

Sydney, Australia

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Introduction

Sydney is home to some of the greatest landmarks in Australia, most notably the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. A trip to this vibrant and exciting city will provide the ideal combination of city break and beach holiday.

Although it is not the official capital of Australia, that honour goes to Canberra, Sydney has always worked hard for the unofficial title in competition with Melbourne.

Sydney has a lengthy and illustrious history that stretches back some 40,000 years. The first inhabitants of the area were Aboriginal tribes, with European settlers arriving in 1788. Disease and gold fever characterised the early years of settlement, with the population exploding when gold was first discovered in the area. The population has continued to steadily rise since then and is now over four million.

Sydney is built around Port Jackson, or Sydney Harbour, and this is the largest natural harbour anywhere in the world. Sydney harbour leads out to the Pacific Ocean and the area is home to a large number of beaches, tucked into the various inlets and coves that line the harbour.

Facts & Figures

Sydney is located in the state of New South Wales on the east coast of Australia with the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Blue Mountains to the west. Its geographic coordinates are: latitude -33° 52' 14.39" S, longitude +151° 12' 31.85" E.

It is 881 km (547 mi) NE of Melbourne, 938 km (583 mi) S of Brisbane, 3970 km (2,467 mi) E of Perth, 1406 km (874 mi) E of Adelaide and 4003 km (2,487 mi) SE of Darwin.

Sydney's population is approximately 4.3 million and it has an area of 12,144.6 square kilometres (4,689.1 square miles).

Seasonal Information

The daytime temperature in Sydney, on average, ranges from approximately 22°C (71°F) in summer to 14°C (57°F) in winter and it averages about 342 days a year of sunshine. The average annual rainfall is approximately 1,220 millimetres (48 inches).

Australia's seasons are - Spring: 1st September to 30th November; Summer: 1st December to 28th or 29th (as applicable) February; Autumn: 1st March to 31st May; and Winter: 1st June to 31st August.

Tourist Information

Essentials

Emergency = 000

Ambulance & Fire Services

Call 000 for an ambulance or fire services.

Police

The emergency number is 000. For less urgent matters call 131 444. Police stations are located at 132 George Street, The Rocks; 570 George Street; 192 Day Street, Darling Harbour and 151 Goulburn Street, Surrv Hills.

Electricity

The current is 240V and uses a three pin plug (not the same three pin plug as the UK). The converters are available in Sydney.

Banks

Banks and ATM machines are everywhere. Banking hours are 09:30 to 16:00 on Monday to Thursday and until 17:00 on Friday.

Beach Safety

Surf can kill! Always swim between the flags and never swim alone. Surf life savers are on duty at most beaches and will be very pleased to provide advice. If nobody is patrolling the beach do not enter the water. Be aware of the Sydney sun and avoid skin cancer; remember the slogan "slip, slap, slop", that is, slip on a shirt, slap on a hat and slop on a high factor sunscreen.

Business Hours

Business hours are most commonly 09:00 until 17:30, Monday to Friday, with a small variation either side. Places in the north of Australia sometimes open and close a little earlier. If trying to contact a business in another part of Australia, remember about time differences.

Government offices often close at 17:00 or even 16:30. Shops may stay open later, particularly on Thursday and Friday evenings, and most will be open on Saturdays, and some on Sundays. The larger the town, the more likely shops are to open for extended trading hours. Corner shops will usually stay open until about 20:00, and some even later. Supermarkets in the big cities are often open 24 hours a day and, even in smaller towns, they are likely to remain open until about 22:00 on weekdays.

Consulates

Most embassies and high commissions are in Canberra, with some missions having a consulate in Sydney. Some of the main ones are Canada (9364 3000); Denmark (9274 2234); France (9261 5779); Germany (9238 7733); Japan (9231 3455); Netherlands (9387 3455); New Zealand (9247 1999); Sweden (9262 6433); Switzerland (9369 4244) and USA (9373 9200).

Drinking

The legal age for drinking is 18 years.

Driving

Driving around Sydney is easy compared to some of the world's larger cities. Seatbelts are compulsory, drink and drug driving are serious offences and random testing is very common with police setting up road blocks at any time of the day and in any place. Speeding is firmly enforced with speed cameras everywhere. Illegal parking is enforced and may result in the car being towed away and recovered at cost to the owner/driver. Call the Sydney Traffic Control Centre on 9211 3000 if this happens.

Email and Internet

It is not difficult to find email and Internet facilities. There are many cafés devoted to this purpose, and hotels and backpackers' hostels often provide facilities for their guests. Where the major differences lie is in the price charged. In major cities it is usually possible to find facilities for a charge of about \$3 per hour. In remote areas, you may be asked to pay \$10 per hour. Most libraries also have Internet access.

Fair Trading

For any difficulties with consumer issues in shops and trading establishments call the Traveller Consumer Helpline on 1300 55 2001.

Food

The British influence can still be felt in the gastronomic delicacies available in Australia, such as fish and chips, although Australia has established its own specialities, for example, the meat pie with sauce.

In more recent years, the influx of immigrants from various nations have influenced the cuisine and now it is common to find dishes of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian and other origins.

There is also a wide spectrum in restaurant prices but, if you are on a limited budget, you can still find tasty food in a diversity of ethnic styles at reasonable prices.

Almost every corner shop can sell you the ubiquitous meat pie and often sausage rolls or some similar delicacies. If you have a good appetite, the counter lunch is great value for money. Most hotels (pubs) and many clubs serve a hearty lunch or dinner at a modest price.

General Safety

Sydney is a fairly safe city but, as in any city, the usual sensible precautions should be followed. When travelling on public transport late at night sit in the train nearest the guard's compartment, which is indicated by a blue light and is a designated night safe area. Be careful on deserted streets at night and try to keep to the main streets.

Health

Medicare is the name of the public health system in Australia. Reciprocal arrangements are in place for visitors from UK, New Zealand, Ireland, Malta, Sweden, Finland, Italy and the Netherlands, however you must contact the Medicare Health Service to confirm the details and arrangements for each country 132 011. For Sydney Pharmacy Health call 1300 882 294.

Tourist Health

Tourist health centres are located at The Rocks on the corner of Argyle and Playfair Streets (9240 8788), Darling Harbour next to the IMAX cinema, and Manly Wharf (02 9976 1430). Tourism New South Wales has an health desk in the Arrivals South (9667 6050).

Hospitals

Prince of Wales Hospital - 02 9382 2222

Royal North Shore Hospital - 02 9926 7111

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital - 02 9515 6111

St Vincent's Hospital - 02 8382 7111

Sydney Eye Hospital - 02 9382 7111

Sydney Hospital - 02 9382 7111

Westmead Children's Hospital - 02 9845 0000

Language

For overseas visitors, we list some of our Aussie slang words that you will hear and enjoy using. There are a lot more and, in many cases, the meaning is normally guessable. Some are also used in UK but not USA.

Arvo (afternoon); barbie (BBQ); bloke (male); esky(icebox); fossick (search for something); mate (good friend or used as a greeting); outback (interior of Australia); petrol (gas); flog (sell); footpath (sidewalk); loo (toilet); ratbag (dishonest person); shout (pay for someone); sickie (a day off work due to illness); stubby (small beer bottle); ta (thanks); yakka (hard work).

The term Pom or Brit is used to describe persons of British origin and Kiwi for New Zealander; these are used in a friendly and accepted manner. Australians are friendly people and you will often hear "no worries" and "enjoy", the meaning is really meant in the use of the words and you may even find yourself using them. It is important to greet people and the local term "g'day mate" will be heard on occasion.

The language of ordering a coffee is complicated! Coffee has become very popular and cafés exist all over Sydney which compete to make the best. The combinations are endless! Café staff are always pleased to help so it's best to describe what you want and then remember the name. For example we have flat white; long black; soy flat white; strong soy flat white; skinny strong decaf latté or soy decaf latté with a twist of almond, and so on! To confuse things further, coffee time is often referred to as "morning tea" rather than "coffee time". Have fun and enjoy!

Money

The unit of currency is the Australian dollar which is divided into 100 cents. Originally Australia used pounds, shillings and pence but the currency was decimalised on 14th February 1966.

Notes are in circulation are in denominations of \$100 (green), \$50 (olive), \$20 (red), \$10 (blue) and \$5 (purple). The notes are all made of plastic, a field in which Australia has been a pioneer. It was the first country in the world to print all of its notes on plastic, the current series having been introduced between 1992 and 1996. The plastic notes last approximately four times as long as paper notes and can be recycled.

Coins in circulation are in denominations of \$2 (gold colour), \$1 (gold colour), 50 cents (silver colour), 20 cents (silver colour), 10 cents (silver colour) and 5 cents (silver colour). One point which sometimes causes confusion at first is that the \$1 coin is larger than the \$2. The copper coinage for 2 cents and 1 cent was removed from circulation some years ago, but items may still be priced in steps of less than 5 cents. In such cases, your final bill is supposed to be rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cents.

Each bank offers its own exchange rate for foreign currencies but for common currencies the rates vary little. If you are exchanging travellers' cheques though, you may find that there is one particular bank which represents the issuer of your cheques and therefore does not make a charge for changing for that brand of travellers' cheque. Other banks will impose a charge. You will have to research to find which is the best bank for you.

In many cases you may be able to use a non-Australian bank card to withdraw money from a machine at an Australian bank. Many travellers like this method as it avoids their having to safeguard too much cash or too many travellers' cheques. There will be a small fee for this service but the fee will be determined by your home bank, so ask before you set out.

Newspapers

The leading paper is the Sydney Morning Herald and the main national paper being The Australian.

Post Office

There is a magnificent GPO building in Martin Place between George and Pitt Streets. Note though, that Poste Restante is not here. It is in a separate office back from the street, but clearly marked, a little further along George Street towards The Rocks.

Australia Post

Australia has a postal system which is reasonably efficient. Domestic postage costs 55 cents (as at October 2008) for a standard sized envelope. Overseas postage varies according to size and weight.

One oddity of the system is that GST (Goods and Services Tax) applies to domestic postage, but not to international postage. As a result, different stamps must be used for the two purposes. When purchasing stamps, therefore, you must make it clear whether you require domestic stamps, with GST included, or international stamps, on which GST is not paid. You may not use international stamps on domestic mail. You may use domestic stamps on international mail, but only if you put on 10% extra (to cover the fact that 9.09% of the money paid for the stamps will not go to the Post Office, but will have to be given to the government as tax).

Parcels to overseas destinations may be sent by air mail, by economy air mail (slower and slightly cheaper), or by sea mail.

For items weighing up to 250 grams, a prepaid air mail envelope can be purchased. If you buy a pack of ten such envelopes, the cost of the envelopes themselves is negligible. You pay only for the postage. If your envelope weighs more than 250 grams, you may add the extra postage.

The Poste Restante system allows mail to be held for you for collection at any post office for up to a month. There is no charge. At the larger post offices a computerised system is employed and you can use a computer terminal to check whether you have mail or not. This is reasonably effective until the post office staff misspell your name when entering it into the system, after which there is little chance of your ever seeing that item. If your surname is one which might easily be misspelt, check the likely misspellings as well.

If you leave a location and want mail forwarded, that can be arranged but there is a charge for the service.

Public Holidays

Everything closes on Christmas Day. Other public holidays are New Years Day, Boxing Day, Australia Day (26th January), Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday and Anzac Day (25th April) nationally. The states and territories of Australia also have various state and regional public holidays.

Road Safety

Australians drive on the left side of the road and manoeuvre through roundabouts in a clockwise direction. It is illegal to use a mobile phone (without a proper hands-free kit) whilst driving, everyone in the car must wear seatbelts, and you must not drive with more than 0.05 grams per 100 millimetres of blood alcohol. If you are a learner, provisional driver or under 25 with a licence less than three years old, you must not drive with any alcohol blood level at all. Driving under the influence of drugs is also illegal.

Smoking

Smoking is very controlled in Sydney and prohibited on all public transport, in public buildings and within several metres of a building's entrance. Entertainment venues may allow smoking in restricted outdoor areas.

Sports and Games

The principal sports in Australia are cricket, rugby (league and union) and Australian Rules football. In the summer sport of cricket, Australia is generally regarded as a world leader, especially in five-day test cricket. The nation has also produced the man usually regarded as the best cricketer ever, or certainly the best batsman - Sir Donald Bradman, who died in Adelaide at the beginning of 2001 at the age of 92.

Cricket is popular and draws large crowds. The greatest struggle being against the old 'enemy', England, in a battle which takes place twice every four years - once in Australia and once in England - in a series of five five-day test matches, the reward for winning this is the title to the Ashes. The Ashes is a trophy reputedly containing the ashes of the stumps or bails from the first match in which Australia ever defeated England on English soil, on 29th August 1882, although probably it does not actually contain those ashes. The principal arena for cricket is the Melbourne Cricket Ground, built for the 1956 Olympic Games, and in which 97,000 spectators can be accommodated. However, other capital cities also have their famous cricket grounds - the Sydney Cricket Ground, the 'Gabba' in Brisbane, the W.A.C.A. in Perth and the Adelaide Oval.

In winter, Australia is divided between rugby league, union and Australian Rules football. Rugby league is possibly the major sport in New South Wales and Queensland, whilst Victoria is the stronghold of Australian Rules football, with support from South Australia and Western Australia.

Australian Rules football is a fast and exciting game played on an oval field with an oval shaped ball. Two slightly different codes have teams of fifteen or eighteen players. The ball can be carried by players as long as they bounce it every ten metres (no mean feat) and it can be passed by being kicked or being punched, but not thrown.

If another player catches a kicked ball, he may claim a 'mark' and have a free kick, and one of the most exciting moments in the sport is seeing players rise high into the air to take marks. At each end of the field are four goal posts in line. If the ball is kicked between the centre two posts, a goal is scored and six points awarded to the team kicking the goal. If the ball passes between one of the centre posts and an outer post, however, only a 'behind' is scored and just a single point is awarded. A game consists of four quarters of twenty-five minutes of actual playing time each.

Horse racing is also popular in Australia, mostly as a sport on which to bet. Greyhound racing serves a similar purpose. Australia has also produced some fine swimmers and tennis players over the years, as well as one or two famous golfers. As one might expect, surfing is also a sport at which many Australians excel.

Telephones

There are always techniques to learn about each country's telephone system. Australia's system consists of timed long-distance calls, but local calls of unlimited duration. Public telephones exist, although not in abundance.

When making calls, look for numbers beginning with 1800; these calls are free. However, the owner of the number can choose the area from which he is willing to accept such calls. Quite often the 1800 numbers can be used only within the same state as the party being called and occasionally the effective area is even more limited.

Numbers commencing with 1300 and six-digit numbers starting with 13 are charged as local calls, as long as you are calling from within Australia (but are extremely expensive or unusable if you attempt to call them from overseas).

Telephone cards are available and it is desirable to have one because telephones do not necessarily accept both coins and cards.

The best way to make international calls is to purchase one of the variety of cards available for the purpose. One first telephones the office of the company issuing the card. Then one taps in the code number on the card. Then one dials the number required. The most important thing with these cards is to ensure that you can telephone the office of the company by making a local telephone call. This means that there must be either a 1300 number given or a local number for the city from which you are making the call. Check this point before purchasing the card. It may affect the cost of the call considerably. Provided that you can connect using a local call, your international telephone call will cost the price charged by the card company per minute, plus a single charge of 40 cents no matter how long you speak. Most cards offer the option of using a free 1800 number, but you should understand that, although the 1800 call is free, your international call will be charged at a considerably higher per minute charge than if you pay yourself for the call to the company. All this sounds complex, but the instructions are simple. Always use a local telephone number to contact the card company, so make sure that such a number is available before purchasing the card.

There are also kiosks provided for international telephone calls in some Internet shops. This is not a particularly cheap way of making a call but it is simple. If you just intend to make a single call, so do not want to purchase a card, this will probably be the best method.

It should be noted that some establishments have private coin-operated telephones for the use of their customers or guests. With these telephones, local calls are usually timed and 1800 numbers are sometimes unacceptable. These are not good telephones from which to make international card calls. It is better to go out and look for an ordinary public telephone.

Time Zones

This is not a matter as simple as one might suppose, so here are the facts.

Winter

Australia is divided into three zones, east to west.

From the east: Queensland, New South Wales (except Broken Hill), the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania are 10 hours ahead of GMT.

South Australia, the Northern Territory and Broken Hill are 9½ hours ahead of GMT (30 minutes behind Sydney).

Western Australia is 8 hours ahead of GMT (2 hours behind Sydney). BUT the area in Western Australia between the South Australian border and Caiguna, or, along the railway, between the border and just east of Kalgoorlie, likes to keep an unofficial local time which is 8¾ hours ahead of GMT (1¼ hours behind Sydney).

Summer

In summer, the southern states and territories of New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia keep daylight savings time, which advances them one hour, but the other states and territories do not do so. Therefore, in summer the situation is as follows. New South Wales (except Broken Hill), the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania are 11 hours ahead of GMT South Australia and Broken Hill are 10½ hours ahead of GMT (30 minutes behind Sydney). Queensland is 10 hours ahead of GMT (1 hour behind Sydney). The Northern Territory is 9½ hours ahead of GMT (1½ hours behind Sydney). Western Australia is 9 hours ahead of GMT (3 hours behind Sydney). The area in Western Australia between the South Australian border and Caiguna, or, along the railway, between the border and just east of Kalgoorlie, is 9¾ hours ahead of GMT (2¼ hours behind Sydney).

Tipping

Tipping is not expected in Australia. However, due to the large number of visitors, tipping does occur and, like most places in the world, is appreciated. If service in restaurants has been particularly good you might wish to leave 10% but, if not, then do not feel obliged to tip, or, if you just want to be generous, round up the bill to an even figure.

Toilets

Toilets are an important consideration for the traveller and in Australia the situation is good. Public toilets do exist and are usually open for most of the day. Bus stations and larger railway stations usually have toilets and their use is free. Trains, of course, are equipped with toilets, except for suburban services, and long distance buses have toilets too, although they have a habit of not keeping still when you want them to. Cleanliness varies but is usually reasonable.

Tourist Refund Scheme

Visitors to Australia can reclaim any GST on goods purchased over the value of \$300 from a single store, but no more than 30 days prior to departure. Refunds are payable at the designated refund facility located past Customs up to 30 minutes before flight departure. You will need your tax invoice and goods to obtain a refund.

History

Lieutenant James Cook (he became a Captain later) first arrived at Botany Bay on 29th April 1770. It was not until 13th May 1787 that Captain Arthur Phillip left England with eleven ships filled principally with soldiers and convicts. He landed successfully at Botany Bay on 18th January 1788 but found the position too exposed and moved to Port Jackson, a few kilometres further north, and established a new settlement there on 26th January 1788.

