

# Fact Sheet



## Sydney

From the glamour and hum of stunning Sydney to the peace and beauty of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, New South Wales is a place of contrast and we can't wait to show you around.

Pack your skis and head to the Snowy Mountains or grab your hat for a trip into the Outback. In the heart of New South Wales lies quintessential Australia. Founded by gold miners, graziers and farmers, and chosen by artists, you'll find country sophistication and friendly, welcoming locals. Our classic Aussie surf culture thrives on the north, central and south coasts. Behind the sparkling coastline, you'll discover World Heritage listed national parks, hinterland villages, great food and fine wine, and subtropical rainforests.

There's no place like Sydney. A global city bursting with character, an urban beach lifestyle and the world's most stunning harbour where the most amazing things happen. Jump on a ferry and sail past the Opera House and under the Harbour Bridge; paddle a kayak and discover the foreshore and enjoy a picnic at a sandy beach. This is a working harbour, a party destination – a place that you will never tire of exploring.

## Attractions

The oldest, largest and possibly the most beautiful city in Australia is renowned for much more than its famous landmarks. Built around a dazzling harbour, the city has first-class restaurants, fresh seafood, myriad harbour experiences, sparkling beaches, pulsing nightlife and fantastic shopping. There are countless reasons for you to extend your stay in Australia and make Sydney your base.

### The Rocks

Find out where it all began and head to The Rocks along the northern end of George Street to get a real sense of convict history. The cobbled side streets, stone heritage buildings and charming pubs are full of life. Don't forget to have a beer at the Lord Nelson, Sydney's oldest pub, with its own boutique brewery, and go on a Rocks Walking Tour.

[www.rockswalkingtours.com.au](http://www.rockswalkingtours.com.au)

### Sydney Tower Skywalk

Harnessed onto a moving, glass-floored viewing platform that extends out over the edge of Sydney Tower, you see Sydney from a breathtaking 260 metres above the street. With an adrenalin rush you can admire our landmarks including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour, and see all the way to the Blue Mountains.

[www.skywalk.com.au](http://www.skywalk.com.au)

### BridgeClimb

Climbing the bridge when the sun is sinking over the horizon is awe-inspiring. The Sydney Harbour Bridge is the city's much-loved icon. Book your walk with Sydney Harbour BridgeClimb. [www.bridgeclimb.com](http://www.bridgeclimb.com)

### **Darling Harbour**

Alive with activity day and night, Darling Harbour is hugely popular especially with children. Visit the National Maritime Museum and Chinese Gardens, take in a movie at the IMAX cinema, or recharge at either Cockle Bay or King Street wharfs. Close by is the Powerhouse Museum, in the district of Ultimo, and Sydney's bustling Chinatown.

### **Taronga Zoo**

The young at heart will love Taronga Zoo – even getting there on a short ferry ride from Circular Quay is fun. There are koalas and kangaroos, a chimpanzee enclosure, regular bird-of-prey flight displays, a nocturnal animal house, and sensational harbour views.

[www.zoo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.zoo.nsw.gov.au)

### **Centennial Park**

Centennial Park, on the south side of the harbour near Paddington and Woollahra, is the perfect place for a stroll and a picnic beneath giant Moreton Bay fig trees. Sydneysiders come out to play on roller-blades, horseback or with a picnic rug in this green lung of the city.

[www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au)

### **Sydney Opera House**

Perched on the eastern headland of Circular Quay, the Sydney Opera House is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, and offers a variety of cultural performances, tours and dining options. [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com)

### **Hyde Park Barracks Museum**

Immerse yourself in the fascinating history of Sydney during convict times at The Hyde Park Barracks, one of the finest works of the accomplished colonial architect, Francis Greenway. Built with convict labour between 1817 and 1819, it is a popular landmark in the historic precinct of Macquarie Street and Queens Square.

