MESSAGE FROM THE NSW MINISTER FOR TOURISM

With its near-perfect climate, world famous buildings, stunning harbour and friendly people, there’s no place in the world like Sydney.

Sydney offers endless possibilities and experiences for every visitor, from captivating cultural performances to celebrations of fashion, food and wine. Its abundance of natural assets includes spectacular beaches, national parks and easily accessible wildlife sanctuaries.

Sydney is just the start. Explore regional New South Wales and discover its beautiful alpine region, pristine coast and World Heritage national parks. Visit historic towns, sample world class wines and marvel at the red sands of the Outback.

This guide is so packed with information and great ideas for an unforgettable stay in our exciting State that visitors to Sydney and New South Wales will be eager to come back for more.

The Hon Matt Brown MP
Minister for Tourism

Photographs
front cover: Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge (Steve Back Photography @ Gekko Images)
above left to right: Lamrock Cafe, Bondi Beach (Wildlight); Sydney Harbour Bridge (Hamilton Lund)

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With its sublime setting, glamorous beaches and appetite for the fine things in life, Sydney is one of the world’s great destinations. Australia’s biggest and most cosmopolitan city is an essential stop in any traveller’s itinerary. It’s also a superb introduction to Australia and New South Wales, the country’s most diverse State.

New South Wales... there’s no place like it
Surrounding the city is a wonderland of national parks, forests, mountains, ancient river valleys and historic riverside towns. New South Wales has four World Heritage Areas and a booming tourism infrastructure while Sydney itself offers a dynamic, exciting mix of tours, attractions and events that allows visitors to discover this welcoming, free-spirited city.
Sydney at a glance

Australia’s biggest, oldest and most cosmopolitan and exciting city is surrounded by national parks and beaches.

Sydney doesn’t exactly hide its charms. ‘If you’ve got it, flaunt it’ could well be the harbour city’s motto.

Endowed with a sparkling harbour, dazzling beaches and a sunny, Mediterranean climate, its setting alone has guaranteed Sydney a place among the most glamorous cities on the planet.

Grafted onto those natural splendours is an impressive array of worldly treasures, including a rich blend of cultures, a relaxed, unbuttoned lifestyle and an appetite for life that makes this the most exhilarating city in the South Pacific.

Harbour and city

Sydney Harbour splits the city into north and south. Its 240 km (150 miles) of shoreline includes national parks, islands and some great beaches.

There are plenty of ways to explore the harbour – on ferries, yachts, cruise vessels, high-speed jet boats or sea kayaks. Visitors can dine by the harbour, go for a walk along its foreshores or even fly above it in a seaplane.

The Rocks and Circular Quay

In 1788, 11 convict ships of the British First Fleet dropped anchor on this small peninsula beneath the Harbour Bridge, beginning the history of modern Australia.

This compact precinct of sandstone warehouses and Victorian merchants’ houses has been transformed into a cosmopolitan gateway to the city, complete with art galleries, boutiques, cafés, a weekend market, some wonderful restaurants, great shopping and some of the best views on earth.

Darling Harbour

This horseshoe-shaped bay on the western side of the city is where Sydneysiders come to play. Attractions in the area include the Powerhouse Museum, the Sydney Aquarium, Star City Casino, the Chinese Gardens, the Australian National Maritime Museum and the waterside restaurant complexes at Cockle Bay Wharf and King Street Wharf – all arranged around a sparkling waterside park.

City centre

The city of Sydney stretches from the harbour and the Royal Botanic Gardens in the north to Chinatown and Central Station in the south. Within this compact boundary there is plenty to keep any visitor busy and entertained – great shopping, good cafés and restaurants, bars, gardens and parks. There are also many fine heritage buildings, museums, galleries and tourist attractions.

Inner city

Sydney’s inner city areas are lively precincts, full of activity and offering much to enjoy.

Paddington

Oxford Street, Paddington’s high street, is Sydney’s fashion artery, a 1-km boulevard of boutiques, cafés and homeware shops, surrounded by pretty Victorian terrace houses.

Paddington, about 2 km (1.5 miles) from the city, is at its best on Saturday morning, when Paddington Markets attracts the crowds to the upper end of Oxford Street.

Continue along Oxford Street to Centennial Park, the sprawling green playground of the eastern suburbs – 220 hectares of palm-lined avenues, fig-tree groves and paperbark-fringed lakes with a chic café and cycling and horseriding tracks.

Kings Cross

Sydney’s premier nightclub district is not for the fainthearted. More sedate by day and a riot of neon and noise by night, it’s a 15-minute walk east of the city.

Newtown

Located 3 km (2 miles) south-west of the city, Newtown is a bustling suburb crowded with cafés, restaurants and boutiques. It’s popular with students, alternative lifestyles and Sydney’s hip community.

Harbourside villages

The harbour has many delightful, accessible pockets to explore.

Double Bay

Only 3 km (2 miles) east of the city, Double Bay is synonymous with glamour. Its small but elegant shopping precinct stars famous designer names, and locals come here to buy gourmet food and fashion accessories, or to meet friends at one of the European-style pavement cafés.

SYDNEY AT A GLANCE

Sydneysiders have their own way of describing the different precincts that make up the city.

The inner north shore includes the harbourside suburbs north of the Harbour Bridge while the upper north shore comprises quiet, leafy suburbs further up the rail line.

In the eastern suburbs, between the city and the coast, is some of Sydney’s most expensive real estate.

The inner west stretches from the city to the Balmain peninsula, while the western suburbs extend towards the Blue Mountains.

The northern beaches include all the beaches along the coast from Manly to Palm Beach.

South of Sydney Airport are the southern suburbs that include Cronulla beach, Botany Bay and the Royal National Park.
Getting around Sydney

Public transport

Travelling around Sydney’s bus, ferry and train network is easy and economical, as the public transport system links most parts of Sydney.

Public transport information and timetables
www.131500.com.au

State Transit
www.mediumbuses.nsw.gov.au
Sydney buses and ferries
www.sydneysbuses.nsw.gov.au

Water Taxis
www.yellowwatertaxis.com.au

Monorail and metro light rail

Sydney’s monorail loops around the city, stopping in the city centre, Darling Harbour and Star City Casino. The light rail links Central Station with Haymarket (Sydney’s Chinatown), Darling Harbour, Star City, Sydney Fish Market, Glebe (shopping and markets) and Leichhardt (Sydney’s Little Italy).

Also known as ‘Sydney’s Living Museum’, Parramatta features many outstanding examples of colonial architecture. Visitors can travel to Parramatta by rail, road or up the Parramatta River by RiverCat ferry.

Sydney Olympic Park

The focus of the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games is now a waterfront urban parkland that hosts festivals and concerts, sporting grand finals and key annual events such as the Royal Easter Show.

Visitors can tour the park – with its stadiums, sporting facilities and parks – via cycleways and a walking trail. For details, see ‘Sydney tours’ on pages 12 and 13.

Travel passes

Sydney Pass

The Sydney Pass allows unlimited travel on any public bus or harbour ferry, the Airport Express Bus, the Sydney Explorer buses and the three sightseeing cruises operated by the State Transit Authority. It also includes return travel between Sydney Airport and the city, and provides discounted entry to a number of Sydney attractions. Three-, five- or seven-day Sydney Passes are available. www.sydneypass.info

Sydney Explorer and Bondi Explorer Buses

With a lively commentary, the Sydney Explorer Bus takes visitors on a 27-stop tour of the city. Visitors can hop on and off the bus as many times as they like.

