

**Population**

A little over 4 million

**Currency**

Australian dollar (AUD),  
\$1 = 100 c.

**Opening hours**

Most shops are open 0930 h  
– 1730 h, evening opening on  
Thursdays. Many shops in the  
city and the shopping centres  
such as The Rocks and Darling  
Harbour stay open until 2100  
h most days, including the  
weekend.

**Internet**

sydney.visitorsbureau.com.au  
www.tourism.nsw.gov.au  
www.citysearch.com.au  
www.australia.com

**Publications**

Sydney Morning Herald is  
the large daily in which the  
Metro Friday supplement lists  
everything of importance in the  
way of food and entertainment.

**Emergency numbers**

Emergency situations, police,  
ambulance, fire brigade: 000

**Tourist office**

Visitor Centre, 106 George  
Street, The Rocks. City Info Line,  
tel: (02)9265 9007, Mon-Fri  
0900 h – 1700 h.

# SYDNEY



*Sydney Opera House*

## WELCOME TO SYDNEY

It was perhaps the Olympic Games in 2000 which placed Sydney definitively among the ranks of world-class cities. In advertisements Sydney quite rightly calls itself “sunny, sexy and sophisticated”. The old colony for deported convicts has been transformed into one of the world’s hottest capitals, where the Opera House is just one of many attractions.



## THE CITY

It is almost inconceivable that it is just over 200 years since the British started building a colony for deported convicts in Sydney. Today this prison colony is a metropolis and a multiethnic magnet for people from around the world. Sydney Harbour is like an embracing arm of the ocean, and it is hard to imagine a more beautiful location for a city. Because detached living is so popular here, Sydney is very spread-out.

The City, or the Central Business District, CBD, is however compact. This is the area in front of the Circular Quay with the Opera House and the historic Rocks, where the gleaming glass and steel buildings of the business quarter reach skyward. Kings Cross houses a distinctive mix of worldly pleasures on the one hand and good restaurants and low-cost housing on the other.

The inner-city suburbs to the east of the City, like Darlinghurst and Paddington with its long Oxford Street, have some of the best shopping, pubs and entertainments and are known as relaxed, gay and free from prejudice. North of Sydney harbour, on the North Shore, lies Manly with its restaurants and beach life. Glebe is another, student-dominated "inner suburb". In fashionable Double Bay (also known as Double Pay...) the houses are expensive and the shops exclusive. The opposite is to be found, among other places, in Redfern, poor and largely populated by aborigines, who are more or less invisible in Sydney's more affluent areas.



Harbour bridge

## DO & SEE

Sydney's beautiful situation gives a gilt edge to many of the city's sights. For the history enthusiast, of course, the place is a dream; from the aborigines' maybe 60 000-year history to the arrival of the colonists just over two hundred years ago.

### The Opera House

Sydney's Opera House at Bennelong Point is like the USA's Grand Canyon in the way that mere pictures cannot convey its magnificence. Where once there were tram depots there now stands one of the 20th century's finest structures and Australia's most renowned symbol. It was inaugurated in 1973, after a planned building time of five years turned into 16 years and a budgeted cost of eight million dollars became 102 million. The Opera House comprises five principal auditoria each holding between 300 and 2700 seats for opera, films, theatre and concerts.

Price: \$23.00 (discounts for students and large groups)  
Address: Bennelong Point, Circular Quay  
Train: Circular Quay  
Tel: +61 (02)9250 7250 (guided tours)  
+61 (02)9250 7777 (tickets)  
[www.sydneyoperahouse.com](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com)

### Cruise around Sydney Harbour

The magnificent siting of Port Jackson is one of Sydney's great assets, and it is best viewed from the seaward side. There are a number of midday cruises to choose from. Ferries depart from wharves 4 and 5 at Circular Quay.

Tel: +61 (02)9241 1281

### The Rocks

The oldest part of Sydney, where the colonists settled in the 1780's. What was once dark, dirty dockland is now highly picturesque and very much a tourist hot-spot. Several of the city's best hotels and restaurants are situated here.

### Art Gallery of New South Wales

It is only in recent decades that the ancient culture of the aborigines has received serious attention, both from white Australians and the rest of the world. Here is not only the first permanent exhibition of aboriginal art, but also an important collection of modern Australian artists.

Price: \$15.00 (family discount available)  
Address: Art Gallery Road, The Domain, near City  
Train: Nearest train stations are St James and Martin Place. Both within 10 minutes' walking distance.  
Tel: +61 (02)9225 1744,

### Royal Botanic Gardens

27 hectares with over 400 species of tropical plants sloping down towards Farm Cove – a wonderful park with winding walkways among flowers and palms. One of Sydney's major sights. Perfect for picnics.

*Price: Free*  
*Address: Mrs Macquaries Road, City Centre*  
*Tel: +61 (02)9231 8111*  
*www.rbg Syd.gov.au*

### Sydney Tower

Also called AMP Tower Centrepoint. You can't get any higher in Sydney – the tower stands a total of 305 metres high. A dizzying lookout point where you can see for yourself that the residential suburbs stretch literally as far as the eye can see. There is also a rotating restaurant here.