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, and the new colony was called New South Wales.

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 1800s that large scale development started and Victorian architecture spread up the hill from the harbour.

The 1930s 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 was referred to as Sydney's '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. Three Japanese submarines did manage to enter the harbour causing small damage.

Mass migration followed the ending of the war and migration continues to this day. The mix of immigrants, which changed over the years, now provide Sydney with its diverse and rich culture.

The grandest building in Sydney, the Opera House was opened in 1973 after many years under 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 to power the thriving Australian economy.

Orientation

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 occupies two geographical regions, the relatively flat or rolling region, the Cumberland Plain is to the south and west of the harbour, and the Hornsby Plateau, an area north of the harbour, is up to 200 metres in elevation. The oldest parts of the city are located in the flatter areas, the Hornsby Plateau. This area is known as the North Shore.

Recognised as one of the most liveable cities on earth, Sydney provides a very warm welcome to visitors. The stunning harbour, perfect climate, superb restaurants, energetic nightlife - this safe, efficient city is a fabulous destination.

One-fifth of the population of Australia lives in Sydney, the largest city populus in Australia. A mix of peoples from over 130 countries ensures vibrancy, diversity and a dynamic, cultural basis. Sydney has a prominent gay community. Every year, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is celebrated at the end of February, drawing people from all over Australia and the world for the celebrations.

George Street is the main thoroughfare and runs from Circular Quay going past Wynard CityRail station and the Town Hall to Central Station. Parallel to George Street are Pitt, Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets which connect to the Sydney Opera House. A central landmark is the Sydney Tower on Pitt Street. Argyle Street runs from the base of the Rocks to the top of Observatory Hill. Dixon Street is the main street in Chinatown. Market Street cuts across the city centre from Hyde Park to Darling Harbour.

Beaches active with surfers and swimmers, and hug the coastline to the north and south. 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 the most successful Olympic Games ever; 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 recognisable, dominated by the Sydney Tower. Buildings range from the simple Francis Greenways Georgian buildings, to Jorn Utzon's expressionist Sydney Opera House. Sydney also has a large amount of Victorian buildings, such as the Sydney Town Hall and the Queen Victoria Building. Then, of course, there's the Sydney Harbour Bridge, locally known as the 'Coathanger'.

Sydney areas

North

The northern suburbs start beyond the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The coastline has many beaches and runs from Manly to Palm Beach and on to the Hawkesbury region. The Hawkesbury runs from the ocean to Richmond and Windsor district. Some 30 km north of Sydney CBD is Ku-ring-gai Chase national park with bush land, waterways and fauna.

West

Sydney has moved west and almost reaches the Blue Mountains. The west side of Sydney includes the Sydney Olympic Park, Parramatta and Penrith. Parramatta was once seen as a country retreat and now a vibrant city with many historic buildings and easily reached by the River Cat from Circular Quay and will take around 50 minutes.

South

To the south of Sydney is Sydney airport, Botany Bay, Cronulla and the Royal National Park.

CBD

The central business district (CBD) of Sydney is the historical centre of government, retail, finance, culture and entertainment. At the centre is Martin Place, the Pitt Street Mall, Strand Arcade and the Queen Victoria Building.

Chinatown

Chinese culture, cuisine and shopping near Darling Harbour.

Circular Quay

Circular Quay is between Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House.

Darling Harbour

An extensive, leisure and entertainment area immediately to the west of the CBD with many hotels. At Darling Harbour you will find the Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Wildlife World, Australian Maritime Museum, Powerhouse Museum, lots of shops, restaurants and even an IMAX cinema. At the entrance to Darling Harbour are the Chinese Gardens of Friendship with ponds, pavilions, waterfalls and even a traditional teahouse.

Darlinghurst

An area of restaurants and the heart of the gay community between Kings Cross and Oxford Street.

Kings Cross

Bars, clubs and red light district with plenty of action. A good area for cheap eats, Internet and hostels.

The Rocks

Bordering Sydney Cove to the west, the Rocks include the first colonial village of Sydney, and Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Town Hall

The Town Hall is in the centre of Sydney and an area of shopping malls including the historic Queen Victoria Building.

Bondi

Bondi is famous for the beach but is also a fairly large urban area with plenty of shops and restaurants and a short journey from Sydney CBD.

Glebe

Glebe is an inner city suburb with restaurants, cafés, pubs and shops along Glebe Point Road and a cheaper place to stay.

Milsons Point

Across the harbour from the Sydney Opera House and home to Luna Park.

Newtown

Newtown is a student area around King Street with alternative shops, bookstores and ethnic restaurants.

Paddington

Paddington is a busy area with bars and fashion outlets built around Oxford Street with a large gay community.

Getting Here

Sydney Airport

Sydney Airport (Kingsford Smith) is only nine kilometres from the centre of Sydney. International and domestic terminals are on opposite sides of the airport. Domestic services are operated by Qantas, Virgin Blue and JetStar. The airport is efficient and works well.

If arriving from an overseas location you will have to pass through Quarantine as well as Customs and Immigration. This is a very strict process and nearly all bags are x-rayed and many searched. Trained dogs will sniff around all the bags by the luggage carousels and you may be asked questions even before you reach the Customs desk. Do not be alarmed, quarantine is a very serious issue in Australia and every precaution is taken to ensure that no prohibited items are imported. It is quite simple: do not bring any food, plants, seeds or untreated wood of any description into Australia. If you have mistakenly brought something in, there are special bins to dispose of these items as you come off the plane. To attempt to smuggle food or flowers or other items on the list into the country is a very serious offence with heavy fines, deportation and/or imprisonment.

Sydney Airport Transfers

Make it easy for yourself and pre-book an airport transfer direct from Sydney Airport to your Sydney hotel.

Sydney Airport arrival and departure transfers take about 25 to 30 minutes. Travel to or from Sydney International or Domestic Airports to your Sydney accommodation. Transfers operate seven days a week, 365 days a year, for your convenience and calls in at major hotels and backpackers in downtown Sydney and surrounding suburbs. Simply submit a booking online and the transfer will be confirmed instantly. You will be provided with a travel voucher to present to the driver upon arrival. It's easy.

Train from Sydney Airport

In 2000, prior to the Sydney Olympics, a new line was opened to the airport. Although ordinary CityRail trains serve the two stations, one for the International Terminal and one for the Domestic Terminal, the line is privately owned and operated. The fare for using this convenient mode of transport to the city centre (including Kings Cross) is very reasonable. The journey takes about ten minutes to Central Station and about eighteen minutes to Kings Cross. If a weekly or daily ticket is used to enter or exit at one of the airport stations, a supplement is charged. The stations are located in the Domestic and International Terminals, just follow the "Trains" signs and, if you have luggage, use the lifts that go to the platforms. The city stations are all very close to all the main hotel areas.

Use Central Station for: Chinatown, Paddy's Market, Sydney Entertainment Centre and change here for suburban stations and light rail. Also use Central Station for the following hotels: Capital Square Hotel, Carlton Crest, Country Comfort Hotel, Furama Central, Holiday Inn Darling Harbour, Ibis Darling Harbour, Mercure Harbourside Apartments, Mercure Hotel, Novotel Darling Harbour, Pacific International Apartments and YHA Central.

Use Museum Station for: Oxford Street, Hyde Park South, the Australian Museum and the following hotels - Avillion Hotel Sydney, Central Park Hotel, Clarion Suites Southern Cross, Towers Hotel, Hyde Park Inn, Hyde Park Plaza, Ibis World Square, Marriot Hotel, Meriton, Park Regis Hotel and Southern Cross Hotel.

Use St James Station for: Pitt Street Mall, Macquarie Street, Hyde Park North and for the following hotels - Sheraton on the Park, Travelodge, Merchant Court Hotel and Castlereagh Inn.

Use Circular Quay Station for: Sydney Opera House, The Rocks, the ferry terminal, Royal Botanic Gardens and the following hotels - Harbour Rocks Hotel, Hotel Intercontinental, Observatory Hotel, Park Hyatt, Four Seasons Hotel, Quay Grand, Renaissance Hotel and the Wentworth Hotel.

Use Wynyard Station for: Australia Square, King Street Wharf and Sydney Aquarium and the following hotels - All Seasons Premier Menzies, Corus Hotel, Grace Hotel, Radisson Plaza and Westin Hotel.

Use Town Hall Station for: Darling Harbour, Sydney Town Hall and the following hotels - Four Points Sheraton, Medina on Kent, Novotel Century, Park Royal Darling Harbour, Sydney Hilton and Novotel Century.

Arriving into Sydney by Train: Long-distance trains arrive at Central Station which is close to the main hotel areas. For out-of-town, Countrylink trains call 132 232.

Bus from Sydney Airport

There are two Airport Express bus routes. They are operated by conspicuous yellow and green buses and labelled numbers 300 and 350. They both follow the same routes into the city as far as Central Station. Thereafter, route 300 runs straight up through the centre of Sydney to Circular Quay and The Rocks area, whilst route 350 diverges to Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo. Each route operates approximately every twenty minutes between 05:00 and 23:00.

There are also three ordinary bus routes running via the airport and these are the cheapest method of transport available. Route 100 starts at the airport and runs north to and through the city and then right up to Dee Why, a considerable distance further north. It operates every hour on weekdays, but there is no service at weekends. Routes 353 and 400 run north-east to Bondi Junction. Route 400 continues beyond the airport north-west to Burwood, passing several railway stations on the way. These two routes operate every twenty to thirty minutes. The bus fare is determined by distance.

There are a number of shuttle buses that offer good value hotel drops. They have booking stands in the arrival halls.

Arriving into Sydney by bus: Conveniently, the long-distance bus terminal is downstairs in Central Station. Services operated by McCafferty's, Greyhound, Premier, Murray's and Firefly all arrive here, some at the front of the building and some at the side.

Getting Around

Sydney Transport

Sydney transport options are numerous and cater for the large numbers of domestic and international visitors who travel through the airports, train and bus stations every day. Sydney Airport operates services around the world, as well as domestic flights all over the country. Airport Link trains run from the airport to the city centre every 10 minutes and it only takes about 15 minutes' travel time. Once in the city, it is very easy to travel around. Sydney ferries operate to various destinations around the harbour, whilst trains and buses are easy to negotiate.

Sydney has a good public transport, making it easy and convenient to travel around the city. Trains or replacement buses run all night and return tickets purchased for use on a particular day are valid until 04:00am the following morning.

Buses

The buses in central Sydney are operated by Sydney Buses and are blue and white in colour. To and from the outer suburbs, there are buses operated by some 35 other companies but most of your needs can be met with Sydney Buses. The buses go everywhere and are too numerous to list in detail. However, it is useful to note that the route numbers give a general guide to the destination of the buses.

Route groups are as follows:

- 100 - 199 Manly, Northern Beaches
- 200 - 299 Lower North Shore, Northern Suburbs
- 300 - 399 Eastern Suburbs
- 400 - 499 Inner Southern and Western Suburbs
- 500 - 599 North-Western and Upper North Shore
- 600 - 699 Parramatta and Outer North-Western Suburbs
- 700 - 799 Outer Western Suburbs
- 800 - 899 South-Western Suburbs
- 900 - 999 Southern Suburbs

Explorer Buses

The Sydney Explorer (red) and the Bondi Explorer (blue) are timetabled hop on/hop off services with stops near most Sydney attractions. Tickets are available for one or two days. Phone 131 500.

Sydney Explorer

This is a special bus service which travels round all the interesting sights of the city and Kings Cross, crosses the harbour by the tunnel and returns via the Harbour Bridge. There is a commentary and the buses run every twenty minutes. They are a conspicuous red colour. If you complete the whole circuit, it will take approximately two hours, but you do not need to go all the way round on one bus. You can get on and off as you please. There are 27 stops. Tickets can be purchased on board the Sydney Explorer or transit shops at Circular Quay, Wynard Station or the Queen Victoria building.

Sydney Explorer stops in numerical order: Sydney Cove/Circular Quay, Sydney Opera House, Milsons Point/Luna Park, Botanic Gardens, Hyde Park Barracks, Australia Museum, East Sydney, Kings Cross, Elizabeth Bay House, Woolloomooloo Bay, Mrs Macquarie's Chair, Art Gallery of NSW, Wynard Station, Queen Victoria Building, Anzac War Memorial, Central Station, Chinatown, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney Fish Market, Star City, National Maritime Museum, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Imax, Sydney Aquarium, Passenger Terminal, The Rocks and the Sydney Visitor Centre/Argyle Cut.

Bondi Explorer

Building on the success of the Sydney Explorer, the Bondi Explorer offers much the same service for the Bondi area. The Bondi Explorer starts from Circular Quay and then goes round the coastline on a 30 kilometre circular route, a journey which takes two hours. Again there is commentary and you can get on and off as you please. The Bondi Explorer buses are blue and operate approximately every thirty minutes from 08:45 until 16:30. You can also use ordinary buses operating along the same route, again up until midnight. A two-day Twin Ticket is available and allows the use of both Explorer services for two days (both services on both days). The two days do not need to be consecutive but the second day must be within six days of the first.

There are 19 stops on the Bondi Explorer: Circular Quay, Woolloomooloo Bay, Kings Cross, Top of Kings Cross, Rushcutters Bay, Double Bay, Rose Wharf Bay, Rose Bay Convent, Vaucluse Bay, Watsons Bay, The Gap Park, Bondi Beach, Bronte Beach, Coogee Beach, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Fox Studios, Oxford Street, Hyde Park and Martin Place.

Sydney by Car

The car is a good option if you want to travel between parts of the city other than the CBD. Many outlying areas are now served by motorways, most of which charge tolls. The newest tollways, the Cross-City Tunnel and the Westlink M7, the western orbital motorway bypassing Sydney, are electronic tollways. Tolls may only be paid by purchasing an electronic pass from the tollway management up to 24 hours before or after using this road.

Ferries

Sydney is a city which makes use of its harbour. Various ferry services operate, of which the most famous is the one to Manly. To this destination there are both conventional ferry services and Jetcat (fast catamaran) services. A Rivercat also operates to Parramatta in the west. To other destinations, only the traditional ferry services operate. The ferries are fun, they provide some beautiful views and they are also quite a quick way to reach the points which they serve. The city terminal is at Circular Quay, easily

reached by train. At the time of writing, there are 31 vessels with seven different classes that include the Manly Ferries, the SuperCats, the First Fleet Class ferries, the Harbour Cats and the RiverCats.

The conventional ferry services can be used with all of the travel passes. Conventional ferries to Manly can be used with other passes at any time, but the Jetcats are available only after 7pm. Ticket offices are located at the entrance to each wharf at Circular Quay.

Harbour cruises are also operated by the ferry company. Morning cruises last one hour, afternoon cruises last for two and a half hours and evening cruises last for one and a half hours. However, only with the afternoon cruise will you reach places which you cannot reach on an ordinary ferry.

Ferry Information Centre, Opposite Wharf 4, Circular Quay. Phone 9207 3170 or the Transport Infoline on 131 500. Ferry Lost Property Office, Wharf 3, Circular Quay. Phone 9207 3101

Sydney Ferry Wharves: Circular Quay, Taronga Zoo, Manly, Watsons Bay, Rose Bay, Double Bay, Darling Point, Milsons Point, McMahon's Point, North Sydney, Neutral Sydney, Kurraba Point, Kirribilli, Cremorne Point, Mosman South, Old Cremorne, Mosman, Balmain East, Balmain, Darling Harbour, Pyrmont Bay, Balmain West, Birkenhead, Birchgrove, Greenwich, Woolwich, Drummoyne, Huntleys Point, Chiswick, Abbotsford, Cabarita, Kissing Point, Meadowbank, Sydney Olympic Park, Rydalmere, Parramatta, Goat Island, Fort Denison and Garden Island.

Metro Light Rail (tram)

In August 1997, one tram route was reinstated in Sydney. It runs from Central Station via Darling Harbour to Lilyfield, a distance of 6.7 kilometres. This service operates 24 hours per day every day of the year. However, between 11pm and 6am services go only as far as Star City. Frequency is every ten to fifteen minutes during the day and every thirty minutes at night. There are two zones. Tickets for other forms of public transport cannot be used on the tram except for a weekly tram plus monorail ticket. For information call 9285 5600.

Zone 1 Stations

Central Station for: CityRail, train and bus connections and trains to the airport.

Capitol Square Station for: Capitol Square, Capitol Theatre, George Street Cinemas, Radisson Hotel, Capitol Square Hotel, Pacific International Apartments and Royal Garden International.

Haymarket Station for: Chinatown, Sydney Entertainment Centre, Paddy's Markets, Market City, Chinese Garden of Friendship, Carlton Crest Hotel, Holiday Inn Darling Harbour, Mercure Hotel Lawson City West and the Novotel Century Hotel.

Exhibition Centre Station for: Darling Harbour, Sydney Exhibition Centre and Tumbalong Park.

Convention Station for: Harbourside, IMAX, Sydney Convention Centre, Hotel IBIS Darling Harbour, Novotel Sydney Hotel, Grand Mercure Apartments and Goldsborough Apartment Hotel.

Zone 2 Stations

Pyrmont Bay Station for: Australian National Maritime Museum, Cockle Bay Wharf, Harbourside and King Street Wharf.

Star City Station for: Lyric Theatre, Star City Hotel and Entertainment Complex.

John Street Square Station: Centre of Pyrmont.

Fish Market Station for: Sydney Fish Market.

Wentworth Park Station for: Wentworth Park and greyhound track.

Glebe Station for: Glebe.

Jubilee Park Station for: Bicentennial Park and Jubilee Park.

Rozelle Bay Station for: Federal Park.

Lilyfield Station: Terminus.

Monorail

The Sydney Monorail runs around the central entertainment areas and links Darling Harbour and Chinatown. It runs every few minutes and covers the following monorail stations: City Centre, Darling Park, Harbourside, Convention, Paddy's Markets, Chinatown, World Square and Galleries Victoria.

Pushbike

It is illegal for adults to ride bicycles on footpaths unless they are especially marked for cyclists or shared cyclist/pedestrian use. Only children under 12 may ride on unmarked footpaths, adults must ride only on marked bicycle tracks or on the road with cars. Bicycle helmets are required to be worn by law, as are lights and reflectors at night. If you enjoy biking there are several bike tours available around Sydney.

Taxis

There are plenty of taxis available in Sydney. Drivers come from all over the world and have some good stories about their many lives. If travelling on your own, feel free to travel in the front. Sydney taxis are well managed and controlled. A taxi is a smoke free zone, must be clean and tidy and well maintained.