The Bondi Explorer Bus travels from the city through the eastern suburbs and Bondi, stopping at 19 of Sydney’s most scenic harbourside locations and surf beaches. www.sydneypass.info/sydneyexplorer

Airport transfers

Airport rail link
A rail connection links the airport to the city and Sydney’s suburban rail network. A return rail pass is included in the Sydney Pass – see ‘Discount passes’ on page 11 or visit: www.sydneypass.info

Airport rail link www.airportlink.com.au

Hotel Bus

Mini-bus shuttle services provide transfers to the city, Circular Quay, Darling Harbour and Kings Cross. www.hotelbus.com.au

Sunbus (Sita Coaches)

Mini-coach airport transfers. www.sitacoaches.com.au

Australia in Style

Private hire vehicle, tourist and charter bus operator. www.australiainstyle.com.au

Sydney at a Glance

DID YOU KNOW?

Manly was named by Governor Phillip, the colony’s first governor, when he noted the ‘manly behaviour’ of the local Aboriginal people.

Parramatta was established to provide crops for the first settlement, as European food crops would not grow on the poor soil at Sydney Cove.

The Royal National Park is the second oldest national park in the world after Yellowstone.

Balmain

Located 8 km (5 miles) west of the city, this stylish village features historic sandstone buildings. It’s an area favoured by artists, actors and writers, and the Saturday morning churchyard market is renowned for its imaginative locally made arts and crafts.

Beachside

The beaches that lie along the coastline to the east and north of the city are some of the most accessible of any major international city. Each one has its own special flavour.

Bondi, Bronte and Coogee

Only 10 km (6 miles) from the city, fabulous Bondi is Australia’s most celebrated beach, where people-watching is as much fun as surfing and sunbathing.

The Promenade along the beach is a popular track for joggers and roller-bladers while Campbell Parade, behind the beach, is a relaxed grasing ground for Sydney’s café society. From the southern end of Bondi, the coastal walk to Bronte and Coogee winds past sea-sculpted sandstone boulders, secluded beaches and picnic spots.

A huge picnic area, coupled with the sea pool at the southern end of the beach, makes Bronte a family favourite. Visitors can dine at the smart but casual cafés that spill out across the pavement along Bronte Road.

At the southern end of Coogee Beach is Wylies Baths, a historic sea pool. Massages on the beach and early morning yoga classes are some of the highlights.

Manly and Palm Beach

A glorious 30-minute ferry ride from Circular Quay, Manly is one of Sydney’s finest beaches – a broad, golden sweep of sand backed by cosmopolitan cafés and restaurants and shaded by Norfolk Island pines.

Walk south to Shelley Beach, a small and perfectly formed crescent protected by the bulk of North Head, where visitors can dine in style and watch scuba-diving classes in the sheltered bay.

West of the city

Go west for historic Parramatta and Sydney Olympic Park, the space age complex that hosted the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

Parrramatta

Only 25 km (15 miles) west of the city is Australia’s second oldest European settlement, now a busy commercial and retail centre.

Also known as ‘Sydney’s Living Museum’, Parramatta features many outstanding examples of colonial architecture. Visitors can travel to Parramatta by rail, road or up the Parramatta River by RiverCat ferry.

Sydney Olympic Park

The focus of the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games is now a waterfront urban parkland that hosts festivals and concerts, sporting grand finals and key annual events such as the Royal Easter Show.

Visitors can tour the park – with its stadiums, sporting facilities and parks – via cycleways and a walking trail. For details, see ‘Sydney tours’ on pages 12 and 13.

National parks around Sydney

Sydney’s national parks, to the north and south of the city centre, boast serene waterways and golden beaches cradled between spectacular rocky headlands.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

About 24 km (15 miles) from the city, sandstone cliffs, eucalypt forests and rainforest in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park frame the shores of Pittwater and Broken Bay. Extravagant bird life and a legacy of rock art left by the Garigal Aboriginal people are just some of the attractions in the park.

Royal National Park

This natural paradise about 35 km (22 miles) from the city defines Sydney’s southern limits. There are sandstone galleries carved by the sea, a rainforest, secluded beaches and tiny streams that filter through wildflower heaths.

Outdoor activities

Photographs

above left to right:Watsons Bay (Hamilton Lund); Store beach, Sydney (Bruce Allan); Bondi Beach, Circular Quay ferry terminal (Hamilton Lund)
Sydney attractions

Sydney’s Opera House and Harbour Bridge should be on any visitor’s must-do list, but there’s so much more to discover in Sydney.

City highlights

- Sydney Opera House
  A walk around this architectural wonder reveals its extraordinary beauty. Visitors can relax at one of the restaurants and bars in the forecourt, join a tour and see a performance.
  For details, see ‘Tours with a difference’ on page 13. www.sydneyoperahouse.com

- Sydney Tower
  At the highest point above Sydney, visitors can enjoy magnificent 360-degree views from the observation deck. www.sydneytoweroztrek.com.au

- BridgeClimb, Sydney Harbour Bridge
  Climbing the upper arch gives a 360-degree view of Sydney. The Discovery Climb goes to the top via the inner arch. www.bridgeclimb.com

- Oztrek, Sydney Tower
  This virtual reality adventure presents both the diverse geographical beauty of Australia and its cultural history. www.oceaneartower.com.au

- Skywalk, Sydney Tower
  Walk 230 m above Sydney on a glass-floor viewing platform. www.skywalk.com.au

Animal encounters

- Featherdale Wildlife Park, Doonside
  Visitors can see koalas close up, learn about these extraordinary animals and watch one of four daily feeding shows. www.koalaparksanctuary.com.au

- Koala Park, Pennant Hills
  More than 6,000 Australian animals are presented in nine different habitats. This attraction is perfect for a half-day excursion.

- Sydney Wildlife World, Darling Harbour
  Visitors walk through underwater tunnels surrounded by specimens of Australia’s rich and diverse aquatic life. www.sydneyaquarium.com.au

- Taronga Zoo, Mosman
  Visitors can see a huge range of Australian and international animals, with Sydney Harbour as the perfect backdrop. www.zoo.nsw.gov.au

- Waratah Park Earth Sanctuary, Duffs Forest
  At the home of Skippy the bush kangaroo, see Australian native animals in their natural habitat. www.waratahpark.com.au

Farm experiences

- Belgenny Farm, Camden
  See Australia’s unique wildlife in a natural setting, only 45 minutes’ drive from the city centre. www.belgennyfarm.com.au

- Tobruk Merina Sheep Station, Maroota
  Stockmen on horseback round up sheep and the city skyline. There are also guided bicycle tours around the city that include an easy ride across the bridge.

- LG IMAX Theatre, Darling Harbour
  Visitors can view a range of crystal-clear films on one of the world’s biggest screens. For daily screening times, visit: www.imax.com.au

Fun and entertainment

- Luna Park, North Sydney
  Located beneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge, this venue for rides, restaurants and events has entertained Sydney for decades. www.lunaparksydney.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Sydney Tower was completed in 1981. At 305 m, it was then Australia’s tallest building.

The top of the arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge is 134 m above sea level. Due to changes in temperature, the arch rises and falls up to 180 mm.

