had the important task of organising all the water transport on the harbour. The cottage was named after the third and longest serving such coxswain, the ex convict John Cadman. *110 George Street (02 9247 5033).*

Elizabeth Bay House

A superb example of colonial architecture overlooking the Harbour built by John Serge for the Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay.

Furnished to a mid 1800's style. *7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay. (02 9356 3022).*

Elizabeth Farm

The oldest farmhouse in Australia located in Parramatta. Built by John Macarthur who arrived in 1790 and was one of the first farmers. Parts of the building date from 1793. *70 Alice Street, Rosehill. (02 9635 9488).*

Government House

Government House is situated within the Botanic Gardens. It is a Gothic revival building constructed in 1837 to 1845. Since the Governor is no longer in residence, the building is open to the public. *Macquarie Street (02 9931 5222).*

Hyde Park Barracks

This building originally housed convicts. It was designed in 1819 by Governor Macquarie and a convict architect named Francis Greenway.

Now it is a museum of Australian history, with particular emphasis on the life of Francis Greenway and the history of this building. *Queens Square Macquarie Street. (02 8239 2311).*

Old Government House

Located in Parramatta Park and built in 1799 Old Government House was extended in 1815, now home to a fine collection of Australian colonial furniture. *Parramatta Park.*

Parliament House

This the oldest Parliament House and was developed around one of the original "Rum Hospitals". The building includes two restored legislative chambers. *Macquarie Street, (02 9230 2111).*

Mrs. Macquarie's Chair

Located at the end of the Royal Botanic Gardens provides some of the best views of the harbour and the Opera House. This is the place to capture a classic souvenir picture.

Queen Victoria Building

A good example of 19th century architecture and also an up market shopping arcade. *George Street. (02 9264 9209).*

Rose Seilder House

Built between 1848 and 1950 Rose Seilder House was designed by Harry Seilder using open plans, bold colours and started the modernist movement in Australia.

A good collection of post war furniture is housed inside and good views of Ku-ring-gai National Park. *71 Clissold Road, Wahroonga. (02 9989 8020).*

Rouse Hill Estate

A very old and fragile property about an hour's drive from the city centre.

You can see the farm buildings and many objects used in the 19th Century. *Guntawong Road, Rouse Hill, (02 9627 6777).*

St James Anglican Church

The oldest church in Sydney, designed by Francis Greenway in 1824. *173 King Street (02 8227 1300).*

Strand Arcade

Running between George Street and Pitt Street Mall, The Strand built in 1892 features a very ornate interior.

Susannah Place

Susannah Place built in 1844 is a group of terraced houses retaining the traditional atmosphere of The Rocks and now converted into a museum. The houses bring to life conditions for working class people from 1844 until the 20th Century. *58 64 Gloucester Street, The Rocks (02 9241 1893).*

Sydney Opera House

This famous landmark was completed in 1973, having taken fourteen years to construct. The architect, Joern Utzon, included in his design the surfacing of the 'sails' with more than a million ceramic tiles, which were imported from Sweden. There are five performances halls the Grand Concert Hall, Opera Theatre, Drama Theatre. *Playhouse and The Studio. Banelong Point (02 9250 7111).*



The Mint

Built in 1816 this was the building where the gold sovereigns were made. You can see the former vaults and learn how raw gold was turned into currency. *Macquarie Street. (02 9217 0311).*



Sydney Tower

The tower stands at 305 metres. The turret weighs 2,259 tonnes and is held by 56 cables, each weighing seven tonnes.

It includes a tank holding 162,000 litres of water to act as a counterbalance to strong winds.

Views from here extend to the Pacific Ocean in the east, Wollongong in the south and the Blue Mountains in the west. Skywalk is an adventure on Sydney Tower.

At double the height of Sydney Harbour Bridge will provide an adrenaline rush as you walk around the roof of Sydney Tower.

The other attraction is Skytour's Great Australian Exhibition that takes you on a virtual tour through the landscapes of Australia. *100 Market Street (02 9333 9222).*

Town Hall

The Town Hall was constructed to celebrate Sydney's centenary in 1888 and is an imposing edifice, both outside and in.

