

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO SYDNEY: LOCAL TIPS AND TOP ATTRACTIONS

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Abstract

Sydney, Australia, captivates with its iconic harbor, featuring the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. This vibrant city blends stunning beaches like Bondi with bustling urban life and a rich cultural scene. From world-class dining to outdoor adventures, Sydney offers a dynamic blend of experiences against a backdrop of natural beauty.

Sydney, Australia, stands as a global icon renowned for its stunning harbor, encompassing the architectural marvels of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Blue Mountains, Sydney offers a unique blend of natural beauty and cosmopolitan charm. Its vibrant neighborhoods range from the historic Rocks with its cobblestone streets to the trendy cafes of Surry Hills and the beach culture of Bondi.

Sydney's cultural scene is equally diverse, with world-class museums, galleries, and theaters showcasing both local and international talent. The city hosts major events like the Sydney Festival and Vivid Sydney, transforming its landmarks with dazzling light displays and artistic performances. Food enthusiasts can indulge in a plethora of dining options, from fresh seafood at Sydney Fish Market to multicultural delights in Chinatown and the trendy eateries of Darling Harbour.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Sydney's coastal walks, including the Bondi to Coogee trail, offer breathtaking ocean views. Bondi Beach itself is a hub of surf culture and seaside cafes. The city's parks and gardens, such as the Royal Botanic Garden and Centennial Parklands, provide peaceful retreats amidst the urban hustle.

Overall, Sydney captivates with its dynamic blend of natural landscapes, cultural richness, and vibrant urban life, making it a must-visit destination for travelers from around the globe.

1. Introduction

Discover Sydney's local gems and top attractions in this insider's guide. Dive into Bondi Beach's surf culture, explore the historic Rocks district, and savor fresh seafood at Sydney Fish Market. Don't miss iconic landmarks like the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, and indulge in vibrant dining and nightlife scenes across the city.

2. Weather in Sydney

Find information on temperature, rainfall and seasonal activities to help plan your holiday in Sydney.

What is the weather like in Sydney?

Sydney enjoys a sunny climate with mild winters and warm summers, perfect for making the most of the outdoors. Plan ahead with this information on temperature and rainfall.

Summer (December – February)

During summer, average temperatures range from 18.6 - 25.8°C (65.5 - 78.4°F), and average humidity spikes to 65%. This is a great time to enjoy Sydney's abundant beaches when water temperatures rise to 21.9 - 23.7°C (71.4 - 74.7°F).



Autumn (March – May)

Autumn is the mildest time of year in Sydney when the humidity drops and average temperatures fall between 14.6 - 22.2°C (58.3 - 72°F). Crisp, fresh air makes autumn the season for enjoying Sydney's coastal walks. Keep your eyes peeled for humpback whales, which migrate north from May to August.

Winter (June – August)

Sydney's winter months are June to August when average temperatures drop between 8.8 - 17°C (47.8 - 62.6°F). Sydney's rainfall is generally highest in June, with an average of 132 mm (5.2 inches), while July is the coolest month when average daytime temperatures reach about 17°C (62.6°F).

Spring (September – November)

In spring, days are warmer but the humidity is not as high as summer. Average daily temperatures range from 11 - 23°C (51.8 - 73.4°F).

3. What to do in Sydney this July

From NAIDOC Week to Australia's favourite art awards – here are 10 events to chase away the winter blues.

Celebrate NAIDOC in the City

Browse the Gadigal markets and enjoy traditional dance performances at Sydney Town Hall. Plus, a free evening concert will feature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, spanning country to hip hop. See the full program for NAIDOC in the City or find out what else is on during NAIDOC Week.

Wednesday 10 June

Bush food planting day

Learn about local bush foods and their uses at this planting day at Sydney City Farm. You'll pot up a plant to take home and go on a guided walk to hear about the living history of the Aboriginal cultural connection to the landscape.

Saturday 13 July

See the best of Australia's favourite art awards

Head to the Art Gallery of NSW to view the finalists in the Archibald Prize for portraiture, the Wynne Prize for landscape painting and the Sulman Prize for subject painting, genre painting or mural. Don't forget to vote for your favourite portrait and see the work of budding artists aged 5 to 18 on display in the Young Archies.