Taronga Zoo opened in 1916. This 29-hectare park, home to more than 2,000 animals, is one of the world’s most modern zoos.

In March 2007, more than 200,000 people walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to celebrate its 75th birthday.

SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE

Famous for its starring roles in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the annual New Year’s Eve fireworks, the Sydney Harbour Bridge is at the heart of any Sydney visit.

The 75-year-old ‘coathanger’ is an international star and the thrill of walking across the bridge – there’s a pedestrian walk as well as several types of BridgeClimb tour – is matched only by the sublime views of Sydney Harbour and the city skyline. There are also guided bicycle tours around the city that include an easy ride across the bridge.

From nearby Circular Quay, a variety of cruises and sailing tours give visitors great views of the bridge. Sydney ferries glide past the bridge and the RiverCats that serve the inner harbour and Parramatta also pass directly beneath.

Visitors who want to get up close to the bridge can climb inside the south-east sandstone pylons, learn about the bridge’s history and admire the view from the lookout.

For more information visit: www.pylonlookout.com.au or www.bridgeclimb.com

DISCOUNT PASSES

- See Sydney and Beyond Card
  This card offers unlimited admission to more than 40 attractions, including museums, wildlife parks, historic sites, tours and cruises.
  Shopping discounts and special offers are included. One-, two-, three- and seven-day cards, along with optional transport passes, are available. www.seesydneycard.com

- Bonus Ticket
  This 3-in-1 pass provides entry to Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Tower and OzTrek. It also includes a ride on the monorail.
  www.sydneyaquarium.com.au

Photographs

above left to right: BridgeClimb (BridgeClimb Holdings), Luna Park, Sydney Aquarium (Sydney Aquarium), Skywalk, Sydney Tower (Skywalk)
From the conventional to the quirky, visitors can choose from a great range of tours that explore Sydney and its surrounds – by land, sea and air.

WHAT'S NEW
Dynamic and constantly changing, Sydney is a powerhouse of activity. There’s always something new on offer.

Bounce Tours

Discovery Climb
The new Discovery Climb takes visitors on a walking tour of the lower arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The 360-degree views and the excitement of upper arch tours, sunrise and night climbs are also available. www.bridgeclimb.com

Tribal Warrior
Aboriginal Cultural Cruise
This cultural cruise gives visitors an Aboriginal perspective on Sydney and its harbour. They’ll learn the Aboriginal names for various landmarks and be welcomed onto a harbour island with a traditional ceremony. www.tribalwarrior.org

CITY SIGHTS CIRCUIT TOURS
■ Bondi Explorer Bus
A hop-on and hop-off service covering 19 stops between the city and the eastern suburbs, including Bondi Beach and Watsons Bay. www.sydneypass.info/bondiexplorer

■ Sydney Explorer Bus
A hop-on and hop-off service with on-board commentary visiting 27 of Sydney’s most famous attractions. www.sydneypass.info/sydneyexplorer

BIKE TOURS
■ Bikescapé
Self-guided motorbike tour packages from Sydney to its surrounding regions. Customised itineraries are also available. www.bikescape.com.au

■ Blue Thunder Motorcycle Tours
See Sydney from the back of a Harley Davidson. Experienced driver/guides take visitors on either a highlights tour or a customised itinerary. www.bluethunder.com.au

■ Bonza Bike Tours
Escorted cycling tours of Sydney’s main attractions and precincts with all gear supplied. www.bonzabiketours.com

■ Easyrider Motorbike Tours
Harley Davidson tours around Sydney, ranging from a 15-minute rumble across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to multi-day touring adventures. www.easyrider.com.au

WALKING TOURS
■ Sydney Architecture Walks
Architect-guided walking tours interpret Sydney’s urban landscapes. www.sch.net.au

■ The Rocks Ghost Tours
A guided night tour through The Rocks – with haunted houses, folklore and secrets – gives visitors a glimpse of Sydney’s dark past. www.ghosttours.com.au

■ The Rocks Walking Tours

SPORT
Australians love their sport and Sydney is the home ground for many of the biggest and best sporting attractions and facilities. These tours take visitors to the pitches and pools of some of the city’s greatest moments in sport.

■ Aquatic Centre – Sydney Olympic Park
At one of the world’s fastest pools, visitors can learn the secrets behind its speed and then test the waters for themselves. www.sydneyaquaticcentre.com.au

■ ‘Explore’ (Sydney Olympic Park Explorer Tour)
Tour one of the world’s largest parklands and learn about the incredible scientific, engineering and ecological advancements used in its development. www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

■ Games Trail Walking Tour, Sydney Olympic Park
A tour that takes in the venues of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. A highlight is the Observation Deck – 17 storeys high, with views of the entire park. www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

■ Koala Golf Tours
Escorted golf days, stay-and-play tours and drive-and-golf holidays. Visitors hit some of the finest courses in Sydney and the Hunter Valley. www.koala18.com

■ Sydney Cricket Ground Tour Experience

■ Telstra Stadium Tour, Sydney Olympic Park
An interactive tour that follows in the footsteps of the heroes of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. www.telstrastadium.com.au

FOOD AND DRINK TOURS
Sydney takes its food seriously, and on these gastronomic tours visitors can eat and drink their way across the city.

■ Chocolate Espresso Walking Tour
Visitors tour the city, stopping to sample some of Sydney’s best coffee and handmade chocolates. There are three guided walking tours, themed around enjoying chocolates with soft centres, exotic chocolates and espresso. www.chocolateespresso.com.au

■ Sydney Fish Market Tour
A guided tour that gives visitors a behind-the-scenes look into the workings of one of the world’s largest fish markets. Highlights include the frenzy of the auction floor, tours of the lobster pens and the opportunity to enjoy the freshest seafood at harbourside restaurants. www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au

■ The Rocks Pub Tour
Visitors spend a late afternoon walking with a guide through the cobbledstone lanes of The Rocks and sampling some of Sydney’s favourite watering holes. www.therockspubtour.com

NATURE TOURS
These tours bring together some of the elements that make Sydney one of the world’s favourite destinations – World Heritage-listed wilderness areas with unique flora and a variety of wildlife.

■ Aussie Bush Discoveries
Packaged tours combining unique wildlife experiences with key attractions in Sydney and the Blue Mountains. www.aussiebushdiscoveries.com

■ Australian Botanic Garden Discovery Tour
Designed for groups, this tour includes a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens; Mount Annan Botanic Garden, about one hour’s drive south-west of Sydney; and the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden in the Blue Mountains. www.rbgyd.nsw.gov.au

■ Sydney Opera House Tours
A new backstage tour offers visitors an insider’s tour of the majestic Sydney Opera House, where they’ll learn what takes place behind the scenes before the curtain goes up. www.sydneyoperahouse.com

■ Tours by Diva
Sydney’s brightest sites with colour and comedy – a three-hour coach tour hosted by a professional drag queen. www.toursbydiva.com.au

TOURS WITH A DIFFERENCE
These tours take a trip on the quirky side.