It contains an 8,000-pipe organ, one of the largest in the world, and there are free lunchtime organ recitals held frequently. *George Street. (02 9265 9007).*

The Bounty

The Bounty is a replica of Captain Bligh's ship, recreated to star in the film Mutiny on the Bounty.

Now it serves as a floating restaurant, sailing out onto the harbour at meal times. The ship is based in Campbell's Cove. *Circular Quay.*

Vaucluse House

Vaucluse House, not far from Watsons Bay, was, for a while, the home of William Charles Wentworth, the explorer who pioneered the first route through the Blue Mountains. Parts of the house date from 1803, although most of it is later. The gardens extend to ten hectares and there is a popular tearoom. *Wentworth Road, Vaucluse. (02 9388 7922).*

Victoria Barracks

A colonial Georgian complex and home to the army since 1848. *Oxford Street, Paddington. (02 9339 3250).*

Animal Attractions

Australian Reptile Park

Australian Reptile Park has some of the rarest reptiles in the world. Daily wildlife shows with pythons, crocodiles, koalas and kangaroos. View spider world with a tarantula exhibit. *Located an hour's drive for Sydney on the Pacific Highway, Somersby, next to the Gosford Exit (02 4340 1022).*

Australian Wildlife Park

Over 600 native animals in natural settings. Outback woolshed with shearing and other outback activities. *Wallgrove Road, Eastern Creek (02 9830 9100).*

Featherdale Wildlife Park

A collection of native wildlife with kangaroos and koalas. Over 320 Australian species are represented including both reptiles, birds, Tasmanian Devils and wombats. Plenty of opportunities to cuddle Koalas, hand feed kangaroos, wallabies and emus. *217 Kildare Road, Doonside, NSW 2767 (02 9622 1644).*

Oceanworld Manly

Situated on Manly Cove next to Manly Wharf has a glass wall that puts you face to face with sharks and other creatures. Even possible to have a sleep over at Oceanworld or dive with the Sharks. *Manly Wharf. (02 8251 7877).*

Sydney Aquarium

Sydney Aquarium is a major Sydney attraction with sharks, all types of fish, as well as seals and penguins. Do not miss the Open Ocean Floating Oceanarium where you can walk beneath the ocean. The natural seal sanctuary provides close up views of seals as you walk through underwater tunnels. The Great Barrier Reef exhibit has live coral and many tropical fish. *Darling Harbour (02 8251 7800).*

Sydney Wildlife World

Australian wildlife living in the heart of Sydney. See koalas, wallabies, frilled neck lizards, and over 6000 animals. *Aquarium Pier, Darling Harbour (02 9333 9288).*

Taronga Zoo

Taronga zoo is just across the Sydney harbour on the north side and it commands a beautiful view of the city. Home to over 2,000 animals that live amongst the lush forests. Opportunities for photos with koalas, view the Flight Bird Show, take the Sky Safari and listen to the many talks and animal shows all day long. *Bradleys Head Road, Mosman. (02 9969 2777).*



Waratah Park Sanctuary

A park set in a bush setting with Koalas, Kangaroos, Wallabies, Bettongs and Potoroos. *13 Namba Road, Duffys Forest (02 9986 1788).*

Outdoors

Beaches

Beaches stretch from North to South and everyone has their favourite beach. Most beaches are patrolled by voluntary surf life savers, it is essential to swim between the flags.

Some of the ocean beaches (and there are many more) to the North of the harbour are Palm Beach famous for its connection with the TV series Home and Away; Dee Why Beach; Freshwater Beach and Manly Beach. Going south from Sydney is the famous Bondi beach; Clovelly is good for children as it has some shelter and Cronulla a good option as can be reached by train. Coogee beach is south of Bondi beach.



Within the confines of the harbour are beaches protected by shark nets that offer safe bathing and swimming without waves. These include Clifton Gardens; Balmoral with a rotunda on the beach used for summer shows; Manly Cove next to the ferry wharf and so easy to visit from the city centre and Nielsen Park where there is Shark Beach (nets are in place!) and reached by ferry. Nude bathing is allowed at Lady Bay, located at Watsons Bay.

Centennial Park

A 220 hectare park in the centre of Sydney that was dedicated to the people of Sydney in 1888.