[www.hht.nsw.gov.au/museums/hyde\\_park\\_barracks\\_museum/](http://www.hht.nsw.gov.au/museums/hyde_park_barracks_museum/)

### **The Powerhouse Museum**

The Powerhouse Museum is a favourite. Its collection of 385,000 objects spans social history, music, science, technology, design, industry, and decorative arts, transport and space exploration. [www.phm.gov.au](http://www.phm.gov.au)

### **The Museum of Sydney**

Journey through our past and discover Sydney from 1788 onwards at the Museum of Sydney on the corner of Philip and Bridge Streets. Exhibitions, films and state-of-the-art technology spin stories of colonial life, Aboriginal culture, environment, trade, authority/law and everyday dramas and dreams. [www.hht.nsw.gov.au/museums/museum\\_of\\_sydney](http://www.hht.nsw.gov.au/museums/museum_of_sydney)

### **Royal Botanic Gardens**

An oasis of 30 hectares in the heart of the city, the Royal Botanic Gardens wrap around Farm Cove at the edge of Sydney Harbour, occupying one of Sydney's most spectacular positions. The gardens, established in 1816, are the oldest scientific institution in the country. Rich in history, they form a living link with the beginnings of European settlement in eastern Australia and have an outstanding collection of plants from Australia and overseas. [www.rbg Syd.gov.au](http://www.rbg Syd.gov.au)

### **The Art Gallery of New South Wales**

This is the leading museum of art in New South Wales, and one of Australia's foremost cultural institutions. It holds significant collections of Australian, European and Asian art, and presents nearly 40 exhibitions annually. [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au)

## **Tours**

There's an outing with your name on it – from indigenous cultural tours through the Royal Botanic Gardens and heritage walks, to gourmet food and wine tours around Sydney. For fun, the Aussie Duck (a cross between a boat and a bus) offers a unique land tour, followed by a splash in the sea. For the seriously offbeat, Destiny Tours provides a glimpse of Sydney's lesser-known charms from the plush comfort of a converted hearse. Learn to sail or join a Captain Cook Cruise from Circular Quay to experience Sydney Harbour's splendour. Make a day of it and visit Balmain, Rose Bay or Manly on a Sydney ferry.

## **Sydney's Precincts**

### **Sydney's Inner City and Eastern Suburbs**

For those who want to explore a bit further, Sydney's melting pot of cultures has brought charm and diversity to every corner of the city.

### **Kings Cross, Darlinghurst**

Kings Cross is the most densely populated square kilometre in Australia. It is electric with nightclubs, live music, adult entertainment, restaurants, bars and cafes. Away from the bright lights, the Cross boasts some fine examples of colonial and art-deco architecture such as Elizabeth Bay House and Tusculum House. Just east of the city centre, Darlinghurst comes alive at the glitzy annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras held each year in early March. By day, alternative fashion, home-ware and music stores attract a crowd. At night, Darlinghurst comes into its own, with theatres, gay-friendly bars, live music, clubs and other late-night entertainment.

### **Paddington and Woollahra**

Paddington is known for its elegant terrace houses. It has many art galleries, cafes, pubs, restaurants and designer boutiques. At the top of Oxford Street, turn left into Queen Street and you are in Woollahra, known for its exquisite designer-label boutiques, galleries and antique shops. Double Bay, a 10-minute taxi ride from Paddington, is a harbour-side precinct with a cosmopolitan cafe society and designer boutiques. Wander past the grand residential homes of the coiffed and manicured locals and you'll notice how Double Bay exudes European assurance.

### **Glebe and Newtown**

Glebe is a perennially popular residential area with a charming mix of workers' cottages and grand 19<sup>th</sup>-century abodes inhabited by a colourful mix of residents: artists, old-time locals and students of Sydney University. Immerse yourself in Sydney's most eclectic suburb, Newtown – reflecting the cultures of the world.

### **Bondi Beach**

Bondi, home of Australia's oldest lifesaving club and Australia's most famous beach, is our place to play. Try a game of beach volleyball, surf, jog, skateboard, rollerblade, walk or lie on your beach towel in the sun. Don't forget your sunscreen.

Most beach goers end up in one of the many outdoor cafes and restaurants that line the promenade overlooking the coast for brunch, lunch or dinner. Take the Bondi to Bronte Walk and refresh with some clean ocean air and magnificent views.

### **Manly**

Jump on one of the distinct yellow and green Sydney ferries and take a half-hour cruise to Manly. Like Bondi, there are plenty of cafes, bars, restaurants and beach side activities to enjoy. Check out the shops too for beach-wear and local art.

### **Milson's Point**

Take a five-minute ride across the harbour north to Milson's Point. Look back on the amazing vista of Sydney Harbour, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. It's certainly one of the best views in Sydney.