■ Destiny Tours
Discover Sydney’s spooky side from the inside of a 1967 Cadillac hearse. The luxury car is said to be haunted. www.destinityours.com.au

■ Eastside Riding Academy
Horseriding for all levels in Centennial Park, just 10 minutes from the city. www.eastsidering.com.au

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■ Sydney Explorer Bus
A guided night tour through The Rocks – with haunted houses, folklore and secrets – gives visitors a glimpse of Sydney’s dark past. www.ghosttours.com.au

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BUS AND COACH TOURS
A range of full- and half-day tours is available.
- AAT Kings
  www.aatkings.com.au
- Australian Pacific Tours
  www.aptouring.com.au
- Grayline
  www.grayline.com.au
- Great Sights
  www.greatsights.com.au
- Sydney Day Tours
  www.sydneydaytours.com.au

CUSTOMISED TOURS
These tours offer customised itineraries and special interests, small group or private touring.
- A Sydney Day with Jane Strang
  See Sydney on a private day tour with local, Jane Strang, www.asydneyday.com.au
- Australia in Style
  Luxury tour for couples and small groups: luxury tours, dinner packages, sailing adventures.
  www.australianstyle.com.au
- Australian Eco Adventures
  Small group tours, 1- to 4-day eco adventures taking in Sydney and its surrounding regions.
  www.ozeco.com.au
- Australian Wild Escapes
  Half-day, full-day and multi-day tours to Sydney and its surrounds for the discerning visitor: www.australianwildescapes.com

PADDLE, SURF AND DIVE
- Let’s Trek Australia
  Small group tours from Sydney to NSW and other destinations.
  www.letstrekaustralia.com
- Mount ’N Beach Safaris
  Half-day, full-day or overnight guided tours to Sydney and its surrounding regions.
  www.mountnbeach.com.au
- Ultimately Sydney
  Quality half- and full-day small group tours of Sydney.
  www.ultimatelysydney.com.au
- Walkabout Tours
  Sydney tour itineraries for sophisticated travellers. Private tours for full and half-days are available.
  www.walkabouttours.com.au
- Waratah Adventure Tours
  German-speaking day tours and cruises of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.
  www.waratahadvventures.com.au
- Wendt on Tours
  Upmarket personal day tours to Sydney and its surrounding regions.
  www.wendtontours.com.au

SYDNEY ON THE WATER
- Blue Diamond Charters
  Visitors can enjoy a 62-foot luxury yacht on an exclusive private charter.
  www.bjc.com.au
- Captain Cook Cruises
  Cruising options for every budget, with 25 departures each day.
  www.captaincook.com.au
- Magistic Cruises
  Luxury catamarans with on-board dining. 14 cruises daily.
  www.magisticcruises.com.au
- Matilda Cruises
  A range of options, from yachting to sightseeing cruises.
  www.matilda.com.au
- Sea Sydney Cruises
  Cruising with the option to swim, fish, sunbake and relax. www.seasydneycruiser.com.au
- Sydney Showboat
  A three-course dinner cruise with cabaret show.
  www.sydneyshowboats.com.au
- Sydney Tours Motor Vessel AqA
  Impressive 92-foot yacht offering private cruising.
  www.selectholidays.com
- Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Cultural Cruise
  Aboriginal owned and operated cruise on Sydney Harbour that introduces Aboriginal culture.
  www.tribalwarior.org
- Sydney Harbour UNDER SAIL
  East Sail
  Morning, day and sunset sailing.
  www.eastsail.com.au
- Harbour Days Sailing Experience
  Full-day fully catered sailing on the harbour.
  www.harbourdays.com.au
- Sydney by Sail
  With daily sailing options, visitors can learn the fundamentals of sailing while taking in the harbour views.
  www.sydneydaysail.com

HIGH-SPEED JET-BOAT TOURS
- Harbour Jet
  www.harbourjet.com
- Jet Cruiser
  www.jetcruiser.com
- Ocean Extreme
  www.oceanextreme.com.au
- Ozjet Boating
  www.ozjetboating.com
- Sydney Jet
  www.sydneymagistic.com.au
- PADDLE, SURF AND DIVE
  Let’s Go Surfing
  Surf lessons on Sydney’s famous Bondi Beach, with all equipment provided.
  www.letsgosurfing.com.au
- Marly Surf School
  Basic classes for first-time surfers as well as technique classes for more experienced surfers.
  www.maryllysurf-school.com
- Pro Dive
  Learn-to-dive courses, boat dives or walk-in off the beach dives in Sydney and other New South Wales destinations.
  www.promarine.com.au
- Shark Dive Extreme
  At Oceanworld Manly, visitors can dive with grey nurse sharks, giant stingrays, sea turtles and other marine life.
  www.sharkdive.oceanworld.com.au
- Sydney Harbour Kayaks
  Half-day guided kayak tours. Three itineraries that explore Sydney Harbour are available.
  www.sydneyharbourkayaks.com.au

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES
15
The sound of waves crashing on the sand is one of Sydney’s great theme songs – and on the beach is the best place for visitors to experience the city sunny side up.

**Beach culture**

Sydney’s 350 km (217 miles) of coastline features a collection of bays and surf and harbour beaches that allow more people to live, work and play close to the sea than in any other city in the world.

The city’s glorious waterways also extend inland along the Parramatta and Hawkesbury rivers, where visitors can also enjoy Sydney’s afloat.

**Bondi to Coogee**

The most celebrated beach in the country, with its golden sands and great surf, Bondi is just 20 minutes east of the city centre. Winding south from Bondi, along a shoreline of sea-sculpted sandstone, is a string of shimmering beaches, some perfectly natural and others that come with a side order of stylish living – bars, restaurants and vibrant cafés. South from Bondi, visitors can join locals on the spectacular walk that connects each beach. Some of the highlights include Bronte, Tamarama – ‘Glamarama’ to the locals, where Sydney’s beautiful people come to bare it all – and Coogee, where a protected marine reserve adds an extra dimension to the classic Sydney surf scene.

**THINGS TO DO**

- Do the Bondi to Coogee via Bronte coastal walk. Along the way, admire the sparkling views, people-watch, take a dip in the sea or stop at a bar or café.
- Watch the swimmers or plunge into the pool at the Bondi Icebergs. This spectacular ocean pool is named in honour of local swimmers famous for their mid-winter dips, with ice added to the water for extra shivers.
- Indulge in some beachside shopping at Bondi, the place to shop for sassy streetwear, beachwear and funky fashion designs.
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- Check out Sculpture by the Sea. This free summer event, held every November on the Bondi Coastal Walk, is one of Australia’s largest sculpture exhibitions.

**DON’T MISS**

- **Let’s Go Surfing**
  Learn to surf on Sydney’s famous Bondi Beach. Visitors can learn all the cool moves and get into the Sydney surf scene. All equipment is provided. www.letsgosurfing.com.au

- **Pro Dive**
  Explore an underwater world and learn to dive. Dive courses, boat dives or walk-in dives off the beach. www.prodive.com.au

**Manly**

Manly Beach has all the essential ingredients for a great day at the beach. Getting there is just part of the appeal – it's a 30-minute ferry ride from Circular Quay (or 17 km/10 miles by road from the city centre).

A tranquil, inner-harbour beach sits on one side of the suburb while a 5-minute walk through The Corso – a lively shopping and dining strip – takes visitors to the broad sweeping surf beaches of Manly and Queenscliff. Manly also has a swell line-up of cafes, restaurants and bars that offer brilliant sea views and great food.