As a passenger in a Sydney taxi you have the right to decide the route, see the taxi meter, refuse multiple hiring, have the radio on or off, have the air-conditioning on or off and see the driver's photo identity card. You must pay the fare including any tolls and booking fees, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel tolls. In addition, passengers who are taken north over the Harbour Bridge, for which there is no toll, are expected to pay the driver's southbound toll for the return into the city. A night rate applies between 10pm and 6am and you can check that you are not being charged the night rate in the daytime if you see a '2' next to the meter. You must not drink or smoke in a Sydney taxi, not swear and you must wear a seatbelt. The driver can refuse to take you if you appear drunk, using illegal drugs, smoking or unable to pay the fare. Tipping is not expected. Call 131 008 for a taxi.

Premier Cabs - 13 10 17 / **RSL Cabs** - 9581 1111 / **Taxis Combined Services** - 13 10 08

Trains

The rail network is extensive and is operated by CityRail. The central area is served by double-decker electric trains which pass through the city and terminate in various suburbs, or run round the underground city loop and return to their origins. Longer, medium-distance, services start at Sydney Central Station and make only limited stops in the suburbs. Such trains go as far as Newcastle in the north, Lithgow in the west, Goulburn in the south-west and Dapto in the south.

The suburban services are divided into areas for which weekly passes can be purchased at reasonable prices. Passes include the use of all buses and ferries within that area, as well as the trains, and are good value. A weekly pass is available for the central area, the red travel pass and a pass for a slightly larger area, the green travel pass, costs a bit more. This green travel pass probably offers the best value in Sydney, since it includes all ferry routes and a wide enough rail and bus area to get the visitor to most likely destinations. If you just want to make a return rail journey, suburban or medium-distance, there are off-peak returns available after 9.00am at discounted prices. Such tickets are available at any time at weekends. Several other special types of ticket are available too - see "Ticket Options" below.

Water Taxis

Water taxis buzz around the Harbour and are a quick way to travel. The water taxi rank is at Circular Quay or they will pick you up like a conventional taxi by calling 9299 0199, 9955 3222 or 9555 1155.

Ticket Options

You can just get on a bus, train or ferry and pay the appropriate fare but there are also ways of saving money by purchasing special tickets. The following special tickets are available. Transit shops have all the information, brochures and maps that you might need for Sydney transport. They are located at Circular Quay (near McDonald's), Wynard Station (Carrington Street) and the Queen Victoria Building (York Street entrance). The Sydney Visitor Information Centre at George Street, The Rocks and the Sydney Ferry Ticket Office at Wharf 4, Circular Quay will be able to help.

Travel Passes

Travel passes cover train, bus and ferry services, or, alternatively, bus and ferry services only, within the chosen area for a period of seven days. If the pass is purchased after 3pm, the ticket may be used on that day plus for seven more days.

The **Red Travel Pass** gives unlimited travel on CityRail services in the area bounded by Bondi Junction, Rockdale, Bardwell Park, Canterbury, Croydon and Chatswood Stations. It also allows for unlimited travel on Sydney Buses in the red area - zones 1, 3, 6 and 7 as well as unlimited travel on Sydney Ferries inner harbour services (the inner harbour includes all wharfs except Manly, beyond Meadowbank and premium services).

The **Green Travel Pass** increases the bus and CityRail area and provides unlimited travel on all ferries, excluding Manly JetCats and premium services.

The **Yellow Travel Pass**, **Pink Travel Pass** and **Purple Travel Pass** further increase the areas of both bus and train but do not include the Manly JetCats and premium services.

The **Blue Travel Pass** (same as Red area but trains not included) and the **Orange Travel Pass** (same as Green area but trains not included) and the **Pittwater Travel Pass** (all buses and ferries but no trains) as also available. For details and transport information call 131 500.

BusTripper

This is a one-day ticket for use on all Sydney buses except special services.

DayTripper

This is a one-day ticket for use on all Sydney buses except special services, all ferries except the Manly JetCat before 7pm, and suburban rail services in the area covered by the Purple Travel Pass.

CityHopper

This is a one-day ticket for trains and Sydney buses within a small central city area, the limits of which are the stations of Redfern, North Sydney and Kings Cross. There are two types of ticket: peak and off-peak. It is also possible to purchase the ticket from railway stations outside the area and include return travel to the city. Rates vary according to the length of the journey involved. You cannot break your journey outside the CityHopper area.

Seven Day Rail Passes

These passes are weekly tickets for a specified rail journey at about 7.5 times the single fare. There is no limit to the number of journeys which can be made within the period and boarding or alighting at intermediate stations is permitted.

TravelTen and FerryTen Tickets

These are tickets giving ten trips at the same fare on buses or ferries. TravelTen (for buses) offers discounts of about 25%. FerryTen (for ferries) offers discounts of 20% to 35%.

SydneyPass

This is a ticket which combines the services comprised in the Red Travel Pass with other special services for visitors. Specifically trains, buses and ferries within the Red Travel Pass area; Airport Express bus; unlimited travel during the validity, plus one return trip outside the validity of the Sydney Pass; Sydney Explorer services; Bondi Explorer services; JetCat ferries; as well as conventional ferries and Sydney Harbour cruises.

Bearing in mind that this ticket includes a free return trip from the airport on the AirportLink, the return to be completed within two months, if you intend to use the Sydney Pass and are arriving by air, you should purchase at the airport and use the ticket to travel into town. The Sydney Pass is available for three, five or seven days and can be purchased from Sydney Explorer buses; Bondi Explorer buses; Sydney ferry ticket offices at Circular Quay; CityRail stations; Airport Link train station offices at Sydney Airport and the Transit Shops at Circular Quay, Wynyard and QVB. Phone 131 500.

Aquarium Pass

This ticket includes the return ferry ride to Darling Harbour (which can actually be reached quite easily on foot) and admission to Sydney Aquarium.

Zoo Pass

This ticket includes the return ferry across the Harbour and admission to Taronga Zoo with the Sky Safari ride.

Day Trips

Around Sydney are a number of places that are easily visited as day trip. These can be done as part of an organised tour or using a hire car or public transport from Sydney.

Blue Mountains and Katoomba

A scenic mountainous area inland from Sydney. Katoomba is the favourite destination in the area of the Blue Mountains National Park. It is 110 kilometres west of Sydney by CityRail train (131 500), a journey which takes two hours. The railway line runs through the Blue Mountains National Park from Lapstone onwards and offers some splendid views.

The Blue Mountains were a great barrier in the way of penetration inland for the first European settlers and it was not until May 1813 that the first route through them was discovered by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, all of whose names you will now find given to stations and communities on the journey up to Katoomba. By 1815, there was a road through the mountains. The railway was built in 1868 and tourism started in the area soon after. The Blue Mountains National Park was declared in 1959 and covers 248,433 hectares. Its most spectacular feature is an escarpment with sheer waterfalls and impressive views. There are also some caves and, in the past, the area has been mined for coal.

A main attraction is the Katoomba Skyway (02 4782 2699) and Scenic Railway which can be reached by a short walk from the main street (Katoomba Street) until you reach Katoomba Falls Road on your right. Take this road and you will come to the Skyway which is a ropeway suspended across a deep valley. The car attached goes across the valley and then returns. The Scenic Railway is a funicular railway which descends at an acceptable angle for a few metres and then plunges off the edge of the 170-metre-high escarpment and through a tunnel. It claims to be the steepest funicular railway in the world, at an incline of 52 degrees, an angle which is terrifyingly steep. This railway was not built as a tourist attraction. It used to be a working line and at the bottom of the terrifying descent is an abandoned coal mine. The railway used to take the miners down to the pit entrance and haul the coal back up. To see the entrance to the old mine, with the cliff face at your back turn right and walk just a short distance from the foot of the railway. You can make either a single or a return journey on this railway. From the lower station, which is a horizontal section of rail extending precariously out over the abyss, you can walk east, in the opposite direction to the mine, to the Three Sisters Lookout at Echo Point, a walk of about 45 minutes, or to the Sisters themselves, if you prefer.

The Three Sisters are, as the name implies, a group of three pinnacles standing out and isolated from the escarpment. At the Echo Point Lookout, you will have a magnificent view, weather permitting, not only of the Sisters but of the Jamison Valley continuing into the distance and the great expanse of unspoilt bushland. There is also a Visitor Information Centre here with maps available of further walks. From Echo Point, follow Echo Point Road until it runs into Lurline Street, and so return to the town.

What is described above is just a stroll, although one rewarded by some excellent views. To extend the walk to approximately nine kilometres and include some extra and impressive cliff-top views, continue along the Cliff Walk beyond Echo Point. You will encounter two lookouts, first Honeymoon Lookout, then Kiah Lookout, and after those, views of Leura Falls and Gordon Falls. Then retrace your steps for a short distance and walk north, up Leura Mall either all the way to Leura Station or to Megalong Street, where you turn left and, via Clarence Street and Lovel Street, return to Katoomba Station.

If, on the other hand, so much exercise seems too strenuous, there are two bus companies operating services following the route of the longer walk, plus just a little extra, but minus the walk from the foot of the funicular railway up to Echo Point. These two companies are Trolley Tours and Blue Mountains Explorer Bus. Buses run on a circular route, making stops at any of which passengers may alight and reboard later in the day.

Another popular destination in the Blue Mountains is Wentworth Falls, two stations from Katoomba in the direction of Sydney. It is possible to walk between Katoomba and Wentworth, part of the walk being along the edge of the escarpment as described above. The falls are triple-tiered and 180 metres high in total. The famous caves are the Jenolan Caves (6359 3311) just outside the south-western boundary of the Blue Mountains National Park. Nine limestone caverns are open to the public.

For visitor information the National Parks and Wildlife Centre is at Govett's Leap Road, Blackheath. Phone 02 4787 8877.

Edge Giant Screen Movie

A Blue Mountains visual experience at the Edge Cinema. 225 Great Western Highway, Katoomba. Phone 02 4782 8900.

Jenolan Caves

Spectacular limestone caves on the western side of the Blue Mountains about 90 minutes drive from Katoomba. Duckmaloi Road, Oberon. Phone 1300 76 33 11.

Scenic World

A combination of train and cable car down into the Jamison Valley. Violet Street and Cliff Drive, Katoomba. Phone 02 4782 2699.

Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains region is a natural adventure playground and a popular place for the city dwellers to get out of Sydney. The Blue Mountains, which rise to 1200 meters, form part of the Great Dividing Range and are about 65km inland from Sydney. The scenery in the Blue Mountains is stunning from national parks, mountain ranges and waterfalls. The reason for the name Blue Mountains soon becomes apparent, for the distant ranges do indeed appear to be covered in a blue haze. One theory is that this is caused by the evaporation of eucalyptus vapour, but it is only a theory.

Aboriginal people were living in the Blue Mountains over 22,000 years ago and evidence is seen in the rock engravings and other ochre drawings in the area. The first European crossing of the Blue Mountains was made by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in May 1813 and the first road built in 1815 to open up the plains to the west of the Blue Mountains.

The sandstone which forms the mountain plateau's upper crust was formed from sandy sediments deposited by a giant river system over a period of 250 million years. About 90 million years ago the area was pushed up from the coastal plains then rivers and creeks eroded the landscape and formed the characteristic steep cliffs and escarpments.

Blackheath

Blackheath is the highest town in the Blue Mountains and is located on the edge of the national park. It boasts breathtaking views and classy eateries. The Blue Mountains Heritage Centre is located just east of Blackheath, there are many displays on the geology and history of the area. From the centre you can go on the Fairfax Heritage Walk; this 4km return walk takes in Govetts Leap Lookout which offers stunning views of the valleys and gorges.

Echo Point

Echo Point is close to Katoomba and is the site of the Three Sisters. Echo Point provides views across the Jamison Valley. The blue haze seen is due to the finely dispersed droplets of Eucalyptus oil which combine with water and dust and send short wave length rays of light which are mainly blue in colour. From Echo Point it is possible to walk down the Giant Stairway of the Three Sisters, a total of 800 steps in total into the valley floor where there are a number of walks. It is then possible to take the scenic railway back to the top which will bring you out at Scenic World.

Falconbridge

This pretty town, located 16 kilometres northwest of Glenbrook, features a natural attraction, the Corridor of Oaks. Each tree in the line was planted to represent an Australian prime minister. The grave of Sir Henry Parkes, the father of federation, is located in the cemetery here, as well as a museum and gallery that honours the works of one of Australia's famous painters and authors, Norman Lindsay.

Glenbrook

This lovely village is located on the edge of the Blue Mountains. A good walk here is the Lapstone Zig Zag walking track; this 2.5km trail traces the original train line from Lapstone to Glenbrook.

Hazelbrook

Hazelbrook is a small town in the lower Blue Mountains with open gardens and the historic Selwood House, now a science and puzzle workshop.

Jenolan Caves

These impressive underground limestone caves are one of the most extensive underground cave systems in the world. They were formed over 400 million years ago and consist of over 300 rooms, however only nine are open to the public. Jenolan State Forest. Phone 1300 76 3311.

Katoomba

Katoomba, the largest town in the Blue Mountains is the favourite destination in the area of the Blue Mountains National Park. Built on the escarpments and characterised by heritage buildings, it is 110 kilometres west of Sydney by CityRail train, a journey which takes two hours. The railway line runs through the Blue Mountains National Park from Lapstone onwards and offers some splendid views. The Katoomba trolley tour is a hop on hop off service that runs all day and a good way to see all the attractions in the area. The Edge Cinema is a six storey high screen that shows the Edge and brings the Blue Mountains to life.

Katoomba Skyway and Scenic Railway

A ride on both or at least one of these attractions should not be missed. The Scenic Railway is the world's steepest and is quite a thrilling ride. It drops some 415metres and only takes a few minutes. Once at the bottom of the Jamison Valley you can explore the forest area. The Skyway is a cable car that takes you over the Jamison Valley on a round trip that takes six minutes, another stunning way to see the landscape. 1 Violet Street. Phone 02 4782 2699.

Leura

If you are looking for a charming little village set amongst mountain ranges, you have found it at Leura. Travel along Cliff Drive to access pretty picnic areas and walking trails or just hit the Mall, where there are quaint tearooms, boutiques and gift shops. The Everglades Gardens (02 4784 1938) in the centre of Leura was designed as a series of terraces by Paul Sorenson in the 1930's. Lyrebird Dell, located near Leura, is a 12,000 year old Aboriginal site where you can find original rock engravings and cave paintings. In the centre is an art deco mansion housing the NSW Toy and Railway Museum at 36 Olympian Parade (02 4784 1169) and the Leuralla Gardens. Sublime Point to the south of Leura is a good view point.

Lithgow

Lithgow is on the western slopes of the Blue Mountains and the start of the Zig Zag railway. Lithgow developed as coal mining town.

Mount Victoria

Mt Victoria is the highest settlement in the Blue Mountains and a small rural village about 16km west of Katoomba.

Wentworth Falls

Another popular destination in the Blue Mountains is Wentworth Falls, two stations from Katoomba in the direction of Sydney. Originally named 'Weatherboard' after the 'Weatherboard Hut' built in 1814. It is possible to walk between Katoomba and Wentworth with part of the walk along the edge of the escarpment. The falls are triple-tiered and 180 metres high.

Yester Grange

Located just above the Wentworth Falls are these stunning landscaped gardens. The house dates back to the 1870s and is a well restored Victorian-era homestead. Here you will find a museum, art gallery and tearooms, and, of course, a killer view.

Zig-Zag Railway

The Zig Zag Railway runs on the original course of the Western Main Railway leading westwards from Sydney to Lithgow and beyond. It was built between 1866 and 1869, and acclaimed a major engineering feat of its time. It was constructed to enable produce to be taken to Sydney from the prosperous farming areas beyond the Blue Mountains and to develop the coal and iron ore deposits found in the Lithgow Valley.

The prodigious feat of bringing the railway from the top of the mountains to the valley below was accomplished by John Whitton, Chief Engineer of the NSW Government Railways. At the time, the Great Zig Zag was regarded as one of the engineering wonders of the Victorian age. A by-product of this construction was the development of locomotive boilers which could cope with steep slopes and this led to the construction of mountain railways in other parts of the world, particularly the Americas.

The Zig Zag consists of a series of sloping tracks forming the letter 'Z' with reversing stations at the top and bottom points. The top part of the 'Z' is called Top Road, the middle part is Middle Road and so on. Bottom Road is now only a short section leading to the depot, the rest remains part of NSW State Rail network. The track passes over three magnificent sandstone viaducts and through two tunnels. There are striking views over the surrounding countryside.

The Zig Zag Railway at Clarence Station is 150 km west of Sydney in the Blue Mountains, 10 km east of Lithgow on Chifley Road. Travel time from central Sydney is approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. The Railway is signposted at Mount Victoria on the Great Western Highway and at Bell on Chifley Road. There is plenty of parking space at Clarence. The railway lies on the western side of the Blue Mountains and runs between Clarence Station at the highest point and Bottom Points Station at the lowest point. Clarence Station has no main line railway connection; it is the access point for passengers arriving by road. Passengers arriving by main line train alight at the Zig Zag platform beside the Zig Zag Railway depot. Bells of Line Road, Clarence. Phone 02 6355 2955.

Cockatoo Run

The Cockatoo Run is a railway journey run by an organisation known as 3801 Limited. This organisation owns and operates the 3801 which is a steam engine of the last, largest and most powerful type used in New South Wales. It is a magnificent monster. At this point, lest any misunderstanding arise, it should be made clear that 3801 is not the engine used on this trip. The Cockatoo Run is operated by another heritage diesel locomotive.

The journey, to the south of Sydney, is a pretty one, but it can also be travelled by a double-decker CityRail train offering an even better view. However, the train branches off the main line and runs on a single-track line leading up the Illawarra escarpment to Robertson and Moss Vale. This was originally constructed to take pressure off the main line and to allow heavy trains travelling to the industrial areas around Wollongong and Port Kembla to avoid passing through the Sydney suburbs. It is very steep with the line rising 600 metres in sixteen kilometres, a long, long climb at an average gradient of 1 in 27, so it is little used nowadays. The climb up the escarpment is a scenic one and the views are very good with the train making one stop for photographs.

As mentioned above, there are CityRail trains to Thirroul which offer a better view and are much cheaper. The train reaches Robertson at which point the climb ends and it is a flat run to Moss Vale. Passengers have the option of alighting at Robertson and going on a bus tour of the area, including a lavender farm, or continuing to Moss Vale without the benefit of the tour. The tour, if taken, is included in the fare. Another option is to have lunch on the train as it climbs the escarpment.