*Price: \$23.50*  
*(discounts for families, students and large groups)*  
*Address: 100 Market Street, City*  
*Train: Town Hall Station*  
*Tel: +61 (02) 9231 1000*  
*www.sydney Skytour.com.au*

### Museum of Contemporary Art, MCA

Australia's leading museum for domestic and foreign contemporary art, housed in a magnificent art deco building. Large thematic exhibitions as well as individual exhibits,

painting, sculpture, installations and multimedia.

*Price: Guided tours cost nothing*  
*Address: 140 George Street, The Rocks*  
*Train: Circular Quay or The Rocks*  
*Tel: +61 (02) 9250 8448*  
*www.mca.com.au*

### National Maritime Museum

The sea has always played a major role in Australian history. The exhibits reflect many different eras, from the large sailing ships – including Cook's "Endeavour" – to warships, submarines and refugee boats.

*Price: Free*  
*Address: 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour.*  
*Train: Town Hall Station, Tel: +61 (02) 9298 3777*  
*www.anmm.gov.au*

### Hyde Park Barracks Museum

Sydney's history in buildings from the time when the city was the destination for deportees from England. Between 1819 and 1848 Hyde Park Barracks housed thousands of deportees who worked in government service.

*Price: \$7*  
*(discounts for families, students and large groups)*  
*Address: Queens Square, Macquarie Street*  
*Tel: +61 (02) 8239 2288*  
*www.hht.net.au/museums*

### EATING

Thanks to large-scale immigration all of the world's cuisine is generally represented here. The current "typically" Australian cuisine, Mod Oz, blends fresh raw materials in a fusion of Asiatic and European culinary styles. And within a few decades Australia has earned a place among the world's leading wine-producing countries. "BYO", Bring Your Own, means that you can take your own wine to a restaurant - even to some that are licensed to serve alcohol.

### Altitude

Here you can have the pleasure of eating steamed lobster as you look out over Sydney harbour through five-metre-high windows on the 36th floor of the Hotel Shangri-La. Sober and modern Australian-European gourmet cuisine. Long wine list. Main courses from \$35.

*Address: Level 36, Shangri-La Hotel, 176 Cumberland St*  
*Tel: +61 (02)9250 6123*  
*www.altitudesydney.com*

### 5 HOT TIPS

#### SYDNEY AQUARIUM

Gigantic oceanaria containing most of what moves beneath the surface around Australia's coasts, including sharks and seals. You can see them all here in transparent tunnels. Also fresh water aquaria.  
*Address: Aquarium Pier, Darling Harbour*  
*Tel: +61 (02)9262 2300*  
*www.sydneyaquarium.*

#### HARBOUR BRIDGE

The steel bridge between North Shore and The Rocks is the city's best-known symbol after the Opera House. There are steps to a viewing platform in the southeastern pylon. **Breathtaking trip up to the top with BridgeClimb.**  
*Address: 5 Cumberland Street, The Rocks*  
*Tel: +61 (02)8274 7777*

#### LUNA PARK

The totally renovated amusement park from 1935 has besides new and old attractions, a wonderful view over Sydney Harbour with the bridge and the Opera House.  
*Address: 1 Olympic Drive, Milsons Point*  
*Tel: +61 (02)9922 6644*  
*www.lunaparksydney.com*

#### SYDNEY TOWER

While remaining at ground level you can take a high-speed and nerve-racking virtual reality trip around Australia with 3-D and a wealth of special effects..  
*Address: 100 Market Street, City*  
*Tel: +61 (02)9231 1000*  
*www.sydney Skytour.com.au*

#### TARONGA PARK ZOO

Koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, cockatoos and the Tasmanian devil are just a few examples of the Australian wildlife assembled here. View over the water towards central Sydney. *Ferry from Circular Quay; a combined ferry- and Zoo entrance ticket works out cheaper.*  
*Tel: +61 (02)9969 2777*  
*www.zoo.nsw.gov.au*

## EATING | CAFÉS

DESTINATION: SYDNEY

### Quayside Brasserie

Right on the water and in the middle of the "picture postcard" with the Opera House and city skyline. Some rock oysters and a glass of Pinot Gris in the twilight and the pieces in life's jigsaw will fall into place. Fish and shellfish dominate, main courses from \$30.

*Address: Shop 1, Opera Quays, 2 East Circular Quay, City  
Tel: +61 (02)9251 0122  
www.quaysidecafe.com.au*

### Kam Fook

Don't allow yourself to be fooled – you haven't come to Hongkong. On Sundays yum cha lures around 800 guests at a time from their cars with dim sum and a bewildering array of other dishes.

*Address: 3rd floor, 9 Hay Street, Haymarket  
Tel: +61 (02)9211 8988*

### Bistro Lulu

French bistro, Sydney style, good raw materials and a wine list with both Australian and French – at surprisingly good prices. Typical example of "Mod Oz". Main course from \$20.