**THINGS TO DO**

- Take the coastal walk that arcs around the headland to Shelley Beach, a sheltered sandy cove with a lovely ocean pool.
- Brunch in one of Manly’s many ocean-side cafés and restaurants or enjoy sunset drinks and dinner harbourside. There are more than 40 places to eat and drink.
- Watch the action and admire the skills of surf lifesavers competing at weekend surf carnivals.
- Do the Manly to Spit Bridge walk, a classic half-day stroll along beaches, through parks and tangled forest, past cliffs and coastal heathlands.
- Browse in Manly Arts and Craft Market, a weekend treat selling candles, woodwork, leather, jewellery, ceramics, paintings and glassware.

**DON’T MISS**

- **Manly Surf School**
  Surf school on Manly Beach. School’s in for first-timers who want to learn basic surf skills, while advanced surfers can refine their techniques and maximise their skills. www.manlysurfschool.com

- **Oceanworld Manly**
  A fish-eye view of the underwater world. Watch the huge sharks, giant stingrays, turtles and shoals of fish being hand fed at Oceanworld Manly. www.oceanworld.com.au

- **Pro Dive**
  Dive the depths of Manly. Learn-to-dive courses, boat dives and walk-in beach dives. www.prodive.com.au

- **Shark Dive Extreme**
  Extreme shark diving. Dive with grey nurse sharks, giant stingrays, sea turtles, wobbegong sharks, moray eels and a vast array of marine life on Oceanworld Manly’s Shark Dive Extreme. www.sharkdive.oceanworld.com.au

**Beaches further afield**

Take a ferry or water taxi to Watsons Bay to experience one of Sydney’s most famous dining institutions – Doyles has been serving fish and chips on the beach since 1885. Balmoral Beach, on the north side of the harbour, has a netted enclosure and a long, shady and serene park, with alfresco cafés, a standout fish and chip shop and a couple of top-notch restaurants.

Palm Beach, the northernmost of Sydney’s beaches, is a favourite barefoot paradise for local and international celebrities. The pool at the southern end of the beach is suitably glamorous, with good cafés and restaurants. ‘Palmie’ has great surf and a stunning headland walk leading to a lighthouse. It’s also where the popular Australian TV soap Home and Away is filmed.

**OCEAN POOLS**

Sydney’s many stunning pools, dotted around the harbour and along the coast, make swimming a new and invigorating experience. Originally called bogy holes (swimming holes in Aboriginal languages), Sydney has 30 beachside pools and more than 40 harbour-side pools. They range from natural rock formations hidden away behind headlands or structures cut into the base of cliffs or built on rocks at the edge of beaches. Some date back to the early 1900s and are National Trust-listed.

Bronte, Bondi, Coogee, Cremorne, Manly and Palm Beach have ocean pools that are perfect for a scenic, salty splash, while Balmain has one of the finest harbourside pools.

**SUN AND SURF SAFETY**

At the beach, visitors should look for the red and yellow flags, which indicate lifesavers are on duty. The area between the flags is the safest place on the beach to swim. When outdoors, particularly when the sun is at its hottest between 11 am and 3 pm, visitors should cover up to avoid sunburn. Wearing a broad-brimmed hat and a long-sleeved shirt and applying a high-SPF, water-resistant sunscreen are advisable. Wearing a sunsafe swim shirt is also recommended.
Nature city

It’s rare for a world city to have such an abundance of outstanding natural assets – national parks, botanic gardens, pristine waterways and plenty of green space.

Sydney is completely surrounded by national parks – in fact, Sydney Harbour itself is a national park. The city is bordered by Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to the north and by the Royal National Park to the south, with the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park just 90 minutes’ drive west of the city.

Sydney also has a green heart that boasts magnificent views of the harbour – the Royal Botanic Gardens at Farm Cove, situated between the Sydney Opera House and Mrs Macquaries Chair.

Other green oases are Hyde Park in the centre of the city, the Chinese Gardens at Darling Harbour, Centennial Parklands in the east and Bicentennial Park near Sydney Olympic Park.

Sydney Harbour National Park

Snaking around the famous harbour, Sydney Harbour National Park includes secluded sandy beaches, some of the best walking trails in Sydney and lookouts at North and South Heads with panoramic views of the harbour, the ocean and the city skyline.

It’s not unusual to see whales or dolphins from a headland, colourful native birds and rare, flowering plants. There are historic buildings to visit, caves to discover and endless views of the spectacular harbour.

HARBOUR ISLANDS

Visiting Sydney’s historic harbour islands is one of the more unusual ways to appreciate the beauty of the harbour.

Fort Denison

Take a tour of Fort Denison. Originally used to confine the colony’s troublesome convicts, it was later utilised as a fort. www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Shark Island

Located off Rose Bay, Shark Island is a popular picnic spot with expansive views of Sydney Harbour and its foreshores. www.matilda.com.au

Parks and gardens

It’s not only Sydneysiders who can enjoy the green spaces, parklands and gardens sprinkled around the city.

Visitors can join a guided tour to learn about native flora and fauna or Aboriginal heritage, or enjoy a refreshing break in a traditional Chinese teahouse. There are also plenty of nature tours available.

For more information about these tours, see pages 13 and 14.

FAST FACTS

Sydney Harbour covers an area of 55 square kilometres and its foreshore stretches over 240 km.

There are five major national parks around Sydney and 8,000 square kilometres of natural parklands.

Five historic islands are part of Sydney Harbour National Park – Rodd, Shark, Coal, Clark and Fort Denison.

Sydney’s golden sandstone is a striking natural feature, with cliffs and headlands around the harbour making ideal lookouts and walking trails.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, overlooking the harbour, is a 30-hectare oasis of calm in the heart of the city.

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Visitors can learn more about the habitat of Australia’s unique plants and animals on a specialised guided tour. Tours departing from Sydney include the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains, the Outback and the Snowy Mountains. Small groups travel in comfortable 4WD vehicles with knowledgeable experts.

Aussie Bush Discoveries

Australian Wilderness Tours Group

Auswalk

Mount ‘N Beach Safaris

For more information about these tours, see pages 13 and 14.

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Art and culture

Vibrant, vivid, audacious and entertaining – Sydney has a lively appetite for culture and the arts, and offers the best of music, dance, theatre and the visual arts to dazzle and delight.

DID YOU KNOW?
Sydney’s first theatre was built by convicts in 1794. Located in The Rocks, the theatre was run by Robert Sidaway, a baker. The entrance fee was flour, which was used for making bread or spirits.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales, established in 1874, has some of Australia’s finest collections of Aboriginal, Australian, European and Asian art.

Each year, the Sydney Opera House stages 2,200 performances. Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Pavarotti and Billy Connolly have all performed in this iconic building.

Hollywood film-makers have been flocking to Sydney and the city has been the backdrop for blockbusters such as Mission: Impossible 2, The Matrix, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and Superman Returns.

Sydney is home to a number of Australia’s leading national arts organisations, such as Opera Australia and the celebrated Sydney Symphony. The city is also home of the acclaimed Sydney Dance Company and Bangarra Dance Theatre, Australia’s leading indigenous dance company.

Sydney has a powerful theatrical tradition that has produced many talented writers, directors and performers.

While contemporary Sydney theatre pays tribute to the giants of world theatre – from Brecht to Rogers and Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber – it is also driven by distinctly Australian themes and characterised by the famous Australian irreverence, which distinguishes it from the theatre that is seen in London and New York.