Canberra

A visit to Australia's capital city is a possible long day drive or tour or four hour train ride. Many tour companies offer a day trip. Canberra is an artificial city, created because both Sydney and Melbourne aspired to the position of national capital, so the logical compromise was to build somewhere new between the two. Before the decision was made in 1908 to create the capital here, the area was mainly farmland. Canberra was named on 12th March 1913 and construction began soon after.

To learn more about Canberra visit [Canberra eGuide](#).

Hunter Valley

The Hunter Valley is located in New South Wales, ninety minutes drive north of Sydney. It is an area of world class wineries, mountains, national parks, lakes and historic towns. The Hunter Valley stretches inland from Newcastle through the towns of Maitland, Singleton and to the Upper Hunter, extending over about 150 km.

The Hunter Valley is easily accessible from Sydney and has become a thriving tourist district yet still manages to retain much of its old-world charm and character. As well as thriving towns and cities, there are plenty of sleepy little villages and hidden vineyards off the beaten track that are just waiting to be explored.

The Hunter River was 'discovered' by European settlers in the 1700s. The river takes its name from John Hunter who was the Governor of the New South Wales colony at the time. The discovery of coal quickly led the Hunter Valley to become an important settlement, with coal mining providing work and revenue and attracting more settlers and industry. It remains a major coal producing area to this day.

The lush green landscapes and gently rolling hills that characterise much of the Hunter Valley are a result of the mighty river. This permanent water supply, combined with the climate and soil, made the area ideal for growing vines and today there are over 60 wineries in the Hunter Valley.

The Great North Road was the first major link between Sydney and the Hunter Valley region. It stretches for just over 260 kilometres and was built by convicts in the early 1800s. Although parts of it have fallen into disrepair over the ensuing years, it is still used. If you don't have your own transport, it is possible to take a one-day tour from Sydney or book a coach for a single or return trip.

Hunter Valley accommodation is available for every budget and there is huge variety of hotels, beach resorts and country-style retreats to choose from.

Some of the major Hunter Valley attractions are the vineyards. Many world famous wine producers are based in the region and most of the larger vineyards (and also many smaller ones) offer tours and wine tastings. Whether you have a day or a week to explore, you can take in a number of wineries and also get a flavour of the countryside as you travel around. You can work out your own itinerary or [book a Hunter Valley wine tour](#).

It's not just the wine that keeps visitors coming back, the Hunter Valley has plenty of other attractions that make it a wonderful holiday destination. You can explore the rainforest in Barrington Tops National Park, visit Lake Macquarie or stroll around the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens. There are wildlife trails, golf courses and, of course, plenty of wonderful Hunter Valley restaurants to dine in.

The [Hunter Valley Travel eGuide](#) has further information on attractions, wineries, museums, places, accommodation and restaurants.

Newcastle

A city to the north of Sydney at the entrance to the Hunter Valley, Newcastle lies approximately 160 kilometres north of Sydney, a journey of two and a half hours by CityRail train. For a day trip from Sydney, direct trains leave from Central Station every hour during the main part of the day. On the way, you will have some beautiful views of mountains and rivers, particularly the area around the Hawkesbury River.

Newcastle is the seventh largest city in Australia and is the largest city which is not a state or federal capital. It has a population of approximately 300,000. Newcastle was founded on 30th March 1804 as a penal settlement so has a selection of buildings, old by Australian standards, as well as beaches, surf, impressive coastal scenery, bushland and a well-known lake. It is also an important port, especially for the export of coal, of which resource some 70 million tonnes passes through the city annually.

Most of the Newcastle's attractions are within walking distance of the station. Customs House is just to the east of the railway station and has a clock tower with a time ball on top. Since Customs House was constructed in 1876, the ball was dropped every day at 13:00 as a visual time signal. However, since the earthquake in 1989 it has not worked properly. The building is now used as a pub and restaurant. Next to it is the old Paymaster's Office for New South Wales Government Railways dating from 1879 which is also now a restaurant. Beyond these two buildings is the site of the former Convict Lumber Yards. This is the oldest surviving example of a convict industrial site. It was in operation between 1814 and 1846. Moreover, beneath it is an Aboriginal site which dates back several thousands of years.

Further on is Foreshore Park, an area which used to be railway yards but now has been transformed into a park, with the old warehouses used as shops and restaurants. To its eastern side is Fort Scratchley, constructed in 1882 because of fears of a Russian invasion. However, its first and only action occurred on 7th June 1942, when a Japanese submarine arrived and fired 24 shots at Newcastle. Fort Scratchley fired two rounds in reply before the submarine disappeared.

The fort is now a Maritime and Military Museum. Beyond the fort is the Breakwater constructed by convict labour to protect the port. At its tip is the conspicuous Nobby's Headland which was originally an island. Returning next to the eastern foreshore, we come first to Nobby's Beach and then to the Ocean Baths, an interesting enclosed swimming area dating from 1922 when mixed bathing was first permitted in the city. Beyond is Newcastle Beach, the longest of the beach areas in the city, and then Fletcher Park at its end. Continuing south, we reach Bogey Hole, a swimming hole cut in the natural rock at the order of Commandant Morisset in 1819. Originally it was his private swimming place but it became a public pool in 1863. The term 'Bogey' Hole is evidently derived from the Aboriginal word for bathing. Back from the Bogey Hole is King Edward Park, given to the city in 1865, but renamed later after the monarch of the time.

The rotunda dates from Victorian times. In the farthest corner of the park is the obelisk. A windmill was built here in 1821 on the orders of Commandant Morisset and, when it was demolished later, there was considerable opposition since it served as a useful navigational marker. An obelisk was erected in its place, originally made of wood but soon rebuilt in brick, and there it still stands. Near the obelisk is the junction of Ordnance Street and Wolfe Street. From this point, proceed north along Wolfe Street to Church Street and turn right. Here is the pride of Newcastle architecture, the Cathedral. It is built on the site of Newcastle's oldest church, originally constructed by convict labour in 1817. However, the use of poor workmanship and materials led to the demolition of the original church and the construction of the present cathedral started in 1884. There were several disputes over its design so it was not until 1902 that it was completed. The tower was added in 1979 but ten years later the earthquake occurred resulting in considerable damage to the entire building. Restoration has now taken place.

Continue east along Church Street to reach the Courthouse at the junction with, and looking down, Bolton Street. The Courthouse is an imposing piece of Victorian architecture built in 1890. Walk two blocks down the slope of Bolton Street to the Post Office on the corner of, and facing, Hunter Street. This Post Office has survived the fate of many similarly ornate buildings and is still used for its original purpose. It was constructed in 1902.

Newcastle is the entry point for the Hunter Valley.

Attractions

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. Take the train to Martin Place or St. James or Sydney Explorer, Stop 6. Art Gallery Road, The Domain. Phone 02 9225 1744.

Art Space

Experimental photography and new media behind the historic facade of the Gunnery Building. 43 -51 Cowper Street, Wharf Road, Woolloomooloo.

Australian Aboriginal Art Gallery

Contemporary Australian Aboriginal art. 283 George Street. Phone 02 9299 4973.

Australian Centre for Photography

Contemporary Australian and international photography. 257 Oxford Street, Paddington. Phone 02 9332 1455.

Gaval Aboriginal Art Gallery

A good collection of Aboriginal art that shows off many of the best Aboriginal artists. Shop 131 Harbourside Centre, Darling Harbour. Phone 02 9212 7232.

Hogarth Galleries Aboriginal Art Centre

A large collection of Aboriginal art. Located at 7 Walker Lane, Paddington. Phone 02 9360 6839.

Ivan Dougherty Gallery

Gallery of the University of New South Wales with changing exhibitions. Selwyn Street, Paddington. Phone 02 9385 0726.

Museums

Sydney has an excellent collection of museums. Most are open daily from 9am or 10am until 4pm or 5pm. As some open later and some of the smaller Sydney Museums are closed on Mondays, it is a good idea to phone to check. Not all the Sydney museums listed are in the city centre.

Australian Aviation Museum

A number of aircraft, some of which were made at Bankstown airport. Starkie Drive, Bankstown Airport.

Australian Museum

This museum deals with Australian natural history and the culture of the Aboriginal people. Exhibitions feature bio diversity, skeletons and dinosaurs and changing temporary exhibitions. 6 College Street, Sydney. Phone 02 9320 6000.

Australian National Maritime Museum

At the entrance to this museum is the Welcome Hall which is 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 HMAS 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. You can take sailing lessons and at the weekend you can go for short voyages on

Ken Done Gallery

The work of artist Ken Done housed in the restored Australian Steam Navigation Building. The works are all very colourful and show off the Australian landscape. 1 Hickson Road, The Rocks. Phone 02 9247 2740.

Manly Art Gallery & Museum

A small gallery that relates to the beach culture of Manly. West Esplanade, Manly.

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. Located at Circular Quay West, The Rocks. Free admission, except to special exhibitions. Circular Quay. Phone 02 9245 9245.

Outback Centre

Not just an art gallery but in this section as there are rotating art exhibitions. However there is more and the Centre is all about promoting the Outback. 28 Darling Walk, Darling Harbour. Phone 02 9283 7477.

S.H. Ervin Gallery

Run by the National Trust the gallery has an interesting collection of historical art in the old Fort Street school. Located at Observatory Hill, The Rocks. Phone 02 9258 0173.

Yellow House

A former artist's residence and now used to exhibit contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art. 59 Macleay Street, Potts Point.

historic vessels. Free guided tours of the galleries and the destroyer 'Vampire' are available. 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour. Phone 02 9298 3777.

Bradman Museum of Cricket

Sir Donald Bradman is generally regarded as the best cricketer there has ever been. There can be little doubt that he was the best batsman. His home town is Bowral, about an hour south-west of Sydney although he was not actually born there. He was born in Cootamundra on 27th August 1908 and died in Adelaide on 25th February 2001. However, Bowral was where he grew up from the age of two and where he played his first cricket. Therefore the Bradman Museum is in Bowral, adjacent to the cricket ground where he played his first competitive match at the age of twelve and scored 115 not out, as well as taking eight wickets. The museum tells the life story of Sir Donald Bradman and contains cricketing trophies, photographs and films of various famous matches, not confined to those in which Sir Donald played. Open 10.00am to 5.00pm daily. Closed Christmas Day. St Jude Street, Bowral. Phone 02 4862 1247.

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, Darling Harbour.

Harris Street Motor Museum

A display of over 150 classic motor cars and other vehicles. 320 Harris Street. Phone 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 mugshots of Sydney's early criminals and many more displays. Corner of Albert and Philip Streets. Phone 02 9252 1144.

Laperouse Museum

The Laperouse Museum is in the Cable Station building at La Perouse and was used as the landing point for the underwater telegraph cable that came from New Zealand. The museum tells the story of the French navigator Laperouse who arrived in 1788. La Perouse, Botany Bay National Park. Phone 02 9311 3379.

Macleay Museum

A museum of the history of science at the University of Sydney with a large insect collection and even a flea found by Charles Darwin. Gosper Lane. Phone 02 9351 2274.

Mary MacKillop Place

The life and work of Blessed Mary MacKillop (1842-1909), a controversial yet caring catholic, is demonstrated at this museum which has her tomb enshrined in the chapel. First Australian Saint, co-founded Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1866, beatified 19th January 1995. 7 Mount Street, North Sydney. Phone 02 8912 4878.

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. Phone 02 9252 4033.

Museum of Fire

All of the drama and danger of fire fighting. Castlereagh Road, Penrith. Phone 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. Located at the corner of Bridge and Philips Streets. Entry is part of the Ticket Through Time combination which offers entry to eleven Sydney museums. Phone 02 9251 5988.

NSW Sporting Hall of Fame Museum

Photos and memorabilia of athletes from the 1890s to the present. Sydney Olympic Park. Phone 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. Phone 02 9283 7477.

Powerhouse Discovery Centre

The storehouse for the Powerhouse Museum spread over a number of warehouses and has many exhibits that have never been display at this museum. It is only open on the second Saturday of every month. 172 Showground Road, Castle Hill. Phone 02 9762 1300.

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. Located at 500 Harris Street, Darling Harbour, Ultimo. Phone 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. The Mitchell Library has a mosaic depicting the voyages of Abel Tasman in 1642 to 1643. Admission to the library is free and there are free guided tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are also free exhibitions held in the Mitchell Galleries. Macquarie Street. Phone 02 9273 1414.

Sydney Children's Museum

Hands-on science for ages two to 12. Pitt Street and Walpole Streets. Phone 02 9897 1414.

Sydney Bus Museum

The Sydney Bus Museum has about 90 restored buses, the oldest being a 1924 Ruggles. Together with buses, there is a vintage petrol station, Sydney's first traffic lights and other motoring relics. Old Tempe Tramshed, 1B Gannon Street, Tempe. Phone 02 9558 1234.

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. Phone 02 9360 7999.

Sydney Observatory

Perched up on Observatory Hill above The Rocks is the Sydney Observatory, the oldest observatory in Australia. The hill commands a fine view of the harbour. It is the site of a former fortification with the remnants of a wall constructed in 1804. 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. At night time, view the night sky through the historical and modern telescopes. Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks. Phone 02 9217 0485.

Sydney Tramway Museum

The Tramway Museum lies half an hour south of the city by train, adjacent to Loftus Station on the line to Waterfall. Loftus is a station at which fast trains do not stop, so it may be necessary to change at Sutherland, the previous station (where the line to Cronulla diverges). There are exhibits featuring the old Sydney trams and also trams from Brisbane, Ballarat and Melbourne in Australia, with San Francisco, Nagasaki, Berlin and Munich as overseas representatives. A tram service is run on the Parklink line to the nearby Royal National Park on Sundays only, and rides on this are included in the museum admission fee. Rawson Avenue and Pitt Street. Phone 02 9452 3646.

Historic Places

Aboriginal Rock Engravings

An easy place to see Aboriginal rock carvings is on Bondi Golf Course just up from Bondi Beach and possible to see marine life and the shape of a man. Bondi Golf Course, Military Road, North Bondi.

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. There is a small war museum in the base of the monument. The memorial contains no names but 120,00 stars in the ceiling dome represents those from NSW who served. Free guided tours are available. Hyde Park. Phone 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. Originally the cottage was at the water's edge but it is now 100 metres back from the Harbour. Over the years it has served various purposes including acting as a court and as a sailors' home. It became disused in the 1960s but has now been taken over by the Sydney Harbour National Park, excavated and restored. 110 George Street. Phone 02 9247 5033.

Circular Quay

Circular Quay is located at the founding site of Sydney, an inlet named Sydney Cove, part of the world famous Sydney Harbour. It a thriving, busy place with ferries coming and going all of the time to many of Sydney's attractions. On one side of Circular Quay is the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Botanic Gardens whilst the other side is home to the Sydney Harbour Bridge and The Rocks area with lots of pubs, restaurants, cafés and gift shops to explore.

Originally a major port for shipping, Circular Quay is now mainly used by the Sydney Ferries. Wool stores were the main buildings on the eastern side with Government House and the Botanic Gardens as a backdrop. Circular Quay was created as a landfill using convict labour between 1837 and 1844. The wool fleet that used Circular Quay was at its peak in the late 1800s. The clippers took about 70 days to reach London and the steamers that came later reduced the journey to 50 days.

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 1970s protests which preserved the Rocks, or try out the interactive technology on the archaeological artefacts found in the area. 2-8 Kendall Lane, The Rocks, with entry from Argyle Street or Mill Lane. Phone 02 9251 8804.

Westpac Museum

Trace the history of the Westpac Bank from 1817 to the modern day. 6 Playfair Street. Phone 02 9763 5670.

Customs House

Customs House is right outside Circular Quay Station and dates, in part, from 1840. It is now used as an exhibition centre and restaurant area. On the ground floor of this distinct building, you may freely read many international newspapers. 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 is also free and has an intricate model of the entire city area. Just to the west of Customs House, in Loftus Street, is the spot where the British flag was first raised by the new settlers on 26th January 1788. A plaque commemorates the precise location. 31 Alfred Street, Circular Quay. Phone 02 9247 2285.

Elizabeth Bay House

A superb example of colonial architecture overlooking the Harbour which was built by John Serge for the Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay, Elizabeth Bay house is furnished to a mid 1800s style. 7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay. Phone 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. Phone 02 9635 9488.

Experiment Farm Cottage

The stories of two of Australia's early pioneers, James Ruse and Surgeon John Harris, combine in this historic house. Ruse was a former convict who developed the first commercial farm in Australia in 1791. 9 Ruse Street Harris Park, Parramatta. Phone 02 9635 5655.

Government House

Situated in the Sydney Botanical Gardens, the Government House building is open to the public. Government House was designed in 1835 by British architect Edward Blore and constructed between 1837 and 1845, it is regarded as one of the best examples in Australia of gothic revival. The ground floor state rooms are open to the public and house a collection of 19th and 20th century furniture, portraiture and gubernatorial memorabilia. Admission is free. Macquarie Street, Sydney. Phone 02 9931 5222.

Greycliffe House

Greycliffe House was completed in 1851 and built by John Hilly following a gothic style. The house, originally owned by John Reeve, has had many owners and is now used by the NSW National Parks, however the ground floor is open to the public during the week. Nielsen Park, Greycliffe Avenue, Vaucluse. Phone 02 9247 5033.

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. The shop has books on convicts, Australian culture and history. Queens Square Macquarie Street. Phone 02 8239 2311.

Newington Armoury

Over 100 historic buildings at the old naval armaments depot spread over a 52 hectare site. Walk or cycle around the grounds. Jamieson Street, Sydney Olympic Park, Newington. Phone 02 9714 7888.

North Fort

North Fort was built in 1934 in preparation for a possible attack from Japan and has lots of tunnels to explore. Tours run on the fourth Sunday of each month. North Head Scenic Drive, Manly.

Nutcote

Nutcote is the home of May Gibbs who wrote tales of the Gumnut Babies, Snugglypot and Cuddlepie. The house has a Mediterranean style with yellow stuccoed walls and blue shutters. The gardens have been restored to how May Gibbs planted them in the 1920s. 5 Wallaringa Avenue, Neutral Bay. Phone 02 9953 4453.

Old Government House

Located in Parramatta Park and built in 1799, Old Government House was extended in 1815 and is now home to a fine collection of Australian colonial furniture. Built by Governors John Hunter and Lachlan Macquarie. Located at Parramatta Park. Take the ferry to Parramatta. Phone 02 9635 8149.

Parliament House

This the old Parliament House and was developed around one of the original "Rum Hospitals". The building includes two restored legislative chambers. Visitors are allowed in on weekdays from 9am to 4pm. Macquarie Street. Phone 02 9230 2111.