Daily until Sunday 8 September

Taste the flavours of France

Make your way to Circular Quay and The Rocks to celebrate Bastille Day with food, wine and art – expect a special nod to the Paris Olympics. There'll be more than 10 tons of cheese and 10,000L of wine brought to you by 120 vendors, plus live music, performances and street artists.

Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 July

Warm up to winter at Darling Harbour

Darling Harbour heats up these school holidays with Winterfest. Glide across a glittering ice rink, watch a free film at Tumbalong Park and dance to DJ sets after dark – all before the fireworks over Cockle Bay.

Saturday 6 to Sunday 21 July

Find a new 'fit at a pre-loved fashion market

Check out more than 75 stalls of vintage and retro clothes, handmade jewellery and other accessories at Round She Goes Fashion Market.

Saturday 20 June

Go on a fun run back to the 80s

Dig out your neon spandex for a retro-themed fun run around beautiful Sydney Harbour. Choose from the 10km or 5km course and help support the Australian Cancer Research Foundation with a day of fitness, music and throwback fun.

Sunday 28 July

SMASH! Sydney Manga and Anime Show

If you're a fan of Japanese pop culture, you'll love SMASH! Sydney Manga and Anime Show for a day of talks, performances, workshops and more. Visit the artist market and meet cosplayers dressed as your favourite characters.

Saturday 20 to Sunday 21 July



Plant a tree on National Tree Day

Get your hands dirty to show you care about the environment at a community planting event. Help us plant 5000 native grasses, herbs and wildflowers at Sydney Park in Alexandria.

Sunday 28 July

See the best local photo journalism

Take an intimate look at key moments captured through the lens of Sydney Morning Herald photographers, on display at the State Library of NSW.

Daily until Sunday 10 November

4. Your Weekend Guide to Sydney: Where To Eat, Stay, and Play

Bundle a multicultural population of over five million people, dynamic culinary scene, and diverse landscape (imagine sandy, surf-friendly beaches hugging sleek high-rises), and you've got Sydney. As Australia's largest (and most visited) city, it's got something for every traveler; but unlike its counterparts, is blissfully easy and stress-free to navigate. (Plus, you'd be hard pressed to pinpoint an urban destination with chiller vibes.) Below, our recommendations what to see and do, what to eat and drink, and where to decompress in between it all – for the ultimate long weekend in Sydney.

Where to Stay in Sydney

While you'll find an outpost of every bold-faced, luxury brand here, bypass the obvious for a room with more localized flavor and design.

Perched on at the northern end of The Rocks, Pier One Sydney Harbour occupies a former terminal for ocean liners. Its nautical history is evident throughout, from the industrial design (think weathered wood and iron) to the plum location beneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The accommodations are spacious, minimally (but chicly) appointed, and awash in crisp white. The hotel's signature restaurant, The Gantry, turns out exceptional cuisine from morning – the breakfast buffet is diverse and bountiful – to evening. The bar is a social spot for mingling with other guests over craft cocktails, but the main dining room is the real draw, as it sheds its casual daytime persona for a more elegant one for dinner. The kitchen is staunchly hyper-local, with a strong showing of seafood, but also thoughtfully offers vegan and vegetarian tasting menus.

Located in the hip, yet edgy neighborhood of Chippendale, Old Clare Hotel is a design lover's dream. Spread out over two historic buildings, the quirky 62-room boutique property is a member of the Unlisted Collection, a global group of design-focused properties founded by Singapore-based lawyer-turned-hotelier Loh Lik Peng. To honor the buildings' original bones, no two rooms are configured alike, but all feature soaring ceilings, exposed brick walls, and sleek bathrooms. Epicureans will flip for the four buzzy restaurants and bars, including the prix fixe-only Automata by chef Clayton Wells and the newly-opened Barzaari Chippendale, which specializes in shared Middle Eastern small plates.