### **Mosman, Balmoral**

Mosman is a smart yet relaxed harbour-side suburb just a short ferry ride from Circular Quay and between Sydney's Taronga Zoo and the harbour beach of Balmoral. It has a range of fashion and produce stores and an up-market village ambience. Admire the beautiful homes and magnificent water views from Balmoral and Balmoral Beach.

## **Shopping**

Are you are searching for hand-worked arts and crafts, souvenirs or classic treasures? Busy arcades, boutiques, galleries and large department stores offer quality Australian woollen goods, gemstone jewellery, pottery, paintings, Aboriginal artefacts and magnificent Australian opals and South Sea pearls. When it comes to fashion, Sydney's designers are growing in reputation. There are also plenty of international designer labels to choose from.

Sydney's location on the coast, close to fertile pastures, means there are plenty of fresh-produce markets. The Sydney Fish Markets at Pyrmont are worth a visit.

### **Queen Victoria Building and Galleries Victoria**

The beautifully restored Queen Victoria Building, or the QVB as it is known locally, is on George Street between Market and Park streets and provides four levels of shopping – ranging from fashion, jewellery and home ware to fresh flowers and patisseries. Underneath the QVB is a network of arcades that takes shoppers through to the stylish Galleries Victoria shopping mall on Pitt Street. [www.qvb.com.au](http://www.qvb.com.au)

### **Pitt Street Mall, the Strand Arcade**

This is one of the city's key shopping areas. The main department stores of Myers and David Jones can be accessed easily from here and there are numerous speciality shops. Similar to the QVB in architecture, the Strand Arcade, off Pitt Street Mall, is a haven for shoppers seeking designer Australian fashion labels and imports as well as jewellery. [www.strandarcade.com.au](http://www.strandarcade.com.au)

### **Castlereagh Street**

Take a walk down Castlereagh Street, from Market Street, for some serious label shopping at international designer stores including Chanel, Yves St Laurent, Hermes, Giorgio Armani, Bvlgari, Fendi, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Prada. Nearby, discover Chifley Plaza, where more of the world's most desired brands cluster together, including Tiffany & Co, Max Mara, Pancaldi 1888 and, exclusively to Sydney, Marina Rinaldi.

### **The Argyle Stores**

Located in The Rocks, the warehouses of this former wool exchange have been converted into a trendy shopping centre. All stores are accessible from a cobblestone courtyard. They are mainly outlets for fashion and accessories.

### **Paddington and Woollahra**

Oxford Street in Paddington is one long road of designer boutiques, cafes and Sydney's cool crowd. Leading Australian fashion designers and international labels sit side by side, along with art galleries, cafes, pubs and restaurants. At the Paddington Markets at weekends, you can find leading fashion labels at bargain prices. Up from Oxford Street is Queen Street, Woollahra, known for its exquisite designer-label boutiques and numerous galleries and antique shops specialising in antique jewellery.

### **Double Bay**

A swish suburb, Double Bay is famous for everything designer – shops, people and outdoor cafes. All shops are within walking distance. Marvel at the exquisite shops in Transvaal Avenue and check out Knox, Cross, Bay and Short streets.

### **Newtown**

King Street in Newtown has been described as bohemian, alternative, and hippie chic. University culture has shaped its eclectic style, with a fusion of retro, recycled, New Age and independent designers, plus specialty stores, from rubber shops to button shops. Handcrafted jewellery and bags complete the fashion experience, and there is plenty of antique furniture and quirky collectables.

## **Entertainment & Dining**

They say that Sydney never sleeps. In daylight hours the city buzzes with life and performances while all-night pubs, cutting-edge dance clubs, and gay reviews on trendy Oxford Street, can keep you out until dawn. Fancy a late-night meal or a final coffee? That's not a problem in Sydney.

Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Indian, African, Greek, Italian, French, Lebanese . . . Sydney is truly one of the most eclectic food capitals in the world. Fresh produce, creative chefs and multicultural flair have made the city an epicurean paradise.

Sydney has rapidly become synonymous with world-class dining, from internationally renowned restaurants such as Tetsuya's to seriously hip cafes and bistros in the inner-city suburbs of Newtown, Surry Hills and Glebe. These and other Sydney precincts are distinct in character and offer the visitor a taste of life.