Performing arts

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

Australia’s finest period instrument orchestra brings together leading specialists in the performance of baroque and classical music to create wonderful music.

www.brandenburg.com.au

Australian Chamber Orchestra

This acclaimed orchestra performs masterworks of the classical repertoire as well as innovative cross-artform projects and unique works created by the orchestra’s vigorous commissioning program.

www.aco.com.au

Opera Australia

Opera illuminates and magnifies our world, and Opera Australia is one of the world’s premier companies. This total art form embraces music, singing and drama with all the glamour of magnificent sets and costumes.

www.opera-australia.org.au

Sydney Dance Company

Australia’s premier contemporary dance company is also one of the country’s most prolific and vibrant arts organisations.

www.sydneydancecompany.com

Sydney Symphony

Accompanied by some of the world’s most illustrious conductors and soloists, the internationally acclaimed Sydney Symphony performs more than 180 concerts a year.

www.sydneysymphony.com.au

Sydney Theatre Company

A major force in Australian drama, Sydney Theatre Company offers an eclectic program of Australian plays and the best of new international writing. The program is staged at three venues: The Wharf, on the harbour at Walsh Bay; Sydney Theatre on Hickson Road, Walsh Bay; and the Sydney Opera House.

www.sydneytheatre.com.au

The Australian Ballet

Staging about 200 performances annually, in Australia and overseas, the Australian Ballet presents a repertoire that both reflects tradition and dares to be different.

www.australianballet.com.au

Museums

Australian Museum

Since its official opening in 1973, the Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art (Jann Tuxford-Paterson) has produced many talented writers, directors and performers.

www.amonline.net.au

Historic Houses Trust and Ticket Through Time

Sydney’s convict history and the early days of European settlement have been preserved in some of Sydney’s finest colonial buildings. The Ticket Through Time allows visitors unlimited entry, for three months, to 11 Historic Houses Trust of NSW properties, including the Museum of Sydney.

www.ticketthroughtime.com.au

Museum of Sydney

www.museumofsydney.com.au

Powerhouse Museum

A brilliant showcase of interactive science and culture for the whole family.

www.phm.gov.au

The Australian National Maritime Museum

Boats, ships, submarines and spectacular displays bring Australia’s seafaring history to life.

www.anmm.gov.au

Showbiz International

Tickets for performances at all major venues can be booked through Showbiz International.

www.showbiz.com.au

The Sydney Observatory

Visitors can see the stars of the southern hemisphere, view the moon through a space telescope and see a 3D show.

www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

Art galleries

Sydney has a range of galleries, from major collections to small artists’ studios that can be found in and around The Rocks and inner city suburbs such as Balmain and Paddington.

Art Gallery of New South Wales

This art gallery holds significant collections of Australian, indigenous, European and Asian art and presents about 40 exhibitions annually.

www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au

Museum of Contemporary Art

The MCA is the only museum in Australia dedicated to exhibiting, interpreting and collecting contemporary art from across Australia and around the world.

www.mca.com.au

Art and Culture

The Rocks Discovery Centre

An interactive museum with artefacts and audio and visual elements that tell the story of Sydney’s birthplace.

www.rocksdiscoverymuseum.com.au

Brett Whiteley Gallery

The inner city workplace, home and exhibition space of brilliant Australian artist Brett Whiteley (1939–1992) presents changing exhibitions of the artist’s work.

www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Opera House

This soaring, dramatic architectural marvel is Sydney’s premier venue for all the performing arts and home to The Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company and Opera Australia. Its theatres host symphony concerts, dance performances, films and plays as well as opera.

The building also houses the celebrated Guillaume at Bennelong, one of Sydney’s finest restaurants.

Since its official opening in 1973, the Sydney Opera House has become one of the world’s busiest performing arts centres. More than 45 million people have enjoyed over 100,000 performances – an evening at the Opera House is a highlight of any visit to Sydney.

Guided one-hour tours of the Opera House depart at frequent intervals from the tour office on the lower forecourt level. Backstage tours provide an even closer look at the inner workings of the building, with access to areas normally reserved for performers and crew – even the dressing rooms used by the stars.

For more information, visit:

www.sydneyoperahouse.com.au

Photographs

above left to right: Sculptures outside the Art Gallery of New South Wales (Jenn Turton–Palermo); Exhibit at the Australian Museum (Bento Ortega/Australian Museum); Historic Elizabeth Bay House (Peter Solness/Wildlight); Tiles on the sails of the Sydney Opera House (Tone Smidsvik/Smidsvik)
Aboriginal heritage and art

Australia’s Aboriginal people introduce visitors to their ancient heritage and culture through art, artefacts, dance, music and nature.

Did you know?

Aboriginal people of three main language groups – Darug, Kuringai and Dharawal – lived in the Sydney area for at least 40,000 years before James Cook ‘discovered’ the east coast of Australia in 1770. Boomali are throwing sticks used by Aboriginals for hunting and they come in three main shapes – returning, non-returning and ceremonial. The returning type is unique to Australia.

Aboriginal rock art has been dated back to 60,000 years – the longest continuous chain of creative expression found anywhere in the world.

At several places around Sydney you can still find evidence of Aboriginal occupation, especially in the grooves in natural sandstone where they once sharpened their tools.

Australia’s Aboriginal people are custodians of the world’s oldest living culture – stretching over 60,000 years – and in Sydney visitors have many opportunities to experience that culture through tours, performances and art galleries. Using their knowledge of the landscape and its plants and animals, as well as their intense spiritual connection with the land, Aboriginal Australians are now offering visitors a range of unique experiences. In Sydney, these include Aboriginal guided cruises on Sydney Harbour, bush tucker tours, performances by acclaimed dance companies and specialist galleries dedicated to Aboriginal art.

Further afield, the State of New South Wales offers sensational opportunities for exploring Aboriginal culture in World Heritage-listed national parks – a unique experience for the mind, body and soul.

Cultural centres, tours, cruises

Aboriginal Heritage Tour, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

This walking tour, in the company of an Aboriginal guide, highlights the rich heritage of the Cadigal people. Visitors can taste bush food and learn about the traditional uses of plants. The tour finishes at Carri Jam Ora, a display garden that illustrates the very different plants that were used by the local Cadigal people and the first settlers. www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Gavala Aboriginal Art Centre

Fully Aboriginal owned and operated in Darling Harbour, this fine art gallery and retail centre showcases authentic paintings and artefacts. The gallery can arrange art history, didgeridoo and artefact presentations, and cultural and dance performances for group bookings. www.gavala.com.au

Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Set in bushland on Sydney’s western fringes at Penrith, this cultural museum and gallery presents the story of the Darug people, the traditional owners of the area. Visitors can take a nature walk and learn about the native plants traditionally used by Aboriginal people for medicine and food. www.murumittigar.com.au

Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Cultural Cruise

Aboriginal owned and operated, this cruise interprets Sydney through indigenous eyes, providing Aboriginal names for significant harbour landmarks. The tour includes a visit to a Sydney Harbour island with a traditional welcoming ceremony. www.tribalwarrior.org

Aboriginal dance and music

Bangarra Dance Theatre

This exciting and innovative professional company of Aboriginal dancers stages productions that explore contemporary Aboriginal social themes. www.bangarra.com.au

Descendance

Aboriginal culture and history are presented in an educational format that combines traditional and contemporary dance and music. www.descendance.com.au

Where to buy Aboriginal art

Aboriginal art is widely available in Sydney’s souvenir shops, but visitors should check that the original work was created by an Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander, that it was ethically sourced and purchased from Aboriginal communities or produced or manufactured under a licensing arrangement. A trademark triangular tick which appears in the colours of the Aboriginal flag (red, black and ochre) is a guarantee of authenticity. Alternatively, shop at the following galleries and stores, all owned and operated by indigenous Australians.