Where to Eat and Drink in Sydney

Barangaroo House

The latest venture by celebrated chef Matt Moran is big and beautiful. Split into three levels, the undulating, free-standing structure offers three different outlets. The street level House Bar and rooftop Smoke Bar are ideal for kicking or capping off an evening, but in between, it's the soulful riffs on Australian cuisine envisioned by Cory Campbell that's got well-heeled locals humming with praise.

Baxter Inn

If you're down with the brown, head to this dimly lit, perpetually packed basement bar specializing in whiskey. (The infamous backlit wall stocks over a whopping 800 bottles.) The staff is ever patient and accommodating, and will help you find anything you're thirsty for, whether it's a super rare Islay or a silky smooth (but bracing) Old Fashioned.

Bennelong

When it comes fine dining, Bennelong's a tough act to beat. For starters: it's located in the iconic Sydney Opera House. The design is unmistakable, too, with soaring ceilings and warm light that casts the interiors aglow. Chef Peter Gilmore's cooking approach is equally elegant, but far from formal. With locally-inspired snacks (like the creamy Tasmanian scallop pie) and more hearty plates (like fork-tender lamb from Arkady Farms), there's something for all appetites.

Acme

This lively spot in Rushcutters Bay restaurant embodies everything a contemporary neighborhood restaurant should be. The pasta-driven menu is original, yet deeply comforting (imagine bucatini tinged with sichuan peppercorn and macaroni smothered with pigs head), the service is relaxed, and the prices are easy on the wallet. In short? Acme is the kind of place you'll depend on for a dependably delicious meal out over and over again.



PS40

From the moment you enter this bar housed in a former warehouse – it’s decked out in a graphic black-and-white palette – you know you’re in for a good time. While craft cocktails are oft associated with pretentious staff and old-timey gimmicks, PS40 makes the art of drinking well quirky, colorful, and well, fun. The PS in the name? It stands for pop soda, all of which are naturally made from scratch, and are even better when blended with booze. (For example: the house cola, with hints of vanilla, cinnamon, and star anise, is even more luscious with a shot or two of bourbon.)

Bistro Rex

If there’s a cuisine that never falls out of public favor or trend, it’s French – more specifically, bistro cooking. And this Potts Point eatery executes all the soul-soothing and crowd-pleasing classics (think French onion soup, chicken liver parfait, and steak frites) consistently well. If weekend brunching is in order, check out the popular bottomless rose brunch on Saturdays. In addition to endless flutes of bubbles, you’ll find elevated dishes of cauliflower gougeres, confit chicken, and lacinato kale salad.

Brix Distillers

This urban distillery in Surry Hills is aiming to bring a little history back, by specializing in rum. (Way back, colonial Sydney’s rum trade was so lucrative it was eventually used as currency.) To date, there’s three rums in Brix’s collection, alongside an impressive collection of over 150 rums from all over the world. Tours and tastings are available, and if you’re feeling peckish, tuck into some Latin Sydney-inspired bites. (The molasses braised pork arepas and grilled prawns with rum coconut cream are particularly solid.)

What to Do in Sydney

Two iconic sites are a must, and thankfully, they’re both easy to navigate. The Sydney Harbour Bridge (frequently referred to as the “Coathanger”) links the North Shore to the central business district (CBD). Widely praised as an engineering marvel, it holds bragging rights as the world’s largest steel

arch bridge. And for some of the best views of Sydney, bike or walk across it. From the bridge, you'll have views of another marvel, the Sydney Opera House. Opened in 1973 and designed by architect Jorn Utzon, it remains one of the most recognized and beloved buildings in the world.

A lot of Sydney's year-round appeal is its proximity to world class beaches. Though it may be crowded and a bit gentrified, Bondi's the most famous – and for good reason. The one-kilometer strip of snow-white sand and turquoise waters is suitable for all types of outdoor enthusiasts, from joggers to naturally, surfers. We recommend setting aside a full day to take the popular, six kilometer walk from Bondi to Coogee, as it'll lead you through three more well-known beaches (Bronte, Tamarama, and Bronte).