Watch the guys on roller blades, horse riding, running or join in, bikes and roller blades can be hired.

The gardens, ponds and BBQ areas provide for a relaxing break from the city buildings. *Oxford Street, Paddington.*

Chinese Garden of Friendship

Designed in 1988 to symbolise the friendship between China and Australia. The garden features a courtyard of welcoming fragrance; dragon wall; water pavilion of lotus fragrance; pavilions set amongst bamboo, the Gurr a hexagonal two storey building; rock forest and dragon rock.

The garden was designed to use the four elements of water, plant, stone and architecture. *Darling Harbour. (02 9281 6863).*

Cook and Philip Park

Across College Street from Hyde Park has a formal garden and swimming complex. *College Street (02 9326 0444).*

Hyde Park

Named after Hyde Park in London, this area was declared a park as early as 1792 and Australia's first recorded cricket match was played here in 1804. Elizabeth Street. (02 9265 9333).

Royal Botanic Gardens

The gardens were established in 1816 and cover thirty hectares. They are the oldest scientific institution in Australia. *Mrs. Macquarie's Road, Circular Quay.*



Sydney Olympic Park

Built on former waste land, including an abandoned abattoir, the home of the 2000 Olympic Games, seventeen kilometres west of the centre of Sydney. There is an Information Centre, which is a good starting point, and there is an Olympic Explorer bus service. The Games Trail tour celebrates the games and you can see the cauldron, wander amongst the interactive poles at the Games Memories installation and follow Cathy Freeman's strides to Olympic Gold. There is plenty of fun to be had at the Sydney Olympic Park with a monster skate park, parklands, golf, tennis, trapeze, archery, swimming and to relax use one of the many bars and cafes on site. *Olympic Park (1300 889 388).*

Wild Areas

Royal National Park

The start of the Royal National Park lies only 32 kilometres south of the city of Sydney. This park was established in 1879, making it the oldest national park in Australia and the second oldest in the world. It offers great natural diversity in a relatively small area, with rivers, surf beaches, and a coastal walk as well as many other inland walks and several cycling tracks.

South Head

South Head is at the entrance to Sydney Harbour. For a one hour walk take the South Head Heritage Trail from Watsons Bay which starts at the eastern end of Camp Cove beach. The Gap Bluff Centre is on 50 hectares of parkland at Gap Bluff and has two heritage buildings, the Armoury and Officers' Mess. *Watson's Bay.*

Islands

Clark Island

The area of the island is one hectare, with 150 visitors being permitted at a time. In 1789, Lieutenant Ralph Clark tried to use the island as a vegetable garden, but he eventually abandoned the idea. However, his name has been preserved for posterity. It has natural bushland and grassed areas. (02 9274 5033).

Cockatoo Island

A historical island with a sandstone prison, tunnels and docks. (02 8969 2199).





Fort Denison

Fort Denison occupies the entirety of a small island not far from the Opera House. The circular Martello tower is the only one to be found in Australia. Originally known as Mat-te-wan-ye it was renamed to Fort Denison in 1857. The Fort was abandoned in the 1870's. In 1906 the One O'clock Gun was fired each day to enable sailors to set their ship's chronometers correctly and still continues to this day. (02 9247 5033).

Goat Island

Goat Island was first used to dispose of waste from a convict hulk in the harbour. Later, in 1839, a gunpowder magazine was constructed here by convicts and can still be seen. A further magazine was built in the 1850s. In 1900, the Black Death reached Sydney and Goat Island became a quarantine area. In the twentieth century, houses were constructed here and even a shipbuilding yard. (02 9247 5033).

Rodd Island

The area of the island is 0.5 hectares, with 100 visitors being permitted at a time. In 1859, Mr. Brent Rodd paid a deposit for the island, which he later forfeited, but the island kept his name. It became a public reserve, but was also used in the late nineteenth century for biological research under the direction of Dr. Louis Pasteur. It has summer houses from the 1930s and a colonial hall dating from 1889. (02 9274 5033).

Shark Island

The area of this island is 1.5 hectares, with 500 visitors being permitted at a time.

The island was used as an animal quarantine area from 1880 until 1975.

It has good views and sandy beaches. (02 9264 7377).



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