Mrs Macquarie's Chair

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

Quarantine Station

Ships arriving with disease were quarantined at this site which closed in 1984. Tours are arranged and, in the evenings, ghost tours are available. Take bus 135 departing from Manly Wharf. North Head Scenic Drive, Manly. Phone 1300 886 875.

Queen Victoria Building

A good example of 19th century architecture and also an upmarket shopping arcade. Located at George Street. Take the train to Town Hall or Sydney Explorer - Stop 14. Phone 02 9264 9209.

Rose Seilder House

Built between 1848 and 1950 Rose Seilder House was designed by Harry Seilder using open plans and bold colours which 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. Located at 71 Clissold

Road, Wahroonga. Take the train to Wahroonga. Phone 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. Located at Guntawong Road, Rouse Hill. Phone 02 9627 6777.

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. The Mitchell Library has a mosaic depicting the voyages of Abel Tasman in 1642 to 1643. Admission to the library is free. There are also free exhibitions held in the Mitchell Galleries. Located at Macquarie Street. Take the train to Martin Place or Sydney Explorer - Stop 4. Phone 02 9273 1414.

Strand Arcade

Running between George Street and Pitt Street Mall, the Strand, built in 1892, features a very ornate interior. Take the train to St James or the Sydney Explorer - Stop 14.

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 the conditions for working-class people from 1844 until the 20th century. A working corner shop sells goods from the early 20th century. Nearby you can explore the narrow alleys of this area, passing through such lanes as Suez Canal, for example, at the mouth of which two pedestrians can barely pass. Located at 58-64 Gloucester Street, The Rocks. Take the train or bus to Circular Quay. Phone 02 9241 1893.

Sydney Harbour Bridge

Opened in 1932, the Harbour Bridge took nine years to build. It 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 footpath for pedestrians. Painting the bridge is a task never completed. When the painters have done the whole job, which occurs about every seven years, it is time to start again. Most famous of the former painters is Paul Hogan, famous for his comedy role in the movie, *Crocodile Dundee*.

There is a museum in one of the pylons and a good view from the lookout in the pylon. The recommended plan of action is to take a train to Milsons Point on the far side of the harbour and then walk back, getting a view of the city and the Opera House from the Bridge. The museum is in the pylon nearest to the city beside the walkway. You have to climb 200 steps to the pylon top, from where you get an even better view.

One of Sydney's wonderful attractions is a Bridge Climb - a three-hour climb right up to the top of the Bridge. From the ferry beneath you can often make out the ant-like figures of the climbers approaching the summit of the mass of metal girders. The operator of these climbs spent many years convincing the authorities that it would be safe to allow him to start such tours and that they would be appealing to visitors. He was right and they are now one of the most popular of the city's attractions. The charge varies according to the time of day and day of the week. To reach the Bridge Climb, or to walk across the Bridge from the city side, you need to go up the Argyle Street steps to Cumberland Street. Then, if you want to go onto the bridge, you climb up a further set of steps to your left. Bridge Climb, 5 Cumberland Street, The Rocks. Phone 02 8274 7777.

Sydney Harbour Bridge Pylon Lookout

Climb up the 200 steps inside the Sydney Harbour Bridge Pylon for a view of Sydney Harbour. The Pylon Lookout has three levels of exhibits that explain the history and construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, displays of artefacts and audio-visual show. The Pylon Lookout is accessible via the Bridge Stairs off Cumberland Street. Phone 02 9240 1100.

Sydney Hospital

Hopefully you will not be needing this landmark, most of which was constructed in 1894, for its principal purpose. Its most interesting feature is the Florence Nightingale Wing, adjacent to the courtyard, which was built to Florence Nightingale's specifications in order to house the nurses who were sent to Australia in 1868. Take the train to Martin Place or Sydney Explorer, Stop 4.

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. The Sydney Opera House has five performance halls: Grand Concert Hall, Opera Theatre, Drama Theatre, Playhouse and The Studio. Tours are available, lasting one hour and departing once or twice every hour. Many concerts are available too - 3,000 per year of all types. They range from small free concerts to lavish operatic performances. The Sydney Opera House is located at Bennelong Point. Take the train or bus to Circular Quay or Sydney Explorer, Stop 2. Phone 02 9250 7111.

Sydney Tower

The Sydney Tower has the tallest observation deck in the southern hemisphere. The tower itself stands at 305 metres. It took fourteen years to build, the observation deck being opened in August 1981. 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.

There are two revolving restaurants. Down below, there is a complex of 140 shops. Guided tours are included in the admission price. The ticket includes OzTrek, a virtual reality trip across Australia with motion seating. 100 Market Street. Take the train to St James or Sydney Explorer - Stop 4 or 15. Phone 02 9333 9222.

Sydney Tower Skywalk

Skywalk is an adventure on Sydney Tower. At double the height of Sydney Harbour Bridge, it will provide an adrenaline rush as you walk around the roof of Sydney Tower. Skywalk traverses two walkways and two viewing platforms. Skywalk can be done by day, by dusk or by night. Sydney Tower, Centrepoint Podium Level, 100 Market Street. Phone 02 9333 9200.

Tank Stream Fountain

A bronze fountain with sculptures of native Australian animals designed by Stephen Walker. Alfred Street, Circular Quay.

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. Phone 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. Take the train or bus to Circular Quay or Sydney Explorer - Stop 24.

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. Located on Macquarie Street. Phone 02 9217 0311.

The Rocks

The Rocks is one of the oldest areas of Sydney. Lying beside the harbour in a central location, it was naturally one of the first places to be settled. When the first fleet arrived on 26th January 1788, the new arrivals, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, constructed their first wooden shacks along the natural rock ledges near the water's edge. Therefore, the area became known as 'The Rocks' and Sydney's first named street was here - George Street, in honour of the British monarch of the time, King George III.

The first shacks did not survive long, and by the 1840s they had been replaced by sandstone structures, some of which still stand. In 1900, there was an outbreak of bubonic plague and many houses were demolished in the subsequent cleansing. Then, over the years, the older buildings fell into a state of disrepair and at one time it was suggested that total demolition would be the solution.

Fortunately, though, the alternative view prevailed and the area has been renovated and turned into a thriving tourist attraction, full of souvenir shops and cafés, galleries and museums. Every weekend there is a market in George Street. There is street entertainment and a whole range of food available. The twisting alleys and old courtyards have an old-world character.

The main Sydney Visitor Centre is here, at 106 George Street, and is a place worth the visit. It has comprehensive information, not only on Sydney but for the whole of New South Wales. Opening hours are 09:00 until 18:00 every day. There are walking tours of The Rocks available. There is even a night-time ghost tour. Cheaper, though, is to just set out and explore by yourself, perhaps with the assistance of The Rocks Self-Guided Walking Tour, obtainable from the Sydney Visitor Centre. Take the train or bus to 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 was built later. The gardens extend to ten hectares and there is a popular tearoom. Located at Wentworth Road, Vaucluse. Take the Bondi Explorer, Stop 9 or bus 325 from Circular Quay. Phone 02 9388 7922.

Victoria Barracks

A colonial Georgian complex and home to the army since 1848. A flag raising ceremony and marching band display is held every Thursday at 10am, after which a tour is possible. Located at Oxford Street, Paddington. Take the bus 378, 380, 382 or Bondi Explorer - Stop 17. Phone 02 9339 3250.

Places of Worship

Great Synagogue

The synagogue dates from 1878. 187 Elizabeth Street. Phone 02 9267 2477.

Garrison (Holy Trinity) Church

This was the first official military church with lots of regimental flags and features a cedar pulpit. The parish hall was originally a school and was where Edmund Barton, the first prime minister of Australia, was educated. Argyle Street, Sydney. Phone 02 9247 1268.

St Andrew's Cathedral

St Andrew's Cathedral was commenced in 1819 but not completed until 49 years later, and designed by Edmund Blackett. There is a flag within which was carried at the Gallipoli landings. The Cathedral stands with its back to the street and main door and spires fronting onto Sydney Square. Take the train to Town Hall or Sydney Explorer - Stop 15. George Street.

St James Anglican Church

The oldest church in Sydney, designed by Francis Greenway in 1824. Inside the crypt is a shop with religious books, cards and candles. 173 King Street. Phone 02 8227 1300.

St Mary's Cathedral

The first cathedral was burnt down. This, the second, was started in 1868, but the spires were not added until 2000. The most impressive feature is the floor of the crypt, a mosaic undertaken by Melocco Brothers. It depicts the creation and took sixteen years to complete, being finished in 1946. The north-south orientation of the cathedral lets light in only through the three northern end windows and so is quite dark inside. Located at St Mary's Road. Take the train to St James or the Sydney Explorer - Stop 4 or 7. Phone 02 9220 0400.

St Patrick's Church

A sandstone church which was one of the first catholic chapels and built on land donated by William Davis, an Irishman transported in 1798. 20 Governor Street, The Rocks. Phone 02 9247 3525.

Sze Up Temple

Built in 1898 by immigrants from Sze Up in China and used by many as a place to make offerings. Edward Street, Inner West.

The Baha'i Temple

The Baha'i House of Worship is the place of worship for the Baha'i community. The Prophet Founder Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) taught that, in the future world society, cultural diversity will be encouraged, protected and encouraged. Construction started in 1957 and took four years to finish. The temple stands in nine hectares of grounds and has a number of buildings within the complex. A distinguishing feature is the dome which was added to the temple using a helicopter. The gardens contain lots of interesting native plants, popular with horticulturists. The visitor centre explains the Baha'i faith. 173 Mona Vale Road, Ingleside. Phone 02 9998 9221.

Animal Attractions

Australian Reptile Park

The 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. Somersby, next to the Gosford Exit. Phone 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. Phone 02 9830 9100.

Fairfield City Farm

A place for youngsters to experience farm life with displays of milking, shearing and tractor rides and a few koalas. 31 Darling Street, Fairfield. Phone 02 9823 3222.

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. Featherdale Wild Life Park has a shady barbeque and shop. 217 Kildare Road, Doonside. Phone 02 9622 1644.

Koala Park Sanctuary

Set up by Noell Burnett in the 1920s as an early attempt to protect the Koala. Lots of chance to feed koalas and also to walk around the parklands and observe kangaroos and wallabies. There is also the Stockman's Camp where sheep shearing is demonstrated. 84 Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills. Phone 02 9484 3141.

Oceanworld

Oceanworld is at Manly close to the ferry terminal and so is easy to reach from the CBD. A 110 metre tunnel provides an underwater view of the sharks and other aquatic life in the aquarium. West Esplanade, Manly. Phone 02 8251 7877.

Oceanworld Manly

Situated on Manly Cove next to the Manly Wharf, Oceanworld has a glass wall that puts you face to face with sharks and other creatures. It is even possible to have a sleep over at Oceanworld or dive with the sharks. Located at Manly Wharf. Take the ferry or JetCat from Circular Quay or bus 151 from the Queen Victoria Building /Town Hall. Bus 169, E69 or E71 from Wynyard. Phone 02 8251 7877.

Fun Attractions

Theme Parks

Luna Park

A restored 1930s amusement park with views of the Harbour and a very recognisable entrance with a huge smiling face. Try out the Tanago Train and Wild Mouse or perhaps try your luck at the sideshows and the big attraction, the ferris wheel. Entry is free and tickets are purchased for each ride taken. 1 Olympic Drive, Milsons Point. Phone 02 9922 6644.

Sydney Aquarium

The Sydney Aquarium is one of the largest aquaria in the world and a major Sydney attraction. Its most famous residents are sharks but there are all types of fishes, as well as seals and penguins, and extensive underwater glass tunnels. Don't miss the Open Ocean Floating Oceanarium where you can walk beneath the ocean and view one of the world's greatest selection of sharks. 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. Take the train to Town Hall or the Sydney Explorer, Stop 21; Sydney ferry to Darling Harbour; Monorail to Darling Park. Darling Harbour. Phone 02 8251 7800.

Sydney Wildlife World

Australian wildlife living in the heart of Sydney under a glass canopy. See koalas, wallabies, frilled neck lizards, and over 6,000 animals housed in nine separate habitats from semi-arid grasslands to tropical rainforest. Aquarium Pier, Darling Harbour. Phone 02 9333 9288.

Taronga Zoo

Taronga Zoo is just across the Sydney Harbour on the northside and it commands a beautiful view of the city. Home to over 2,000 animals which live amongst the lush forests or open bushlands. 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. A ZooPass, which includes the return ferry fare from Circular Quay, is available. There is a Zoolink ticket which includes the off-peak return rail fare, cost depending on point of origin. Bradleys Head Road, Mosman. Phone 02 9969 2777.

Waratah Park Sanctuary

A park set in a busy setting with koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, bettongs and potoroos, amongst others, in a natural setting. 13 Namba Road, Duffys Forest. Phone 02 9986 1788.

Wonderland Sydney

The theme park that will take a full day with its 22 rides and 600 animals at the Australian Wildlife Park. In addition to some of the largest rides in the Southern Hemisphere are a number of fast moving stage shows. Wonderland can be combined with Australian Wildlife Park which is next door. 100 Wallgrove Road, Eastern Creek about 40 minutes drive from the city along the M4.

Natural Areas

Botany Bay National Park

The Discovery Centre in the Botany Bay National Park showcases the Aboriginal heritage and you can walk the Monument Walk that passes a memorial to Captain Cook.

Garigal National Park

Close to the CBD, the Garigal National Park provides a good picnic area on Middle Harbour. Walk along the Gordon and Middle Harbour creeks. Forestville, Outer North.

Ku Ring Gai Chase National Park

A place to see some Aboriginal cave paintings and rock carvings along with ocean views best seen from the top of Barrenjoey Lighthouse. The park covers 15,000 hectares of sandstone bush land. The park information centre is located at the historic Bobbin Inn. Outer East. Phone 02 9472 8949.

Lane Cove National Park

A bush land area from East Ryde to Wahroonga with a good river for boating. At the Kukundi Wildlife Shelter, see tawny frogmouths and flying foxes up close. There are numerous picnic spots. Lane Cove, Outer North. Phone 02 9888 9133.

Parsley Bay Reserve

Parsley Bay is on the harbour foreshore west of Watsons Bay and has an iron bridge that goes over the small beach. There is a children's playground. Parsley Road, Vaucluse.

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. Only Yellowstone National Park in the USA is older. 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. Most can be completed within half a day but the coastal walk is 26 kilometres, including some difficult sections, and really needs two days. There is a youth hostel at Garie, about two-thirds of the way along the track from north to south.

To reach the Royal National Park, take a train to Loftus, Engadine, Heathcote, Waterfall, Helensburgh or Otford Stations, all of which are adjacent to the park. From Loftus, there is a tram service on Sundays or you can walk to the Visitor Centre. Trains run from Bondi Junction, Kings Cross and Central as far as Waterfall every half hour.

South Head

South Head is at the entrance to Sydney Harbour and is part of Sydney Harbour National Park. Excellent for views and walking. For a one hour walk take the South Head Heritage Trail from Watsons Bay and start 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. For Gap Bluff is a short walk to The Gap with its views of the Pacific Ocean and the harbour. To reach South Park take bus 325 (via Nielsen Park) or 324 to Watsons bay from Circular Quay.

Beaches

Beaches stretch from north to south and everyone has their favourite beach. Enjoy discovering which is yours; there are many more besides Bondi! Most beaches are patrolled by voluntary surf life savers and 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.

Southern Beaches

Bondi Beach

This famous Sydney beach and also the busiest. Campbell Parade, Bondi.

Bronte Beach

A pretty beach in the eastern suburbs with large park and a strip of cafes along Bronte Road. The beach has bad rips but the Bogey Hole a natural tidal rock pool at the south end of the beach provides safe swimming. Bronte Road, Bronte.

Coogee Beach

Coogee beach has a large pub on the foreshore and is surrounded by a lot of apartments and hotels. The beach has good headlands and at the south is Trenery Reserve. Arden Street, Coogee.

Clovelly Beach

A narrow beach with a channel-shaped swimming area, it is a safe swimming beach and good for snorkelling. Clovelly Road.

Frenchmans Bay

A beach opposite the Botany Bay container terminal but fine for swimming and can be an interesting distraction watching the ships and planes. Endeavour Avenue, Frenchmans Bay.

Maroubra Beach

Maroubra beach is the southern end of the eastern beaches and about a kilometre long. The beach has good surf and was the first National Surfing Reserve. Marine Parade, Maroubra.

Tamarama Beach

A small, well formed beach with the nickname "Glamourama" with good surf, café and open park. Pacific Avenue, Tamarama.

Northern Beaches

Bungan Beach

Bungan has high cliffs which makes access difficult and very few facilities and so mainly used just by locals. Bungan Head, Newport.

Collaroy Beach

Collaroy sits at the south end of a 4 km long stretch of sand. Birdwood Avenue, Collaroy.

Dee Why Beach

A suburban beach and backs onto the Dee Why Lagoon. The Strand, Dee Why.

Fishermans Beach

Fishermans Beach is part of an aquatic reserve and so is good for snorkelling. Anzac Avenue, Collaroy.

Freshwater Beach

Freshwater is a small beach with sand dunes at the back with close headlands and popular with locals. Kooloora Avenue, Harbord.

Manly Beach

Manly Beach rivals Bondi Beach in fame. Easy to reach on the ferry from the CBD and well worth the trip. A long beach with good surf and a strip of cafés and shops behind. Manly.

Palm Beach

Palm Beach is a long beach with Barrenjoey Lighthouse on the headland and makes for a good walk with great views. It is the beach used in 'Home and Away'. Beach Road, Palm Beach.

Shelly Beach

Shelly Beach is a very sheltered beach next to Manly Beach with a grass reserve behind. Bower Street, Manly.

Turimeeta Beach

A natural and beautiful beach with little sign of urban living but with little sand at high tide. Park Parade, Warriewood.

Whale Beach

A large beach with lots of facilities. The Strand, Whale Beach.

Islands

Clark Island

The area of this 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. There are no regular services to Clark Island. There is a landing charge. Phone 02 9274 5033.

Cockatoo Island

An historical island with a sandstone prison, tunnels and docks and the largest island on Sydney Harbour. There are regular tours but self guided tours are also allowed. Ferry from Circular Quay.

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 1870s. In 1906 the One O'clock Gun was fired each day to enable sailors to set their ships' chronometers correctly and still continues to this day. Ferries occasionally stop here and there are tours arranged by the National Park which depart from Cadman's Cottage near Circular Quay Station. Phone 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. The island became part of the National Park only in 1995. There are various tours to Goat Island departing from Cadman's Cottage. Phone 02 9247 5033.