Like all major urban cities, Sydney is home to a bevy of neighborhoods with distinctive personalities. The Rocks is a historic district marked by cobblestone streets and weathered warehouses taken over by businesses ranging from pizza parlors to heavyweight fashion labels like Gucci and Louis Vuitton. Surry Hills is arguably the hippest, and populated with independently-owned shops from boutique fitness studios (like Cycology Club and Physicore) to buzzy eateries. Darlinghurst is equal parts charming and rough around the edges, and draws in those seeking a less buttoned-up experience, as the neighborhood really comes alive when the sun goes down.

5. Top 10 Tourist Attractions In Sydney

Sydney is Australia's largest, oldest, and most urban city. This beautiful city has something special to offer to each tourist. This harbour city is considered the ideal holiday destination for people looking for fun, especially on the sea and sand.

Top-class dining, shopping and cultural institutions, such as some renowned ones, are perfect for those searching for exceptional travel experience. A city that is surrounded by national parks, there is no doubt that Sydney acts as a convenient base for trips and adventures in Australia's natural and diverse environment too.

According to many tourists and experts, the capital of New South Wales never disappoints when it comes to offering great experiences. That is why more and more people are moving or travelling to this city. If you are looking to do the same, then you should learn about the best places to visit.

Here are the top 10 tourist attractions in Sydney. Explore these places and create lasting memories.

The Art Gallery Of New South Wales

The Art Gallery of New South Wales is known to be one of the best and biggest museums in the country. It contains a massive collection of art, which includes more than 40,000 photos, paintings, sculptures and drawings. This huge museum was founded in 1872.

Here, you will be able to see stunning Asian, European, and Australian artworks with good-sized sections, especially for wonderful indigenous artists from all over the country.

Sydney Harbour

Sydney Harbour is considered home to the most renowned and photographed landmarks in Sydney City. In addition to the iconic bridge and opera house, you can also find stunning nature spots and sparkling skyscrapers.



Wherever you look, you will find exceptional views. Popularly considered the most gorgeous natural harbours in the world, it impressively contains 150 miles of picturesque shoreline with coves, beaches, parks and gardens. You can also enjoy the excellent watersports, paddleboarding and kayaking at this place.

Cockatoo Island

Cockatoo Island is one of the most appealing places to visit. It is situated at the heart of Sydney Harbour and can be easily reached by ferry. It was only opened to the public in 2007. This place has waterfront cafes as well as a campsite for visitors to utilise. The paranormal tours will take you around to explore all the unique features of this large island.

You can also do camping with your family and friends on the beautiful Cockatoo Island and enjoy scenic views, picnic hotspots, and take your camping experience to the next level. Make sure you bring your tent to a specific spot and enjoy a campfire the entire night.

Taronga Zoo

Taronga Zoo is situated in Sydney's Mosman neighbourhood. It gives the tourists a very close-up view of the country's native animals and creatures, as well as the ones that are from different parts of the world.

One of the primary highlights of this place is its roar-and-snore experience. It permits tourists to stay overnight to watch nocturnal fauna and the Nura Diya tour, which has guides who share tales about Aboriginal life.

The Rocks

The Rocks is known as Sydney's oldest neighbourhood. It is located between the northern edge of Sydney's Central Business District and the Harbour Bridge. The place is titled after its rocky shore. It was the place at which Australia's convict history began.

Nowadays, the redeveloped neighbourhood is a famous tourist destination filled with chic boutiques, art galleries, souvenir shops, and trendy restaurants.

Darling Harbour

The Darling Harbour was once home to the city's industrial wharves and docks.

However, it was redeveloped during the 1980s with tourism and culture in mind. Located adjacent to the Central Business District, Darling Harbour is now home to a few of the renowned tourist attractions in Sydney. This includes the Sydney Aquarium, the Aboriginal Centre, the Australian National Maritime Museum, and an IMAX theatre that has the world's largest screen.

Sydney Tower

The Sydney Tower is Sydney's tallest structure. It stands tall at 1,073 feet above sea level, providing 360-degree views of the compact metropolis, surrounding countryside, and harbour. Donald Crone designed the building, and it opened to the public in 1981. The Sydney Tower is definitely one of the best places to visit.