### **City**

Discover your favourite cafe, restaurant or bar in the city with your feet. Walk along George, Pitt, Elizabeth, and Castlereagh streets and at Martin Place, you will find the lunch and suited after-work crowds at the many cafes and bars. You will also find that many of the city's hotels hide some of the best watering holes and nightspots. East of the city on Stanley Street, mouth-watering Italian restaurants and cafes line the pavement.

### **Kings Cross, Darlinghurst and Surry Hills**

Crammed with great restaurants and a range of cuisines from modern Australian to French and Italian, this area of town is ideal for people watching. Crown and Riley streets in Surry Hills have a strong, restaurant, cafe and pub scene, as does Victoria Street in Darlinghurst. Try Tropicana, a real Sydney institution and the genesis for Tropfest, Sydney's much-loved festival of short films.

### **Potts Point and Woolloomooloo**

Potts Point is home to a happening mix of classy bars and cafes. Just around the corner in Woolloomooloo, grab a late-night snack at the famed Harry's Cafe de Wheels, a roadside caravan that has been dispensing pies and mash to Sydneysiders for years. For a more salubrious occasion, try the Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf where there is a range of superb dining experiences.

### **The Rocks, Circular Quay**

Among the olden-day ambience of The Rocks' historic buildings and cobblestone streets is a selection of great pubs, cafes and gourmet restaurants. High profile dining and drinking is the name of the game at the newly renovated Overseas Passenger Terminal, where slick cocktails and Opera House views are on the menu. The area also takes in the nearby Opera Quays, which runs along East Circular Quay and has many top restaurants and harbour-side watering holes.

### **Darling Harbour**

Lining the waterfront of Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay Wharf are lots of dining and entertainment options. Seafood is popular and there are many restaurants that serve some of Sydney's finest. There are also some great bars with views over this waterside playground. The casino is nearby where you can catch a show or party all night.

### **Chinatown**

Just up from Darling Harbour, Sydney's Chinatown is the hub of Sydney's Chinese community and is full of Asian restaurants and cheap eateries, shopping arcades and produce stores. Enter Dixon Street pedestrian mall from the north through the traditional red gates and walk through to Market City, experiencing the atmosphere and the aromas of Asian kitchens.

### **Out of the City**

Harbour-side dining is not restricted to the inner city. Milson's Point and Balmoral Beach in the north have fine-dining restaurants, cafes and cheap and cheerful fish and chips – all with beautiful views. East of the city, Rose Bay and Watson's Bay offer dress-circle views and some lovely eating spots, especially for long lunches. Of course, you must also try the food at Manly, and Bondi Beach when you are there for a swim.

Crows Nest is all about multicultural cuisines. Indian, Malaysian, Thai, Italian, and Japanese restaurants dot the pavement on Willoughby Road and Pacific Highway.

If you are a lover of good pasta, good coffee and gelato, you can't go past Leichhardt, a suburb infused by years of strong Italian influence. Leichhardt's main road is Norton Street, which offers a range of Italian shops, cafes and restaurants. The best olive oils, balsamic vinegars, olives, salamis, cheeses and breads can be found at Norton Street Grocer and is a must for those in search of authentic Italian foods. Balmain has more than its share of new and traditional Aussie pubs where you're encouraged to mingle with the locals.

## **Sport**

Sydney is regarded as a leading sports events destination, a reputation affirmed when the city hosted the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the world's biggest sporting and entertainment spectacular. Since this time Sydney has continued to host numerous leading sports events including the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

Visitors to Sydney can take part in the sporting action around the city by getting amongst the action of the annual Spring Racing Carnival atmosphere at Royal Randwick, watching an international rugby match at Telstra Stadium or participating in one of the many annual fun runs or walks around the city.

Sydney is home to Australia's largest annual fun run, the City to Surf, more than 60,000 enthusiasts participate in the 14 kilometre journey from Sydney's CBD to Bondi Beach each year. Open to everyone, the event attracts entrants from all walks of life and ages who can run, jog, walk or stagger the distance between the city and Sydney's Bondi beach, and do it just for the fun of it. For those who like a challenge there is also the annual Sydney Running Festival which incorporates four events catering for all levels of fitness and takes participants on a journey across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, finishing at the Sydney Opera House. The feature races, the Sydney Marathon (42.2km) and Half Marathon (21.1km) the event attracts international competitors and the cream of Australia's long distance running champions.