Boomali

Located in Leichhardt in Sydney’s inner west, Boomali Aboriginal Artist Co-operative showcases contemporary art produced by more than 40 Aboriginal artists.

Gavala Aboriginal Art Centre

Sydney’s premier retail outlet and fine art gallery for Aboriginal artworks is in Darling Harbour. A wide range of Aboriginal art and artefacts is available, along with art talks and music. www.gavala.com.au

Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Penrith

Located an hour west of Sydney’s city centre, this retail art gallery and cultural centre showcases authentic Aboriginal-made arts sourced from communities throughout the State. Unique artworks, contemporary ceramics, clothing and jewellery, didgeridoos, boomerangs and a range of handcrafted artefacts are available. www.murumittigar.com.au

World Vision Birring Gallery

In Potts Point, just east of the city, Birring Gallery showcases works from Aboriginal communities throughout the country.
Shopping

With boutiques, department stores, factory outlets and markets, Sydney is famous for giving label lovers and bargain hunters a fabulous fix.

City centre
Sydney’s stylish department stores, sleek shopping centres, specialty boutiques and historic arcades are all within a few blocks of each other. Some of Sydney’s best shopping is clustered around Pitt, George, Elizabeth, Castlereagh, King and Market streets.

Where to shop
Visitors can find food, fashion, art, jewellery, antiques, unique gift stores, books, beauty, day spas, designer brands and more at arcades, department stores and shopping centres. The historic Strand Arcade and Queen Victoria Building (QVB) are great places to start. Nearby are the Imperial Arcade, Galleries Victoria, Sky Garden, Mid City Centre, Westfield Centrepoint, Glass House and World Square Shopping Centre. Department stores – David Jones and Myer – have everything from funky fashion to gourmet food and homewares.

High street shopping
Ultra chic international brand boutiques, fashion houses and accessory designer stores can be found along King, Elizabeth and Castlereagh streets and around Martin Place. To market
Sydney’s climate and love of all things casual make it a great marketplace.

Neighbourhood shopping
Within a few kilometres of the CBD, visitors can find inner city suburbs crammed with boutiques, shopping centres and markets.

Darling Harbour
This inner city harbour and reclaimed wharf precinct has large shopping complexes within Harbourside and Cockle Bay Wharf. Along with food, fashion and homewares, there are specialty stores retailing Australian products. This is where one of the city’s finest Aboriginal art galleries – Gavila – is located.

The Rocks and Circular Quay
In The Rocks visitors can shop for jewellery, opals, homewares and arts combined with a dash of history. This is also the heart of Sydney’s duty-free area. DFS Galleria, a cluster of international luxury designer brand stores, can be found on George Street.

Neighbourhood shopping
In the Rocks Markets, in George Street under the Sydney Harbour Bridge, flow into The Rocks and Paddington are key areas for stores and galleries.

BEST BUYS
FOODSTUFFS AND FRESH MARKET PRODUCE
Visitors can sample fresh food at neighbourhood growers’ markets or Paddy’s Markets in the city.

CLASSIC AUSTRALIAN FASHION
R.M. Williams (airport and city stores) stock molekines, jeans, bushmen hats and boots.

PEARS, GEMSTONES AND OPALS
The Rocks, Darling Harbour, The Strand, QVB and inner city shopping centres are the places to look for sparkling souvenirs.

UNIQUE AUSTRALIAN ART, GLASS AND CERAMICS
The Rocks and Paddington are key areas for stores and galleries.

To market
Don’t miss ■ Art of Opal, George Street, The Rocks A collection of fine Australian jewellery featuring opals, diamonds and pearls. www.artofopal.com ■ National Opal Collection, Pitt Street, City One of the largest collections of Australian opals, including two of the most valuable opals in the world – the Olympic Australis and the Aurora Australis – can be found here. www.nationalopal.com ■ Altman & Cherry, Pitt Street, City One of the largest collections of Australian opals, including two of the most valuable opals in the world – the Olympic Australis and the Aurora Australis – can be found here. www.altmanncherny.com.au ■ Art of Opal, George Street, The Rocks A collection of fine Australian jewellery featuring opals, diamonds and pearls. www.artofopal.com ■ National Opal Collection, Pitt Street, City High quality Australian opal jewellery and displays that include real opals in natural formation within the walls. Visitors can also see a world-class display of opalised fossils of animals and plants created in partnership with the Australian Museum. www.nationalopal.com

To market
For more information about where to shop in the city, visit: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

For surf and beach fashions, visitors should head to Bondi. Hot beachwear labels include Zimmermann, Jets, Seafolly, Tigerlily and Mambo. At Bondi Junction, the new Westfield has become the city’s benchmark for all-in-one shopping centres.

Double Bay
This is the area for glossy boutiques specialising in ultra-chic European labels and beautiful clothes and accessories. Double Bay also has a vibrant café culture.

Newtown – King Street
Newtown/Enmore is the place to go for retro furniture, funky homewares, up-and-coming designers, wholefoods and food – the area has more than 120 restaurants.

To market
Sydney’s historic centre and are filled with arts, collectibles, food and entertainment.

Paddy’s Markets in Chinatown, beneath Market Street near the Rocks Markets, in George Street under the Sydney Harbour Bridge, flow into Sydney’s historic centre and are filled with arts, collectibles, food and entertainment.

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For details, visit: www.customs.gov.au

To market
For a collection of famous international brand stores, visitors should head to the MLC Centre in Martin Place and Chifley Plaza on the corner of Phillip and Hunter streets.

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Dining and nightlife
Sydney’s cafés, restaurants and bars sit high on the hot list as must-do destinations for gourmet globetrotters.

SYDNEY SIGNATURE DINING
Sydney has a food scene that prides itself on presenting the finest ingredients in a way that highlights regional produce and fresh flavour. Some of Sydney’s chefs have gained recognition as the world’s finest and their names are now hallmarks of outstanding dining experiences.

Aria, East Circular Quay
Rockpool, The Rocks
Glass, Hilton Sydney, City
Tetsuya’s, City
Bathers’ Pavilion, Balmain Beach
Est, The Establishment, City
Guillaume at Bennelong, Sydney Opera House
Iceberg Dining Room and Bar, Bondi Beach

For more information on these and other restaurants, visit: www.bestrestaurants.com and www.rcnsw.asn.au

INTERNATIONAL DINING
Sydney’s cafés, restaurants and bars sit high on the hot list as must-do destinations for gourmet globetrotters. The high culture a fl aavour all its own. Sydney has more than 120 restaurants representing almost every culture around the globe, including African, Middle Eastern, Spanish, Mexican, Thai and Vietnamese.

Circular Quay
A collection of Sydney’s big name restaurants and shiny bars wrap around the Quay, from the Overseas Passenger Terminal round to Customs House, directly opposite the city’s transport hub, and along the eastern promenade leading to the Opera House.