It is one of the safest buildings in the globe that lets you enjoy aerial views of the capital of NSW from the deck. The best part is that it is open 7 days a week, meaning you can plan your visit whenever you wish to, and explore the city's breathtaking views from the top.

Bondi Beach

Bondi Beach is a sweep of golden sand which is about a mile long. It is lined with homes with red-tile roofs. There are also apartments and green spaces. It is situated about 4 miles (7 km) from the city's Central Business District (CBD). Bondi Beach draws the attention of surfers, swimmers, bodybuilders, and sunbathers. The south end of the beach is typically reserved for surfers due to the rough waves.

Manly Beach

After the renowned Bondi Beach, Manly Beach is definitely Sydney's most popular stretch of land. This place hosted the world's first surfing competition in 1964. Besides surfing, tourists can also lounge on golden sands, walk along its picturesque boardwalk or take delight in swimming in the sea.

Royal Botanic Garden

The Royal Botanic Garden was founded in 1816 and is situated between The Domain public green space and the Sydney Opera House. This urban park has more than 7,500 plant species and some of them are native to Australia. The most incredible collections include the Tropical Centre. The entrance to the park is free.

Bond Cleaning Sydney: Your Reliable Cleaning Partner

Once you complete your trip to these great places, the last thing you will want is to make your way to a dirty residence. This is why keeping your home clean is paramount. Hiring professionals for a budget end of lease cleaning Sydney will be the best option.

Undoubtedly, Sydney is one of the best cities to visit. It has plenty of exceptional places that you can explore. Visit the places mentioned in this article and create memorable experiences.

6. Sydney's Op Shops And Thrift Stores



From carefully curated boutiques to stores jam-packed with affordable finds, discover unique pieces for a fraction of the price at Sydney's best, most carefully curated op shops, thrift stores and vintage emporiums.

C's Flashback

Vibrant inner-city suburb Surry Hills may be known for its pubs, cafes and restaurants, but it's also a vintage fiend's dream spot. C's Flashback is a chock-a-block haunt where retro t-shirts reign (many of them sourced from Sydney). Alongside the tees, hunt through the racks for old-school printed Mambo gear, '90s leather jackets, sportswear and denim.

While you're there, almost exactly across the road is UTURN, another vintage shop selling similar stock, with a slightly more name-brand tilt. (Note: there are UTURN outlets in Rozelle, Bondi Beach, Bondi Junction, Newtown and Punchbowl).

Storeroom Vintage, also on Crown Street, is a good place to sift through for similar items: rare and vintage printed tees, sportswear, cargos and mini bags.

Di Nuovo

William Street in Paddington is known as a boutique shopping haunt, but it's also a great spot to find luxe vintage. For high-end global designs, don't miss Di Nuovo. This well-established second-hand

retailer stocks items such as preloved Loewe handbags, Chanel boots, Dior heels, Gucci loafers and The Row dresses, alongside many other beautifully constructed pieces.

Right next door is long-time consignment store Pelle Shoes, a purveyor of preloved designer shoes, bags and accessories. With new stock every week, look out for well-priced items by Manolo Blahnik, Jimmy Choo, Christian Louboutin, Miu Miu and Prada.

Irreplaceable Store

If it's worthy of Zendaya's time, it's worthy of all of ours. Irreplaceable Store, visited by the world-famous actress while in Sydney promoting her film *Challengers*, is a vintage store in Newtown selling premium vintage, authentic sneakers and collectables. Among the racks find vintage band, sport and icon tees; old-school workwear; vintage caps; cassettes; vintage denim; and lots more.

Real King Vintage is also a few stores down. It's one of the suburb's original second-hand stores and has been dressing local uni students for years.

Mitchell Road Antiques

Everything from huge four-seater lounges to tiny crystal glasses are part of the offering at the huge warehouse housing Mitchell Road Antiques in Alexandria. Peruse the endless aisles lined with Mid-Century furniture, vintage clothes, records, kitsch tableware, collectable toys and quirky lighting.