Rodd Island

The area of the island is 0.5 of a hectare, 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. There are no regular services to Rodd Island. Phone 02 9274 5033.

Shark Island

The area of this island is 1.5 hectares, with 500 visitors being permitted at a time. The island, named due to its shape, was used as an animal quarantine area from 1880 until 1975. It has good views and sandy beaches. Ferries depart four times a day on Saturdays and Sundays from Circular Quay run by Matilda Cruises. Phone 02 9264 7377.

Parks and Gardens

Sydney has many parks, some very large and others just small patches of grass that provide a rest from the city and often good picnic spots. There are also a number of natural reserves and national parks which are detailed on other pages.

Bellevue Park

A suburban park in Bondi with good views of Bondi and the Heads around Sydney Harbour and indeed named for the views by Governor Macquarie. Bellevue Park Road, Bellevue Hill.

Bicentennial Park

Created in 1988 to celebrate the bicentenary of Sydney, this park covers over 100 hectares with lots of walking paths and cycle ways. Bikes can be hired and are a good way to find all of the sculptures and monuments around the park. Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush. Phone 02 9714 7888.

Bradfield Park

Bradfield Park is immediately below the Sydney Harbour Bridge and a good place to view the Bridge and Harbour. Broughton Street, Kirribilli.

Centennial Park

A 220 hectare park in the centre of Sydney that was dedicated to the people of Sydney in 1888. Watch the people on roller blades, horse riding and running, or join in - bikes and roller blades can be hired! The gardens, ponds and barbecue areas provide 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. Located at the south end of Darling Harbour. Darling Harbour. Phone 02 9240 8888.

Cook and Philip Park

Across College Street from Hyde Park, this park has a formal garden and swimming complex. College Street. Phone 02 9326 0444.

Cooper Park

A bush covered valley close to Bondi Junction with picnic areas, playground and tennis courts. Suttie Road, Woollahra.

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. Phone 02 9265 9333.

Lyne Park

A popular park in Rose Bay with boat ramp, picnic area and a base for some of Sydney's seaplanes. New South Head Road, Rose Bay.

Nielsen Park

A favourite picnic place in the city but busy with families at the weekend. The Rocks, Sydney.

Observatory Park

This park is at the foot of the Observatory and has good harbour views. The Rocks, Sydney.

North Head Sanctuary

Formerly a School of Artillery and now a sanctuary with former military buildings and natural areas. A good way to see the area is to take the Gunners Walk that will take around two hours and passes the artillery buildings, along the heathland and with many views of the harbour and ocean. Phone 02 8969 2100.

Parramatta Park

A large park with two of the oldest buildings in Australia, the Dairy Precinct and Old Government House. Within Parramatta Park is the Tudor Gatehouse, Governor Brisbane's Bathhouse and the Boer War Memorial. Queens Road, Parramatta. Phone 02 8833 5000.

Robertson Park

Robertson Park is at Watsons Bay with the park's grassy area just back from the beach. Military Road, Watsons Bay.

Royal Botanic Gardens

The Royal Botanic Gardens were established in 1816 and cover thirty hectares. It is the oldest scientific institution in Australia. The gardens are easy to find being very close to the Sydney Opera House. Relatively informal with plenty of open spaces, there is also a rose garden, cacti display and rain forest area. Mrs Macquarie's Chair, along the coast path, offers good views of the Opera House and Sydney Harbour. Free guided tours last 45 minutes and run every morning at 10:30. The meeting place is at the Visitors Centre on Mrs Macquarie's Road which is also the entrance. Take the train or bus to Circular Quay or Sydney Explorer, Stop 5. Phone 02 9231 8111.

Inside the gardens is the **Botanic Gardens Restaurant** which overlooks the gardens at Palm Grove. Phone 02 9241 2419.

Sydney Olympic Park

Built on former waste land which included an abandoned abattoir, Sydney Olympic Park was the home of the 2000 Olympic Games. Located seventeen kilometres west of the centre of Sydney, it is now open to visitors, with public transport available by ferry, rail or bus. The Information Centre is a good starting point and there is an Olympic Explorer bus service. Listen Live is a self guided audio tour with lot of information about the Sydney Olympic Games. Bicycles can be hired to explore the park.

Visit Stadium Australia, as used for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games as well as athletics and other events. There are several other stadia, as well as hotels, restaurants and sporting facilities. 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, and swimming or just relax at one of the many bars and cafés on site.

For something not connected with the Olympics, the Ring Walk is an elevated walkway 18 metres above a disused brick pit, home to the endangered green and golden bell frogs.

Sydney Olympic Park, continued

A Superpass is available which includes tours of both Stadium Australia and the International Aquatic Centre, as well as the view from the top of Novotel and a swim at the Aquatic Centre. If you purchase the Olympic Explorer bus ticket, you will get discounts on the individual tour prices (but not on the Superpass). If you travel by ferry from Circular Quay, there is a combined return ferry plus Olympic Explorer ticket offering discounts on the tours. For full details of what's on, dial the recorded message on 1300 889 388 or call 02 9714 7888.

Sydney Park

A windswept area good for kites and, being open, has good views of the sunrise. Sydney Park Road, Inner West.

Walks**Sydney Harbour-front Walk**

This is a walk of approximately eleven kilometres from the Sydney Fish Market to Potts Point. You should allow about five to six hours although, if you just walk without stopping to look at any of the points of interest, four hours will probably suffice. There is, however, plenty to see.

From the Fish Market, most easily reached by taking a tram to Fish Market or Wentworth Park, walk close to the harbour's edge around Blackwattle Bay to Johnston's Bay and then to Pyrmont Point Park. Past Jones Bay, you reach Pyrmont Bay and the Star City Casino, then Darling Harbour itself and the Australian Maritime Museum. You can choose to cut across Pyrmont Bridge or to walk round via the Olympic Statue, the Harbour-front Shopping Centre, the Imax Theatre and the restaurants of Cockle Bay.

By either route, you will arrive at Sydney Aquarium. Next, walk round to Millers Point and Walsh Bay, followed by Dawes Point, where you pass under the Harbour Bridge. In Campbells Cove, you will see the replica of the Bounty, before reaching the Sydney Visitor Centre, Cadman's Cottage and the Museum of Contemporary Art. If you have time, you can divert to explore The Rocks area from here. As you approach Circular Quay, look at the plaques embedded in the pavement commemorating famous figures in literature and the arts.

Continue on past Circular Quay and out onto the promontory where the Opera House is situated. There is a good view of the Harbour Bridge from here. Following the coastline, where you'll enter the Royal Botanic Gardens via Farm Cove Gate West and continue around the pretty Farm Cove, feeding the ducks on the way if you feel so inclined. The First Fleet Steps are encountered on the far side of the bay and then, at the tip of the next promontory, lies Mrs Macquarie's Chair, from where, again, there is a good view back, this time with both the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge in the line of vision.

Another twenty minutes walk brings one to Woolloomooloo Bay Wharf and then to Potts Point from where bus number 311 will take you back to the city. Alternatively, you can turn right and walk into Kings Cross in about fifteen minutes.

Sydney City Walk

This stroll through the city from Central Station to Circular Quay covers a distance of approximately five kilometres and lasts about two hours, not allowing for any major stops. At the rear of Central Station, a tunnel connects Chalmers Street with Railway Square. Notice the artwork in the tunnel and also on the bus shelters in Railway Square. Then turn along George Street, which follows the route of an Aboriginal track to the fishing grounds and has always been the main thoroughfare of the city.

Turn left when you reach Hay Street and then almost immediately right into Dixon Street. This is the Chinatown area of the city. If you turn left when you reach Liverpool Street and walk one short block to Harbour Street, you will see the Chinese Garden donated by the local government of Guangdong (Canton) in China to commemorate Australia's 200th birthday in 1988. Chinese tea is available here in the Tea House Courtyard.

Go back along Liverpool Street and change from Chinese to Spanish. This is an area of Spanish restaurants and shops, where the Spanish food is often accompanied by Spanish music. Soon World Square is reached, a redevelopment on the site of the former Anthony Hordern Department Store, which is why the 45-storey tower is named Hordern Tower. Turn left into Elizabeth Street and walk one block to the obelisk at the corner of Bathurst Street. What can this impressive Egyptian-style sculpture be? In fact, it is a ventilator for the major sewer running beneath the street. It was erected as long ago as 1857 and nicknamed Thorton's Scent Bottle, Mr Thorton having been the mayor at the time.

Now turn right into Hyde Park, in and around which there are several attractions: the Anzac War Memorial, the Australian Museum, St Mary's Cathedral, Hyde Park Barracks Museum, and then, continuing along Macquarie Street, the Sydney Mint, Sydney Hospital, Parliament House and the State Library of New South Wales. As you pass Sydney Hospital, you will see a statue of a wild boar, Il Porcellino, a copy of a statue in a seventeenth-century fountain in Florence. If you rub the shiny snout of the pig, as it is apparent that several others have done so before you, and make a wish, good luck is sure to ensue, especially if you donate an appropriate amount of money at the same time. The money goes to the benefit of the hospital, not of the pig. Almost opposite is Martin Place, a plan of a house which once stood here is marked by black paving stones and by a misty spray which will catch you unawares as it issues unexpectedly from the ground just as you walk over the spot.

At the State Library, divert right, enter the Royal Botanic Gardens and walk though to the harbour at Farm Cove. Then turn left and continue to the Opera House, round the promontory and to the ferry terminal at Circular Quay.

The Domain

A green area in front of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and occasionally used for outside concerts.

Tumbalong Park

A section of grass in the concrete Darling Harbour with acrobatic water jets and an amphitheatre which hosts free entertainment. Darling Harbour.

Vaucluse Park

The gardens at Vaucluse House are well maintained and have a 19th century pleasure garden. Wentworth Road, Vaucluse.

The Rocks Walk

The following walk will take you around the principal sights of The Rocks, covering a distance of about three kilometres. The walk will take about an hour, but allow longer if you want to do more than just glance at the buildings.

Start from the Sydney Visitor Centre, turning left at the door and going down the steps beside the building. Immediately you will see Cadman's Cottage on your right. Turn right and walk to the Museum of Contemporary Art. Next to this building is the First Fleet Park. Turn right into and through the park and then right again into George Street. 135 George Street is the Vault Restaurant, formerly the English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank with attractive old leaded windows. Next door at number 133 is the old Police Station with its impressive stonework. See the lion's jaws holding a truncheon. On the other side of the road, 100 George Street houses the Billich Gallery, but was originally the Seamen's Chapel, notable for its interior design and lofty ceilings. 47 George Street was the Union Bond Store built in 1841. It has seashell fragments visible in the mortar, due to a lack of lime at the time. The next building is the former Australian Steamship Navigation Company office, featuring a turret design. The Rocks Market closes off the road from here on at weekends.

At the end of George Street, turn left into Lower Fort Street. Dawes Point Park has good views of the harbour, and, on the other side of the road, Colonial House Museum is devoted to exhibits related to The Rocks. At the end of the street, on the corner of Argyle Street, is the Garrison Church, with strong military connections as may be judged from its name. The eastern window is its most notable feature. Ahead is Observatory Hill, reached by climbing the steps, and the Sydney Observatory. Turn back under the approach to the Harbour Bridge and then right into Gloucester Street, where Susannah Place is to be found.

Now go left down the steps, and left again into Cambridge Street. Soon you will come back to Clocktower Square and Argyle Street. Turn right into and go down Argyle Street, turn right into Harrington Street, left into the very narrow Suez Canal and left again into Nurses Walk. Cross Argyle Street into Kendall Lane. Just down a lane on the right is The Coachhouse and behind is the Puppet Cottage. Returning to Kendall Lane, you will find yourself at The Rocks Square, full of restaurants and souvenir shops. When you have finished here, just two minutes' walk down Mill Lane will take you back to the Sydney Visitor Centre.

Manly to North Head Walk

On the north-east of Manly lies the Pacific Ocean. To the south-west is Sydney Harbour. The two are separated by only a five-minute walk along The Corso. To the south-east of Manly is North Head, the northern portal of the entrance to the harbour. From here there is an excellent view.

The walk to the Head and back covers about ten kilometres and takes some three hours. Walk through The Corso and turn right beside the beach. At the end of the beach, continue along the shoreline to Fairy Bower and Shelly Beach and then turn right and right again, up into Bower Street, left into College Street, right into Reddall Street, left into Addison Road and left into Darley Road. It is possible to shorten this route, and you may choose to do so on the return, by proceeding straight along Darley Road, but the views on the climb up from the shoreline should not be missed if possible. There is one fork along the way from here to North Head. You should choose the road on the right, which is named North Head Scenic Drive. On your left, you will pass a military reserve, while on your right is the Old Quarantine Station, a fascinating place to visit, but one which needs a prior reservation. After a bend, the National Artillery Museum is on the left and then you come to the end of the road and the Fairfax Walking Track. The track is circular and gives fine views of both harbour and ocean sides. It takes about half an hour to go round it. Then return by the same route but continue along Darley Road straight back to Manly.

Manly to The Spit Walk

This walk, opened in 1988, extends for ten kilometres and takes about three hours. Start from the harbour side of Manly, at the wharf where the ferry arrives, and turn west (left as you leave the wharf). Then simply follow the shoreline past Oceanworld, Delwood Beach, Fairlight Beach, North Harbour Reserve and Wellings Reserve. Next you will come to Forty Baskets Beach, connected not with the Sermon on the Mount, but with a good catch sent to feed Sudanese soldiers detained at the Quarantine Station on North Head in 1885.

You now move into an area of National Park as you pass Reef Beach and reach Dobroyd Head, famous for its wild flowers in spring. Proceed via Crater Cove and Washaway Beach to Grotto Point for a good view of the harbour, then a short backtrack and on to Castle Rock, Clontarf Point and Clontarf Beach. This beach has some history associated with it, for it was here on 12th March 1868 that the Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Queen Victoria, was shot during a picnic by a would-be assassin, the Irishman James O'Farrell. The Duke escaped with a slight wound but O'Farrell did not. He was executed. On to Sandy Bay and Fisher Bay before The Spit is reached. The bridge here carries the main highway between Sydney and Manly but traffic flow is interrupted periodically as the bridge has to be raised to allow boats to pass into the Middle Harbour, Sydney having got its priorities correct in this instance at least. There are good views from this point too.

From here, buses 143, 144, 169, E69 and E71 run back to Manly (the 169 and E69 by a very lengthy and indirect route), while a variety of routes runs into the city.

Mosman Bay to Taronga Zoo and Clifton Gardens Walk

Take a ferry to South Mosman (Musgrave Street) to start this walk of about eight kilometres, taking three hours. Climb up the steps to Musgrave Street and then continue up more steps along Herron Walk to Raglan Street. The large stone house there is known as The Castle. Turn left along Raglan Street until you reach Illawarra Street on your right. Turn into this street and descend to Sirius Cove Beach. The architecture along the way is an interesting mixture.

Now enter Sirius Cove Reserve and proceed along a bush track through an area which provided the inspiration for the artists of the Heidelberg School a century ago. You will reach Whiting Beach in due course and, soon after, Athol Wharf where the ferry docks for Taronga Zoo.

If you wish to continue further, keep close to the shore and walk round Athol Bay to Bradley's Head. This is now a National Park, but it was formerly a gun emplacement for the protection of Sydney. In 1839, four American ships entered the harbour unexpectedly, causing the realisation of how badly prepared the city was to deal with any emergency. Cannons were placed here in 1840 but the fortification was not completed until the build-up to the Crimean War in 1853. (Incidentally, as our walk began in Raglan Street, it is

worth remembering that Lord Raglan was the commander of the British troops in the Crimean War and it was his orders which were misinterpreted to cause the Charge of the Light Brigade.)

There is a fine view from Bradley's Head. There is also a memorial to the four naval vessels which have borne the name HMAS Sydney and the mast from the first of these, a light cruiser which, on 9th November 1914, engaged the German cruiser Emden near Cocos Island in the first naval engagement of the Great War involving an Australian ship. Nearby is a stone column from the old Sydney Post Office which is used to measure a distance of precisely one nautical mile from the tower of Fort Denison. Continue north now on the eastern side of Bradley's Head through Ashton Park to Taylors Bay, then on to Chowder Head and Clifton Gardens. Having reached Clifton Gardens, you can either go back to Taronga Zoo, taking a short cut across the top of Bradley's Head peninsula, or walk up Sarah's Walk to Morella Road, from where bus 228 runs back to Milsons Point at the north end of the Harbour Bridge.

Double Bay to South Head Walk

This walk covers some twelve kilometres, including the return from South Head to Watsons Bay, and will take about four hours. One can reach Double Bay by ferry, train to Edgecliff and then fifteen minutes walk, or bus numbers 323, 324 or 325 from Circular Quay via Kings Cross. Double Bay is an upmarket shopping and restaurant area and high class residential suburb, although it was originally intended as the site for the Botanical Garden.

To get just a taste of this area, walk ahead down Bay Street after alighting from the ferry until you reach Knox Street, where you turn left. If you come by bus or on foot from Edgecliff, you will be travelling along New South Head Road. When you reach Bay Street, alight from the bus, if travelling by that means, and turn left into Bay Street and then right into Knox Street. This will lead you back into New South Head Road once more.

Turn left and follow the road as it curves right and passes Seven Shillings Beach, supposedly so named because that was the amount paid to the Aborigines as compensation for its surrender. Redleaf Pool, with its landscaped gardens, is off to your left but requires a short diversion. The road swings right again and you are in Rose Bay. You can leave the road here and walk along the Esplanade above the beach. Rose Bay used to be a flying boat base and one of the last commercial flights in the world to be operated by flying boat used to take off from here for Lord Howe Island until the late 1970s, a perilous operation as the aircraft had to attain a speed of 150 km/hr in a bay crowded with pleasure boats. This was also the starting point for the first commercial flights from Australia to England in 1938, when the journey took ten days and involved 29 stops, but was no cheaper than it is now. Rose Bay is still used for pleasure trips by small seaplanes. There is a regular service from here to Palm Beach, for example.

The seaplane base is at the far end of the beach, just beyond the ferry wharf. You will also see here many expensive yachts and launches, as Sydney's most affluent citizens inhabit this area. After passing the seaplane base, return to New South Head Road and follow it as it climbs. At the summit is Kincoppal, formerly Rose Bay Convent built by French nuns of the Order of the Sacred Heart. There is a very good view from this point. Now bear left into Vaucluse Road. After a while you will come to Strickland House which, from the time of the Great War until 1989, was a women's convalescent home. Now it is used for weddings and other functions and as a film location.