*Address: 257 Oxford Street, Paddington  
Tel: +61 (02)9380 6888  
www.bistrolulu.com.au*

### Doyle's on the Beach

The oldest pub in the Doyle's chain is also Sydney's best-known fish and shellfish restaurant. On the beach in Watsons Bay with views towards the City on the other side of the water. The fish 'n' chips here have been a Sydney classic for generations. Main courses from \$30.

*Address: Watson's Bay  
Tel: +61 (02)9337 2007  
www.doyles.com.au*

### Blue Ginger

Relaxed and noisy at one of the best Asiatic pubs in West Sydney. Octopus, chicken, duck and barramundi with



exciting seasonings. Simple, colourful furnishings. Main courses from \$20.

*Address: 241 Darling Street, Balmain  
Tel: +61 (02)9818 4662  
www.blueginger.com.au*

### Aesop's

A Greek island which landed on the other side of the world, complete with mediterranean cooking, Zorba's dance and smashing crockery. Views towards the Royal Botanic Gardens. Main courses from \$21.

*Address: 131 Macquarie Street, City  
Tel: +61 (02)9247 5422  
www.aesops.com.au*

### Sydney Fish Markets

Peter's Fish Market and Doyle's are two of the restaurants at the city's fish market, where around 100 species of fish are available. Fish auction at 7 o'clock in the morning. Daily 0700 to 1600 h.

*Tel: +61 (02) 9550 1611  
Address: Pymont, under Anzac-bron. Train from Central Station, Star City and the Exhibition Centre.  
www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au*

## CAFÉS

The café heart of Sydney lies on Victoria Street between Darlinghurst and Kings Cross.

### Tropicana Café

Film people and locals are drawn here by the excellent coffee and calorie-packed desserts. This is where the short film festival Tropfest was born, which is nowadays a national event. See: [www.tropfest.com.au](http://www.tropfest.com.au)

*Address: 227 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst  
Tel: +61 (02)9360 9809*

### Bar Coluzzi @ Darlinghurst

One-time boxer Gigi Coluzzi's legendary café is a meeting-point for all types of Darlinghurst residents. Nice atmosphere and really good coffee.

*Address: 322 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst  
Tel: +61 (02) 9380 5420*

### 3 JJJ Café

Popular restaurant in Bondi. Here you can eat a Sloane Burger or just enjoy a cappuccino.

*Address: 108 Glenayr Avenue, Bondi  
Tel: +61 (02)9130 1402*

### Bonus box/Beaches

Beach life, including the barbie (barbecue), is an important part of Sydney's psyche. There are dozens of fine beaches to choose from, and most are easy to get to by bus or ferry. Bondi Beach is the classic beach for showing off your body and your surfing skills, and is well supplied with cafés, pubs and shops. Bus L82 or 380 from Circular Quay, or in the case of the train, take the Bondi line to Bondi and transfer to the bus for the beach. Immediately south of Bondi lies the smaller Tamarama. North Shore is reached by ferries from Circular Quay, and within half an hour – or a quarter





**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

**Airports**

Sydney International Airport (the official name is Sydney Kingsford Smith International Airport) lies 8 km to the south of the city. The Airport Express bus departs every 10–30 minutes to the city and the journey takes about 30 minutes. Taxis take about 30 minutes and cost as follows: Sydney City \$25, North Sydney \$35, Manly \$50, Parramatta \$45, Liverpool \$40, Cronulla \$35. Sydney Airport Rail Link leaves approximately every ten minutes to the centre and the journey takes only 13 minutes. A one-way ticket costs \$12.00 for adults.

**Local Transport**

Central Sydney is compact and suited to walking, and out to the suburbs there are trains, buses or ferries. The monorail, with 7 stops between City and Darling Harbour, also provides a fine sightseeing trip. Light Rail, tramcar, round the clock to, among other places, Star City and the Fish Markets. Trains from Central Station and Town Hall Station.

Circular Quay is a central point for ferries and buses. A Sydneypass is practical and economical. 3 or 5 days within a 7-day period. Other passes include the Daytripper, SeeSydneyCard and Red Travel Card. Information about trains, buses and ferries: (02)131 500, [www.sydneyferries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sydneyferries.nsw.gov.au), [www.sydneybuses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sydneybuses.nsw.gov.au)

**Taxi**

Two of the firms: ABC tel. +61 (02)132-522, Combined tel. +61 (02)8332-8888. Water taxi: Yellow Water Taxis tel : +61 (02)9299 0199, for transport and sightseeing. Bases at Pontoon 9, King Street Wharf, and East Pontoon, Circular Quay.

**Post Office**

Martin Place, open Mondays to Fridays from 0815 h to 1730 h, and on Saturdays from 1000 h to 1400 h.

**Pharmacies**

The pharmacy in Kings Cross and on Oxford Street stay open longest,

but if a pharmacy is required after closing time the large hotels are your best alternative. It is also possible to ring the Pharmacy Guild on tel. +61 (02)9966 8377.

**Dentists**

Open 24 hours  
75 Hall Street, Bondi Beach,  
Sydney, NSW  
tel. +61 (0)2 9130 4221

**Telephone and electricity**

Country code: 61. The area dialling code for Sydney is 02. Directory enquiries 1223 / 220-240 volts AC