## Climate

New South Wales has a temperate climate, making weather conditions for most of the year warm and mild. Summers are long, with an average maximum temperature of 25°C. Winters are short and mild; temperatures rarely fall below 10°C.

## Getting Around Sydney

Sydney has a comprehensive network of buses, trains and ferries for efficient transport around the city and beyond. It all comes together at Circular Quay where trains and buses connect with ferries and tours.

You can find all the information you need at information centres and ticket offices at Circular Quay and Central Station.

Getting around Sydney is made simple with a Sydney Pass. Available as a 3, 5 or 7 day pass it includes return airport transfer to Cityrail stations, harbour sight-seeing cruises, two hop on, hop-off bus services to the city's attractions and unlimited bus, ferry and inner city train services. For further information [www.sydneypass.info](http://www.sydneypass.info)

The SeeSydney and Beyond Card combines transport, entry and special offers on tours, attractions, shops and restaurants in and around Sydney. [www.seesydneycard.com](http://www.seesydneycard.com)

Sydney Airport (Kingsford Smith) is the main international and domestic airport. It is about 10 kilometres south-west of the central business district and Sydney Harbour. Airport shuttles run to Sydney city and Kings Cross every 10 minutes, stopping at designated points along the way. By taxi, the fare into the city will cost about A\$25.

For more information on transport options visit [www.sta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sta.nsw.gov.au), [www.cityrail.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityrail.nsw.gov.au) or tel 131500.

## Beyond Sydney

### Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains is a two-hour-drive or train ride west of Sydney and is an ideal short break from the city. Most of the towns and villages in the mountains perch on top of 1,000-metre-high plateau and have stunning views of waterfalls, rocky pinnacles and distant valleys. The mountains, granted World Heritage status in 2000, get their name from the fine mist that is produced by the interplay of bright sunshine and tiny droplets of oil released into the air by millions of eucalyptus trees. It gives the landscape an attractive smoky-blue tinge.

The mountains' most famous feature is a trio of sandstone pinnacles known as "The Three Sisters", which can be viewed from Echo Point in Katoomba. While you are here, ride on the

Scenic Railway, which plunges at a steep angle down to the valley floor, or try the Skyway – a cable car that traverses the Katoomba Falls gorge 200 metres above the ground. Other must-sees include Kanangra-Boyd National Park to the south of the Blue Mountains, and the Jenolan Caves, a vast network of caverns, tunnels and underground lakes with spectacular limestone formations.

The Blue Mountains are an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. Activities include climbing, mountain biking, canyon walks, abseiling and excellent bushwalking. Try a round of gold or a four-wheel-drive safari with local bush guides.

There are plenty of opportunities to refuel, with an abundance of restaurants and cafes scattered throughout the region. Accommodation ranges from youth hostels and traditional inns to delightfully restored bed-and-breakfast establishments and five-star luxury hotels.

### **Newcastle**

Two hours drive further north, past beaches and bays, is the vast, winding waterway of Lake Macquarie, the biggest saltwater lake in New South Wales. Nearby Newcastle is the state's second-largest city, offering great beaches, colonial heritage and a lively social scene.

### **Port Stephens**

Nelson Bay is the main settlement among those collectively known as Port Stephens, an hour and a half from Sydney. The huge, sheltered bay stretches more than 20 kilometres inland. You can take a boat trip in search of dolphins, swim from one of the many beaches, or simply relax in a beachside cafe.

### **The Hunter Valley**

Inland from the coast, about two hours drive north of Sydney, the Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest wine region, with more than 80 wineries. Picnic, barbecue or dine in one of the many fine restaurants dotted throughout the region. Explore the rolling hills and vineyards by bicycle, horse-drawn carriage or by balloon.

### **Barrington Tops National Park**

Barrington Tops National Park, a World Heritage wilderness area with rainforests, ancient moss-covered Antarctic beech forests and walking trails is only a little further north. The nearby heritage towns of Gloucester and Dungog, were settled in the 1820s.

### **Useful Links**

[www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)

[www.visitnsw.com.au](http://www.visitnsw.com.au)

[www.sydneyaustralia.com](http://www.sydneyaustralia.com)

[www.bestrestaurants.com.au](http://www.bestrestaurants.com.au)