The entrance to Nielsen Park is on your left. This is a National Park area, popular for picnics. It also has a netted swimming enclosure in the sea at Shark Beach. The reason for the net is suggested by the name of the location. At the end of the park, turn left into Greycliffe Avenue, then immediately right into Coolong Road. As you meet Wentworth Road, you will see the entrance to Vaucluse House opposite. Parts of this house date from 1803 and the extensive gardens are very attractive. Turn left into Wentworth Road and then follow round into Fitzwilliam Road. Left into Parsley Road and left again into Hopler Avenue which will lead you into Parsley Bay Reserve. Walk through and exit onto The Crescent. Turn right, then left into Hopetoun Avenue, which you should follow until you return to the sea and Robertson Park. You are now at Watsons Bay.

Originally ships used to anchor here for the inspection of their papers. Now they just slow to take on board the harbour pilot. Walk along by the beach until you can go no further. Then walk up to Pacific Street and turn left along it until it comes to a dead end. From here you can descend and continue along Camp Cove beach, noting, as you go, the plaque at Green Point to commemorate the landing of the First Fleet here in 1788. From the end of Camp Cove, it is a climb up to the point where you can have a fine and interesting view overlooking the Lady Bay nudist beach, Sydney's only such beach. The track now continues to South Head, where there is another good view of the harbour entrance and the Hornby Lighthouse. The track goes round in a circle before rejoining itself for the return to Watsons Bay. If you still have energy, you can walk over to The Gap on the ocean side of this peninsula and get another fine view. It is only a matter of ten minutes from the ferry terminal. This spot has seen several shipwrecks, most notably that of the Dunbar on 20th August 1857, when the captain mistook The Gap for the entrance to the harbour, just north of this point at South Head, and ran his ship onto the rocks. 121 lives were lost, there being but a sole survivor. The Dunbar Memorial Lookout now stands at the spot of the disaster. From Watsons Bay, one may return to the city by ferry or by bus 324 or 325, both of which services run via Kings Cross. In fact route 325 follows almost the whole of this walk, so at any time one may give up and return. However, if one does nothing else, the walk from Watsons Bay to South Head is worthwhile and takes only about an hour for a return trip undertaken in leisurely fashion.

Bondi Beach to Maroubra Beach Walk

This is an ocean beach-hopping walk of approximately twelve kilometres which could be expected to take about three and a half hours if no major stops are made. It is not difficult to follow. It is a coastal walk so just stay as close to the coast as you can.

For most of the walk there are marker signs en route. Start from Bondi Beach. Note that the twelve kilometres is measured from the south end of the beach. If you want to start from the north end and walk the length of the beach first, add another two kilometres or a little more. Pass the Bondi Icebergs Club, known for its year-round bathing, and walk over Mackenzies Point from where there are good views. You soon come to Tamarama Beach, a small beach with rough surf.

A little further and you are at Bronte Beach, another with rough surf and a strong rip. On now to Waverley Cemetery for more good views, although perhaps rather wasted on the residents. The next beach is Clovelly. This is a sheltered family-type beach, deep but not lengthy. Cut across the beach to avoid the walk round and continue around the next headland to Gordons Bay, popular for scuba diving and snorkelling. A little further and you will reach Coogee, the major beach along this walk. Coogee is becoming increasingly fashionable and starting to rival Bondi in its popularity. There is accommodation of all types here, as well as restaurants and nightclubs.

There is a long stretch next, of three kilometres to Lurline Bay. Most of this part follows the seashore but just before the bay is reached, and just after you have passed a pool, it is necessary to deviate inland until you reach Malabar Road, where turn left. You can turn left again at the next road to return to the shore but crossing the bay may not be possible at high tide, in which case continue further along Malabar Road until you reach Mermaid Avenue. There turn left, left again into Lurline Street, and right into Marine Parade, rejoining the coast at that point. Two more kilometres will bring you to the centre of Maroubra Beach. To return to the city, walk inland about 200 metres to come to Broome Street or Tyrwhitt Street, from where you can take bus number 397. Just a little further and you will come to Malabar Street, from where number 377 operates. Alternatively, you can return to the north end of the beach and have a choice of bus numbers 375, 376, 377, 395 and 396.

Kurnell to Cronulla Walk

This is a long walk of about fifteen kilometres which will take four to five hours. It can, however, be shortened to ten kilometres by taking one of a choice of two modifications, as noted below. The walk starts at the mouth of Botany Bay, so first it is necessary to get there. Take a train to Cronulla, a journey of about 45 minutes from the city centre. From the station, cross the road and, from the bus stop almost opposite, take a bus number 987 to Kurnell and the Botany Bay National Park.

Walk through the picnic area to the left of the entrance to the National Park for a short distance to the shore and turn right along the Monument Track. You will come first to a very famous site in Australian history – the landing place of one Captain James Cook in 1770. (Actually, he was Lt James Cook at the time.) The site is at the farthest end of the stretch of beach. A little further along the track is Banks' Memorial. Banks was the botanist who accompanied Captain Cook on his historic voyage and returned with one of the world's greatest botanic collections. Soon after is Cook's Stream, where water was gathered during the first British landing on the Australian continent, and then, on your right, Alpha Farm, one of the first buildings on this peninsula. Nearby, on the left, is the grave of Forby Sutherland, a seaman on Cook's barque, the Endeavour, who died on the journey.

The track turns sharply right and inland at this point and leads up to the Environmental Education Field Study Centre on the right and the Discovery Centre on the left. The latter is a museum telling of the history and culture of the area. Continue across the parking area and main park road (Cape Solander Drive) onto the Yena Track, taking almost immediately the diversion left onto the Banks' Solander Track which leads through coastal woodland for 500 metres before rejoining the Yena Track. Another kilometre and you will come across Cape Solander Drive once more. Turn right for one more kilometre to Cape Solander where the road ends. The track, however, continues along the coast to Cape Bailey, with some beautiful views. At this point, there are choices. One of the ten-kilometre options involves retracing your steps to the Yena Picnic Area at the end of the Yena Track. Follow Cape Solander Drive just a little further this time and turn left along the Muru Track which runs parallel to the Yena Track. When you meet Cape Solander Drive once more, turn left and follow it to the park entrance. However, if you choose to continue from Cape Bailey, another two kilometres will bring you to Potter Point.

Here there is another ten-kilometre option. Take the road, Banks Drive, leading away from the coast and, if you follow this road for three kilometres, you will reach Captain Cook Drive a little south of Kurnell and be able to pick up the bus back to Cronulla at this point. Walking back into Kurnell will add about two kilometres.

The longest walk involves just continuing from Potter Point pottering round the coast. It is a further six kilometres to Cronulla, much of it beside or along the famed surf beach stretching in a long crescent around the bay. It is a pleasant enough walk but an exposed one, so be sure to take a hat in summer. From Cronulla, you can return to the city by train.

Parramatta Walk

This walk covers some ten kilometres and needs three hours, or considerably longer if one wishes to visit any of the historical sites en route. First get to Parramatta either by ferry or by train. The latter takes half an hour from the city centre by the fastest trains. The ferry takes nearly an hour but is an enjoyable scenic journey. If you arrive by train, exit on the north side of the station, noting, almost opposite, the Lancers Barracks and Linden House Museum. The Barracks were built in 1818 and formerly housed the New South Wales Lancers, the first cavalry regiment in Australia. The history of the regiment is on display inside the Linden House Museum, a building originally constructed in 1828 but moved here from a site in Macquarie Street about 500 metres away. It is open only on Sundays between 11am and 4pm. Now turn right into Station Street, immediately left into Hassall Street and left into Charles Street which will lead to the Parramatta River and the ferry terminal. Turn left, or, for ferry passengers, proceed in the direction in which you were travelling along the river.

You can walk on either side of the river but eventually you will want to be on the other side, so cross over a bridge of your choice on the way. This is Riverside Walk, designed to give an Aboriginal interpretation of the river, as you will see from the patterns on the footpaths. Just before Lennox Bridge, built by convict labour in 1836 to 1839 and over which Church Street runs, you will find the Parramatta Heritage Centre and Visitors Information Centre on the northern (far) side. It combines art, craft and history exhibitions with the dispensation of tourist information and has a copy of an 1844 map of the city laid into the floor. Admission is free.

After your visit there, come back along Church Street over the sandstone Lennox Bridge, the oldest bridge in Parramatta, and turn right into Phillip Street then left into Marsden Street. On the next corner is Brislington, the oldest residence in central Parramatta, built in 1821 by an ex-convict named John Hodges. It was operated by the members of a single family as a doctor's surgery for almost a century but now it is a hospital museum, open only on the first and third Sunday in the month and the second and last Thursday, in both cases from 10.30am until 3.30pm. Turn right into George Street and you will see the George Street Gatehouse at the entrance to Parramatta Park. This has been the principal entrance to the park since 1788, but the gate itself, known because of its design as Tudor Gate, was constructed in 1885. Just inside the park, you will find Old Government House. Governor Phillip built a cottage here in 1790, only two years after the arrival of the first European settlers. The foundations of this building can be seen but the present edifice was constructed between 1799 and 1818 and inhabited by Governors Hunter and Macquarie. Now it contains an outstanding collection of colonial furniture. It is open from 10am (11am at weekends) until 4pm daily. Continue beside the river through the park, much of which was originally farming land, and, before that, the home of the Burramatta Aborigines. You will reach Dairy Cottage, built between 1798 and 1806 and one of Australia's oldest buildings. It was converted into a dairy by Governor Macquarie. Dairy Cottage is open from 10am until 3pm daily. A little further on is the Burramatta Visitors Centre, also open from 10am until 4pm daily, with free admission. Walk round the park and return this time to the Macquarie Street Gatehouse which dates from 1887 and has the appearance of a rural cottage.

Walk ahead for one block and then turn right into O'Connell Street. Soon after crossing over the railway, you will come to St John's Cemetery on your right. This is the oldest Christian graveyard in Australia and it contains the country's oldest marked grave, that of Henry Dodd, a servant of Governor Phillip, who was interred here in 1791. Leaving the cemetery, walk almost straight ahead along Aird Street and then turn left into Marsden Street and back across the railway. On your right now is St John's Cathedral in Hunter Street. This has been used as a church site since 1803. The two spires were built by convict labour and date from 1819. They are the oldest church spires in Australia. The cathedral owns a bible printed in 1599 and an embroidery of a service in the first church here in the 1840s. The font has Maori carvings. The cathedral is open every day and offers guided tours on Thursdays and Fridays. Now walk to Church Street, which is for pedestrians only at this time, and continue north to George Street, where you should turn right. Soon you will reach the Spanish style Village Roxy Theatre which has been in operation as a cinema since 1930, at which time it was one of the most modern of picture palaces. It no longer has that distinction but its ornate architecture merits a look inside. Continue down George Street to Harris Street then turn right. On reaching Ruse Street, turn left.

On your right at 9 Ruse Street is Experiment Farm Cottage. The street was named after James Ruse, an ex-convict granted land here in 1791, who created Australia's first private farm. Experiment Farm Cottage has an exhibition on his life. The cottage itself was built in 1834 by the Colonial Surgeon, John Harris, and now contains furniture from the 1830s. It is open on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am (11am on Sundays) until 4pm, admission charges apply.

Retrace your steps for a short distance to Harris Street and turn right into Parkes Street, which runs into Hassall Street. On your right is Hambleton Cottage, the former abode of Penelope Lucas, governess to the daughters of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, the owners of Elizabeth Farm, our next stop. Hambleton Cottage, at 63 Hassall Street, was built in 1824 and is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and weekends from 11am until 4pm. Admission costs \$3. Continue just a short distance along Hassall Street and then turn right into Gregory Place, at the end of which there is a path connecting to Alfred Street. Turn right and then immediately left into Alice Street, where, at number 70, you can find Elizabeth Farm, the home of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, Australia's first pastoralists. Parts of the building date from 1793, making these parts the oldest European construction remaining in the country. There is also what is claimed to be the oldest olive tree in Australia, a tree which produced its first fruit in 1805. Elizabeth Farm is open from 10am until 5pm and admission charges apply, or the Ticket Through Time can be used which covers eleven museums. From here, continue to the end of Alice Street, turn right into Arthur Street and left into Weston Street. Ahead is Rosehill Station, with the Rosehill Racecourse on the other side. Trains run from here one station south to Clyde, from where there is a frequent service back to the city.

Entertainment

Sydney has a very active entertainment scene and includes all forms of entertainment.

Night Life

Sydney has a vibrant and energetic nightlife scene. There are numerous cafés, bars and clubs. There is an active gay and lesbian club circuit. Some bars feature live music or stand-up comedians. An active performing arts scene means there is always a play, opera or a film to be enjoyed. The Sydney Morning Herald and other magazines have extensive listings.

Oxford Street, between Hyde Park and Taylor Square has pubs and dance clubs and a thriving gay scene. Cockle Bay Wharf in Darling Harbour has bars, restaurants and nightclubs. The Central Business District is more formal; pubs and clubs spill down to The Rocks. Surry Hills has casual restaurants and pubs and Glebe is popular with students. George Street in the Rocks has busy pubs. Kings Cross is the traditional red light area with bars (some seedy), clubs, betting venues, burlesque shows, video shows, massage parlours, strip clubs and exotic dance clubs. Kings Cross comes to life late at night. If not sure where to start then Darling Harbour has something for everyone and very popular during the warmer summer months. Legal brothels operate in Sydney and advertise openly in many free tourist magazines.

Pubs and clubs

Pubs

Pubs feature strongly in the life of Sydney and popular with visitors.

Beauchamp Hotel, 267 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

The Slip Inn, 111 Sussex Street (02 9240 3000)

The Hero of Waterloo, 81 Lower Fort Street, Millers Point (02 9252 4553)

Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel, 19 Kent Street, The Rocks (02 9251 4044)

Bars

The Argyle, 18 Argyle Street, The Rocks Sydney (02 9247 5500)

Cruise Bar, Overseas Passenger Terminal (02 9251 1188)

Crystal Bar, GPO Building, 1 Martin Place, Sydney (02 9229 7799)

Iguna Bar and Restaurant, 15 Kellett Street, Kings Cross (02 9357 2609)

The Club Bar, 7 Hickson Road, Millers Point (02 9256 1877)

Ivy Lounge, 330 George Street, Sydney (02 9240 3000)

Opera Bar, Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay (02 9247 1666)

Orbit Bar, Level 47, 264 George Street (02 9247 9777)

The Loft Bar, 3 Lime Street, King Street Wharf, Darling Harbour

Zeta Bar, 488 George Street, Sydney (02 9265 6070)

Cinemas

Cinemas are spread around the city with the main city centre cinemas located in George Street between Park and Liverpool streets. Many cinemas have half price tickets on Tuesdays.

Academy Twin Cinema, 3a Oxford St , Paddington (02 9361 4453)

Chauvel Cinema, Cnr Oxford St & Oatley Rd , Paddington (02 9361 5398)

Cinema On The Square, George Street, Sydney (02 9247 4197)

City Greater Union Hoyts Village Complex, 505-25 George St (02 9273 7431)

Nightclubs

Dance music is big in Sydney. Check the many fliers and record stores for the latest club information, they do come and go.

Chinese Laundry, 111 Sussex Street (02 9240 3000)

Dragonfly, 1 Earl Street, Potts Point (02 9356 2666)

Lady Lux, 2 Roslyn Street, Potts Point (02 9361 5000)

Moulin Rouge, 39 Darlinghurst Road (02 8345 1711)

Tank, Establishment Hotel, 3 Bridge Lane, Sydney (02 8295 9966)

Tonic Lounge, 62- 64 Kellett Street (02 8354 1544)

Gay Sydney

Gay Sydney is along Oxford Street, in Darlinghurst and Paddington is also a popular gay area. Sydney drag shows can be found at Imperial Hotel at 35 Erskineville Road, Erskineville, (02 9519 9899) and at the Arq at 16 Flinders Street , Darlinghurst (02 9380 8700).

Cremorne Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace, 308 Miliary Rd, Cremorne (02 9908 4344)

Dendy Cinema, 261 King St , Newtown (02 9550 5699)

Dendy Cinema, Circular Quay (02 9252 8879)

Eros Cinema, 57 Goulburn Street, Sydney (02 9281 1998)

Sydney Festivals

During the year a number of specialist festivals are held.

Bacardi Latin Festival

The Bacardi Latin Festival in Darling Harbour is held in early January as part of the Sydney Festival and contains a week of Latin dancing and music.

Carols in the Domain

The Carols in the Domain are held annually in the Domain on the last Saturday.

Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

A huge festival organised by and for the queer community. It includes sports, cultural and arts events that run throughout February, culminating in a huge Mardi Gras parade in Darlinghurst on the first Saturday of March each year.

Sydney Theatres

Sydney has an active dramatic arts scene with many theatres and performances. Check out the theatre directory in the Metro supplement on Fridays and the Spectrum section on Saturdays of the Sydney Morning Herald. Book direct with the venues or use Ticketek (02 926 132 849) or Ticketmaster7 (02 1300 136 166).

Acer Arena

The largest indoor entertainment centre in Australia that hosts some concerts between other events. Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park (02 8765 4321).

Belvoir Street Theatre

Original and experimental Australian theatre with Company B in residence. 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills (02 9699 3444).

Capitol Theatre

An old theatre with a Spanish-Moorish design and listed on the national heritage register. 13 Campbell Street, Haymarket (136 100).

City Recital Hall

Performances by the different Australia and international orchestras. Angel Place (02 8256 2222).

Darlinghurst Theatre

Productions by independent professional companies in this intimate 111 seat theatre. 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point (02 8356 9987).

Enmore Theatre

Hosts a full range of acts from the Rolling Stones to other much less well known groups. Enmore Road, Newtown (02 9550 3666).

Ensemble Theatre

Mainstream theatre on the waterfront at Careening Cove. 78 McDougall St, Kirribilli (02 9929 0644).

Footbridge Theatre

A 700 seat university venue with a range of performances. University of Sydney, Parramatta Road, Glebe (02 9692 9955).

Royal Easter Show

The Royal Easter Show is the major agricultural show and is held in the two weeks before Easter each year at Sydney Olympic Park.

Sydney Festival

The Sydney Festival is an arts festival held in January each year. It aims to be international in reach, inviting acclaimed international artists to exhibit their work or perform in Sydney

Sydney Fringe Festival

The Sydney Fringe Festival runs from mid-January to mid-February each year and features fringe art in the form of film, TV, performance and sport.

Sydney Film Festival

The Sydney Film Festival is held in June each year.

Gaelic Club

A venue that has some interesting acts in an intimate setting. 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills (02 9211 1687).