Reunion

Close to The Enmore, Reunion buys and sells pre-loved clothing by brands such as Balenciaga, Acne Studios, Ganni, Prada, Loewe and Diesel. Don't expect to see any fast fashion on these racks – the store has strict rules around what punters are able to sell (and donate) or not.

Right nearby is Route 66, a good option for those with a penchant for classic vintage Sydney clothing – think cowboy boots, western shirts, bolo ties and trucker caps.

Savers

Bargain lovers will love Savers – it's a thrift superstore with a commitment to reusing and recycling. This 1,600sqm store in Prestons in Western Sydney houses tens of thousands of items, with thousands of new items stocked daily. The US chain store, the first of its kind in Sydney, is known for its affordability (as vintage and op-shopping has become more popular, prices have inflated), with most items costing less than \$10. Look out for clothing, shoes, homewares and books.

Other affordable options include op shop chains Salvos Stores, Vinnies, Australian Red Cross Shop, Lifeline Shop and Noffs Op Shop, which can be found all over Sydney.

SWOP Sydney

SWOP Sydney in Darlinghurst works in a similar way to Reunion – the team buys and sells pre-loved designer items, and sellers can receive a voucher for in-store shopping or claim a cash payout. Shop here and you won't be surprised to find cult labels including Gimagwas, Vivienne Westwood, Issey Miyake, Jean Paul Gaultier, JW Anderson and Suicoke.

The Real Deal

Newtown has two of the quirkiest shopping strips in Sydney and they're a thrifter's paradise; King Street's The Real Deal is a sneaker haven. Find some of the best in vintage clothing, modern streetwear

and limited sneakers in Sydney, with vintage tees, sweatshirts and jackets, lined up beside limited Nike Jordans and Adidas Sambas.



While you're there, duck across the road to Newtown Vintage 313 – you can't miss the giant shoe wall and the colour-coded racks.

The Wilde Merchant

If your aesthetic is vintage military, Japanese denim and bomber jackets, look no further than The Wilde Merchant – the shop with an iconic banana sign on south King Street. Consult the knowledgeable shop assistants as you browse racks lined with military gear, vintage sweatshirts, extensive outerwear and rare t-shirts.

An easy six-minute walk down the road is KOT-J. Find items by designers in the zeitgeist such as Jacquemus, Maison Margiela, Bottega Veneta, Junya Watanabe and Dries Van Noten.

Wayside Chapel Op-Shop

Potts Point is a dynamic slice of inner-city Sydney with Parisian-esque streets and eclectic inhabitants. Wayside Chapel's op-shop loot reflects this – it's a best-kept secret (there's also an outpost in Bondi) stocking a diverse mix of designer, vintage and high-street store items. Set on Hughes Street (off Macleay Street), the community op shop stocks everything from Valentino flats to oodles of denim, Prada shirts, jackets, knits and more. All store profits go back into Wayside's programs and services helping vulnerable members of the community.

Potts Point Vintage is also on Hughes Street and is well-worth checking out for a curated range of vintage women's suits, leather flight jackets and military garb.

Zoo Vintage Emporium

Also in Surry Hills, on vintage haven Crown Street, is Zoo Emporium – packed to the rafters with vintage dresses and accessories throughout the eras, from 1960s sequined dresses to '80s suits and '70s tartan kilts. Take your time thumbing through the vintage fascinators, hats and sunglasses, too.

Various markets

Sydney hosts an array of vintage markets both weekly and annually. One of the most popular for bric-a-brac, antiques and second-hand clothing is Rozelle Collectors Market, held on the grounds of Rozelle Public School every Saturday.

The Glebe Markets are also held every Saturday and have lots of pre-loved records, clothing, jewellery and furniture alongside handmade local artisan collectables and delicious food trucks.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, Sydney delights with its blend of natural beauty, iconic landmarks, and vibrant culture. Whether you're exploring its stunning beaches, enjoying world-class dining, or delving into its rich history, Sydney offers a dynamic and unforgettable experience for every visitor.

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