Her Majesty's Theatre

A 1970s concrete theatre with mainstream shows. 107 Quay Street (02 9212 3411).

Hordern Pavilion

Built in 1924 and still hosting many big gigs that need a capacity of about 4000. 1 Driver Avenue, Moore Park (02 9921 5333).

Lyric Theatre

The Lyric Theatre is part of the Star City casino with mainstream shows. Pirrama Road, Pyrmont (02 9657 8500).

Metro Theatre

A live music space in a small venue and varying acts and concerts. 624 George Street (02 9550 3666).

National Institute of Dramatic Art

NIDA, stages excellent productions by the students. NIDA is where many famous stars started and a good place to SEE the emerging talents. 215 Anzac Pde, Kensington (02 9697 7600).

New Theatre

Opened in 1930s New Theatre shows high quality amateur productions. 542 King Street, Newtown (02 9519 3403).

Star City

Star City is both casino and home of two theatres the Lyric and the Showroom that both have big shows. 80 Pyrmont Street, Darling Harbour (02 9777 9000).

Star City Casino Sydney

This is Sydney's casino, open 24 hours a day. There are also two theatres, a nightclub, restaurants, bars, a hotel, apartments, pools, spas, saunas, a gym and a health club. Located on the waters edge at Darling Harbour has some good harbour views. Take bus 443 or 888 from Circular Quay or Sydney Explorer, Stop 19 or ferry to Pyrmont Bay. Tram to Star City. (9777 9000).

Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Performances covering a full range of musical tastes along with educational lectures. The Sydney Conservatorium is in the Government House Stables. Macquarie Street (02 8256 2222).

Sydney Entertainment Centre

A launch pad for many famous bands and hosts all the big names. 35 Harbour Street, Darling Harbour.

Sydney Opera House

This Sydney icon has a continuous programme. To check out some wonderful performances that can be booked online, visit www.SydneyeGuide.com.

Sydney State Theatre

The State Theatre is a grand building constructed in 1929. It boasts the second largest glass chandelier in the world. Home of the Sydney Film Festival held each June. There are self-guided tours, using audio equipment, which last about 45 minutes. 49 Market Street (02 9373 6835).

Free Entertainment

On summer weekends, free music is arranged in many parks and includes The Domain, Martin Place and Darling Harbour 's Tumbalong Park amphitheatre. Buskers perform at the Opera House, Circular Quay, The Rocks, Kings Cross and on The Corso in Manly. Speakers' Corner in The Domain on Sunday afternoon is open house and be entertained by the opinions being spoken. A free Aboriginal dance performance is held at the Art Gallery of NSW at noon from Tuesday to Saturday.

Restaurants

A cosmopolitan community such as Sydney provides for a diverse number of restaurants. Some restaurants are not licensed and use the phrase BYO to mean bring your own wine. Some licensed restaurants will allow BYO and a small corkage charge will be made. Prices vary according to location, expect to pay more for Sydney Harbour facing cafés and restaurants. Credit cards are almost universally accepted. For the tourist in the heart of the city the main dining areas are Circular Quay, The Rocks, Darling Harbour and Chinatown. Some really fine dining is found in the restaurants of five star Sydney hotels and well positioned restaurants on Sydney Harbour. The team at Sydney eGuide have listed one or more restaurants for each cuisine type mainly in the city but some are a little way out.

Sydney's restaurants cover every conceivable cuisine and budget, from takeaways to fine dining. You can enjoy al fresco fish and chips in Watsons Bay, freshly cooked seafood from the Sydney Fish Market or an array of Asian specialities at one of the many food halls around the city.

Featured Sydney Restaurants**Guillaume at Bennelong**

One of Australia's finest restaurants is to be found in the southern shell of the Sydney Opera House. A restaurant that has won numerous well deserved rewards. The menu is both modern Australian and French and you will find some French classics on the menu. The views, the atmosphere and the dining experience of being in one of the modern wonders of the world make for a perfect experience. The restaurant is operated by Guillaume Brahimi who originates from Paris an award winning chef who ensures that the food is outstanding. The wine list is, of course, equally excellent. Main courses run from about \$38 to \$52 and there are some pre-theatre deals. Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Point, Sydney (02 9241 1999).

Bird Cow Fish

A relaxed bistro in Surry Hills that is always busy and vibrant. Bookings are not taken so do go early particularly on Friday and Saturday. Plenty of light with the ceiling to floor glass windows and polished wood floors and lots of comfortable seating make for a great atmosphere. Food is generous, simple and very satisfying, created by Chef Alex Herbert who tries to use organic produce where possible. Mains run from \$18.50 to \$35. The floor is very well managed by husband Howard Gardner and as a team they have created a very popular Sydney dining experience. Open seven days a week but no dinners on Sunday. Shops 4 & 5, Crown Street, Surry Hills (02 9380 4090).

Seymour Theatre Centre

Three theatres with drama and music. Cnr Cleveland Street & City Road, Chippendale (02 9351 7940).

Stables Theatre

Base for the the Griffin Theatre company. 10 Nimrod Street, Kings Cross (02 9361 3817).

Sydney Theatre

Home of the Sydney Theatre Company, the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) and the Bangarra Dance Theatre. Pier 4, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay (02 9250 1700).

Theatre Royal

The Theatre Royal has the big musicals. MLC Centre, King St (02 9224 8444).

The Rocks Puppet Cottage

Puppet shows for children on weekends and school holidays. (02 9255 1788).

Dinner Cruise on MV Sydney 2000

Dine in elegance and style on the spectacular Sydney Harbour. Enjoy a three course a la carte dinner whilst passing the well-known landmarks of this city. This state-of-the-art cruise vessel features three separate dining areas, a 360 degree viewing deck and dance floor. Enjoy a luxurious dining experience whilst cruising the sparkling waters of this great city.

Sydney Tower Restaurant

Situated at the top of Australia's tallest attraction, Sydney Tower Restaurant offers visitors a truly unique dining experience. Whilst enjoying the best local and international cuisine at over 300 meters above sea level, in 70 minutes you will be treated to the spectacular 360 degree panoramic views of Sydney and her superb Harbour.

African Restaurant

Cafe Mint, 579 Crown Street, Surry Hills (02 9319 0848)

Argentinean Restaurant

Gaucha Grill, Shop1, 31 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli (02 9922 2080)

Australian Restaurants

Café Sydney, 5th Floor, Customs House, Circular Quay (02 9251 8683)

Level Three, 70 King Street, George Street, Sydney (02 9279 3030)

Rockpool, 107 George Street, The Rocks (02 9252 1888)

Una's, 340 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst (02 9360 6885)

Balkan restaurant

Balkan Continental, 209 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst (02 9360 4970)

Belgian restaurant

Heritage Belgian Beer Café, 135 Harrington Street, The Rocks (02 9241 1775)

Brazilian restaurant

Churrasco, 240 Coogee Road (02 9665 6535)

Celebrity (award winning) restaurants

Aria, 1 Macquarie Street, Sydney (02 9252 2555)

Catalina Rose Bay, 1 Sunderland Avenue, Lyne ark, Rose Bay (02 9371 0555)

Est, 252 George Street, Sydney (02 9240 3010)

Icebergs Dining Room and Bar, 1 Knotts Avenue, Bondi (02 9365 9000)

Marque, 355 Crown Street, Surry Hills (02 9332 2255)

Quay, Overseas Passenger Terminal, George Street, The Rocks (02 9251 5600)

Tetsuya's, 529 Kent Street, Sydney (02 9267 2900)

Chinese Restaurant

Sky Phoenix, Level 3, The Attic, Skygarden, 77 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (02 9223 8822).

Sea Bay, 372 Pitt Street, Sydney (02 9267 4855)

Super Bowl, 41 Dixon Street, Haymarket (02 9281 2462)

Czech restaurant

Prague Czech Beer, 42 Kellett Street, Potts Point (02 9368 0898)

French Restaurant

Eat City, Level 1, City Hotel, 349 Kent Street (02 9262 5900)

German Restaurants

Bavarian Bier Café, 24 York Street, Sydney (02 8297 4111)

Lowenbrau Restaurant, Cnr Argyle and Playfair Streets, The Rocks (02 9247 7785)

Greek Restaurant

The Athenian, 11 Barrack Street, Sydney (02 9262 2624)

Halal restaurant

Silk Road, 8 Quay Street, Haymarket (02 9281 9658)

Indian Restaurants

Curry Avenue, Galleries Victoria, The Basement, 500 George Street (0417 490 663)

Zaaffran, Level 2, Harbourside, Darling Harbour (02 9211 8900)

Indonesian restaurant

Jimbaran, 129 Avoca Street, Randwick (02 9398 8555)

Italian Restaurants

Caminetto, 13 Playfair Street, The Rocks (02 9247 5787)

Coast, The Roof Terrace, Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour (02 9267 6700)

Machiavelli Ristorante Italian, 1234 Clarence Street, Sydney (02 9299 3748)

Seafood Japanese Restaurant

Yukis, Level 4, Overseas Passenger Terminal, West Circular Quay (02 9252 8600)

Korean Restaurant

Doorae, 209 Clarence Street, Sydney (02 9290 1004)

Laotian restaurant

Pink Peppercorn, 122 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst (02 9360 9922)

Lebanese restaurant

Hannibal, 557 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills (02 9698 8288)

Malaysian Restaurant

Chintra Ria, Temple of Love, The Roof Terrace, Level 2, Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour (02 9264 3211)

Temasek Restaurant, Roxy Arcade, 71 George St, Parramatta (02 9633 9926)

Mediterranean Restaurant

George's Mediterranean Bar & Grill, The Promenade, King Street Wharf, Sydney (02 9279 4445)

Mexican Restaurant

Café Pacific, 95 Riley Street, East Sydney (02 9360 3811)

Middle Eastern Restaurant

Wildfire Restaurant, Ground Floor, Overseas Passenger Terminal, The Rocks (02 8273 1222)

Mauritian restaurant

Le Bukhar, 55 Bay Street, Double Bay (02 9363 5510)

Mongolian Restaurant

Genghis Khan, 30A Lime Street, King Street Wharf, Sydney (02 9290 1818)

Moroccan restaurant

Kazbah on Darling, 379 Darling Street, Balmain (02 9555 7067)

Nepalese restaurant

Himalayan Masala, 137 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst (02 9357 2296)

Oyster Restaurant

Sydney Cove Oyster Bar, 1 East Circular Quay (02 9247 3937)

Seafood Restaurants

Flying Fish, Pier 21, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont (02 9518 6677)

The Pier, 594 New South Head Road, Rose Bay (02 9327 6561)

Spanish Restaurant

Captain Torres, 73 Liverpool Street, Sydney (02 9264 5574)

Steak Restaurant

Prime, GPO Building, Lower Ground Floor, 1 Martin Place, Sydney (02 9229 7777)

Sushi restaurant

Yoshii, 115 Harrington Street, The Rocks (02 9247 2566)

Tapas restaurant

Firefly Tapas & Wine Bar, Pier 7, 17 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay (02 9241 2031)

Thai Restaurants

Arun Thai, 28 Macleay Street, Potts Point (02 9326 9132)

Thai on Lime Street, 19 Lime Street, King Street Wharf, Sydney (02 9299 8999)

Turkish restaurant

Erciyes, 409 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills (02 9319 1309)

Vegetarian Restaurants

Bodhi in the Park, College Street, Sydney (02 9360 2523)

Mother Chu's Vegetarian Kitchen, 367 Pitt Street, Sydney (02 9283 2828)

Govinda's Restaurant and Cinema, 112 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst (02 9380 5162)

Green Palace, 182 King Street, Newtown (02 9550 5234)

Vietnamese restaurant

Indochine Café, Shop 14, 111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney (02 9233 1088)

View Restaurants

Forty One Restaurant, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney (02 9221 2500)

The Summit Restaurant, Level 47, Australia Square, 264 George Street, Sydney (02 9247 9777)

Shopping

Sydney provides pleasure to shoppers with its range of shops. Shopping hours are normally 9am to 5.30pm (with some staying open until 9pm), on Monday to Friday with late night trading on Thursday to 9pm. Most stores open until 5pm on Saturdays and most, but not all, operate on Sundays. Upmarket shopping areas are around Pitt Street Mall, between Market Street and King Street, in The Strand and Queen Victoria Building near the Town Hall. Shopping is also found in Darling Harbour at Harbourside and Market City.

Shopping Centres

Birkenhead Point Shopping Centre

Home of many factory outlet shops with good discounts. Roseby Street, Drummoyne (02 9181 3922).

Broadway Shopping Centre

Recognisable by the two clock towers with a lot of brand names, two supermarkets, cinema and food court. Opposite Victoria Park (02 9213 3333).

Chatswood Chase Shopping Mall

A mall for the north side of the harbour with David Jones and many other shops. 345 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood (02 9419 6255).

Chifley Plaza

A plaza with Max Mara and Gary Castles. 2 Chifley Square, Sydney.

Chinatown

The Chinese have been in Sydney for two hundred years. Between 1909 and 1915 the City Council built a market complex at Darling Harbour for the Chinese market gardeners. This developed over the years into a significant development with shops, restaurants and a centre for Chinese goods. Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Department Stores

David Jones is at 86-108 Castlereagh Street.

Myer is at 436 George Street.

QVB is at 455 George Street.

DFO

The Direct Factory Outlet concept is very popular in all Australian cities and the one for Sydney is at Homebush. Underwood Road, Homebush, Outer West (02 9748 9800).

Harbourside Shopping Centre

A complex of shops and restaurants in Darling Harbour. Many of the shops specialising in Australian made merchandise. Darling Harbour.

Imperial Arcade

A CBD shopping arcade in the middle of Pitt Street Mall with fashion, jewellery and more.

Market City

Factory outlets with some good discounts. Corner of Hay Street and Thomas Streets.

MLC Centre

A shopping centre with cinema, Theatre Royal and designer shops. 19 Martin Place, Sydney (02 9224 8333).

No 1 Martin Place

An historical building that opened in 1874 with fashion outlets, restaurants, bars and food court. 1 Martin Place, Sydney (02 9221 5073).

Opera Quays

A mall over several levels at Circular Quay with shops, restaurants and Art House cinema.

Piccadilly

A CBD shopping centre with many stores located opposite the Hilton Hotel on Pitt Street.

Pitt Street Mall

A pedestrians only section of Pitt Street in the CBD of Sydney, Australia. It is one block long between Market Street and King Street and is one of Australia's busiest and most cosmopolitan shopping precincts with all the big names. Martin Place, Sydney (02 9286 0111).

Queen Victoria Building

Fashion boutiques, antiques, jewellery and more that opened over 100 years ago. Corner of George and DrUITT Streets (02 9264 9209).

Skygarden

A mall with murals, sculpture and inlaid floors add to the shopping experience. 77 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Supa Centre

A one stop place for furniture and home wares. South Dowling Street, Moor Park, Paddington.

Sydney Central Plaza

Designer labels and food courts in Pitt Street Mall.

Strand Arcade

A Victorian Arcade with fashion and jewellery stores opened in 1892. 412 George Street, Sydney (02 9232 4199).

The Galleries Victoria

A centre for contemporary lifestyle shopping laid out over four levels. 500 George Street, Sydney (02 9265 6888).

The Italian Forum

A "little Italy" in Sydney with an Italian Plaza and linked shops and restaurants. Norton Street, Leichhardt (02 9518 4488).

Westfield Bondi Junction

A huge mall with over 3,000 shops with everything you might need. 500 Oxford Street, Bondi (02 9947 8000).

Westfield Centrepoint

On the corner of Market Street and Pitt Street Mall with fashion, souvenirs, accessories and gifts over four levels. 100 Market Street, Sydney (02 9231 9300).

Westfield Parramatta

One of the largest shopping malls in the southern hemisphere and convenient for the west of Sydney. 86-108 Castlereagh Street, Parramatta (02 9891 3929).

World Square Shopping Centre

A mal with around 90 shops on the Haymarket. George Street. Haymarket (02 8669 6900).

Markets

Sydney has an active market scene. Most are outdoors except the famous Paddy's Markets.

Balmain Market

Second hand books, art, jewellery and contemporary home wares and held every Saturday from 8am to 4pm. St Andrews Church at Curtis Road, Balmain.

Bondi Beach Market

Fashion at low prices, second had clothing, art, jewellery and held every Sunday from 10am to 4pm with arts and crafts. Bondi Beach Public School, Campbell Parade, Bondi Beach.

Farmers Markets

Popular with local chefs and has produce from all over New South Wales and open on Wednesday and Saturdays. Fox Studios, Redfern.

Fish Markets

Fresh local fish and all the action can be viewed from the public galleries in the early morning. Sydney Fish Market, Blackwattle Bay (02 9004 1100).

Glebe Market

Held every Saturday from 10am to 4pm is a well known alternative market. Lots of clothing, arts, crafts, places to eat and a good grassy area for the kids. School Grounds, Glebe Point Road, Glebe.

Kings Cross Rotary Markets

Held every Sunday at El Alamein Fountain, Fitzroy Gardens, Kings Cross.

Manly Arts and Crafts Market

Held every Saturday and Sunday with plenty of Australian arts and crafts and located at Sydney Road, Manly. Easily reached using the Manly ferry.

Organic Food Market

Open every Saturday and specialising in organic produce. Orange Grove Public School, Leichhardt.

Paddy's Markets

Paddy's Markets have been operating since the 19th century and have lots of things for sale and plenty of bargains. The markets as named Paddy's as most of the first shoppers were poor Irish immigrants and it was a place of entertainment in the early days of settlement. Corner of Thomas and Hay Streets and open from Thursday until Sunday and on Public Holidays: on Thursdays from 10am to 6pm and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 4.30pm. Hay Street Haymarket. The market also operates at Flemington on Friday and Sunday.

Paddington Market

Fashion, toys, jewellery and antiques and held every Saturday from 10am to 4pm. 395 Oxford Street, Paddington.

The Rocks Market

The Rocks Market with a beautiful setting on George Street close to Circular Quay is open Saturdays and Sundays with fine quality goods.

Surry Hills Markets

A monthly market with a lot of second-hand and handmade goods. Held on the first Saturday of the month. Shannon Reserve, Crown Street.

Sydney Fish Markets

Where all the best fish can be found and sampled and open every day. Pyrmont Bridge Road, Pyrmont.

Sydney Flower Markets

A wholesale market but the public are also welcome. Off Parramatta Road, Outer West.

The Sydney Opera House Markets

The markets are open on Sundays from 9am to 5pm with Australian arts and crafts. Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay, Sydney.

Sydney Shopping Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. Some stores have later trading on Thursday or Friday evenings and some are open 24 hours on certain days of the week.

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