Chinatown
Sydney’s inner city precinct sizzles with hot woks turning out signature noodle dishes, seafood specialties and flavourome foods virtually round the clock. Sydney’s chefs dine here after their restaurants have closed for the night, and it’s homey-looking small establishments like BBQ King on Couburn Street that serve the most popular Peking duck in town.

Popular dining
In and around the city, visitors can dine in popular tourist zones.

City Dining
Hard Rock Café Sydney, East Sydney
Located on Crown Street close to Kings Cross and the city, Hard Rock Sydney provides mouth-watering fare and an extensive music memorabilia collection. www.hardrock.com

I’m Angus, Darling Harbour
This steakhouse located at Cockle Bay Wharf has a reputation for serving premium quality steaks accompanied by fine Australian wines. www.nicks-seafood.com.au

Pubs
The Rocks
Balmain
The London, The Exchange
Paddington
The Light Brigade, The Centennial, The Paddington Inn
Manly
The Wharf Hotel, The Steyne

Lounge Bars
Opera Bar, Sydney Opera House
Lenin Bar, East Circular Quay
Bar Europa, Elizabeth Street
Arthouse, Pitt Street
Industrie, Pitt Street

Orbit, Level 47 Summit, Australia Square
The Loft, King Street Wharf
The Victoria Room, Darlinghurst
Waterbar, Woooloomooloo

Dance
Arq, Darlinghurst
Home nightclub, Darling Harbour
Ruby Rabbit, Darlinghurst
Yu, Potts Point

For information on the best places to eat and drink, visit: www.eatanddrink.com.au

Goings out
Pubs
The Rocks
Balmain
The London, The Exchange
Paddington
The Light Brigade, The Centennial, The Paddington Inn
Manly
The Wharf Hotel, The Steyne

Lounge Bars
Opera Bar, Sydney Opera House
Lenin Bar, East Circular Quay
Bar Europa, Elizabeth Street
Arthouse, Pitt Street
Industrie, Pitt Street

Orbit, Level 47 Summit, Australia Square
The Loft, King Street Wharf
The Victoria Room, Darlinghurst
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Sydney and NSW events 2008

For further information on events in Sydney and New South Wales, visit: www.seesydney.com

SYDNEY ARTS CALENDAR

Sydney has a lively arts calendar throughout the year with musicals, opera, ballet and theatre. For more information and bookings at all major venues in Sydney visit: www.showbiz.com.au

JANUARY

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival 1 February – 1 March

2008 World Laser Championships and Masters World Championships, Terrigal

Manly International Jazz Festival 31 January – 2 February

Australian Gay and Lesbian Merit Grass Parade 28 January

Mardi Gras Festival, Port Stephens Three-day festival coincides with the northern migration of whales along the North Coast.

FEBRUARY

Lightning Ridge Oyster Festival, Outback NSW Includes the Oyster & Gem Expo, with a huge range of opals, jewellery, beads and gems plus some of the world’s best black opals.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Merit Grass Parade

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Merit Grass Parade Plateau

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Merit Grass Parade at the Darling Harbour Marina

March

Kings Park Cherry Blossom Festival

Bluesfest

Australians Day 26 January

St Patricks Races, Broken Hill

One of the Outback’s premier social events, with an eight-race program and the chance to experience a taste of Outback life.

Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival, South Coast A weekend of cool music played in indoor and outdoor venues in this pretty seaside village.

Loveade Long Lunch, Hunter Valley Gourmet food and wine event set amidst Hunter Valley vineyards.

Ski season

New South Wales ski resorts officially open in early June.

APRIL

Ironman Triathlon Australia, Port Macquarie This international event attracts competitors from all over the world.

Sydney Festival

The most prestigious arts and cultural festival in Australia, with local and international talent

www.sydneyfestival.gov.au

April

Sydney Film Festival

From 5–26 January

Sydney Design 08 Australia’s premier design festival showcasing home-grown and international design talent.

www.sydneydesign.com.au

MAY

Rosemount Australian Fashion Week, Sydney The best emerging and established fashion designers from Australia and the Asia Pacific preview their new collections in Sydney.

www.4fy.com.au

June

Sydney Royal Easter Show 20 March – 2 April

The city comes to life with animal exhibits, competitions, a nightly rodeo, parade and fireworks. Australia’s largest public event showcasing the culture and heritage of Australian country life.

East Coast Blues and Roots Festival, Byron Bay Five days of great music in a heavenly location on the North Coast.

Football Federation Australia and Football Federation of Australia, Sydney

Soccer, Friendly International and FIFA World Cup Preliminary round qualifier matches; 2008 dates are still to be confirmed.

Football Federation Australia and Football Federation of Australia, Sydney

Soccer, Friendly International and FIFA World Cup Preliminary round qualifier matches; 2008 dates are still to be confirmed.

F.O.O.D., Orange

This week-long event celebrates the best of food and wine from the Orange district in central NSW.

www.orangefoodweek.com.au

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This week-long event celebrates the best of food and wine from the Orange district in central NSW.

www.orangefoodweek.com.au

Yulefest, Blue Mountains

June – August

It’s wintertime to celebrate Christmas with log fires, puddings, carols and santas. Visit bluemountains.com.au

Sydney Design 08

Australia’s premier design festival showcasing home-grown and international design talent.

www.sydneydesign.com.au

Sydney Film Festival

This two-week celebration showcases Sydney’s art house theatre venues, featuring cutting-edge feature films and the best of world cinema, documentaries, animations and short films.

www.sydneymarathon.org

Sun Herald City to Surf, Sydney Thousands of enthusiastic runners race through Sydney’s streets to the finish line at Bondi Beach.

www.city2surf.org

National Rugby League

Finals Series, Sydney Rugby League football is at its best during September when local teams battle it out to secure a place in the grand final.

www.nrl.com.au

Bowral Tulip Time, Southern Highlands With more than 100,000 tulip bulbs planted each year, this 18-day festival celebrates spring in the Southern Highlands.

www.tuliptime.net.au

Rugby League World Cup, Sydney New South Wales will kick off this tournament between 10 nations with a game between Australia and New Zealand on 25 October.

www.rugbyleaguerwc.com.au

Ede Whale Festival, South Coast Celebration of annual whale migration with whale-watching cruises and other events in this picturesque coastal town.

www.edenwhalefestival.com

August

Mardi Gras Parade 1 March

Thousands of musicians and dancers in spectacular costumes.

www.mardigras.org.au

Mardi Gras Parade 1 March

Thousands of musicians and dancers in spectacular costumes.

www.mardigras.org.au

Men’s Australian Open Golf Championship, Sydney

One of the most prestigious tournaments on the PGA Tour of Australasia’s calendar attracts a strong field.

www.golfaustralia.com.au

www.yearseve.com.au

New Year’s Eve, Sydney 31 December

Sydney’s biggest annual party takes place on and around Sydney Harbour and is famous for its spectacular fireworks displays.

www.sydneynewyearseve.com.au

December

Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 26 December

The official start of this gruelling ocean race is one of the most spectacular events on the harbour, with thousands of people lining the shores.

Blue Mountains

This area of spectacular blue-hazed beauty, only 90 minutes west of Sydney, has dramatic cliffs, deep rainforested valleys and quaint villages.

Why go there
Right in Sydney’s backyard, the vast 1,000-m sandstone plateau of the Blue Mountains is part of a spectacular World Heritage Area that covers more than one million hectares. Here visitors can enjoy clean, fresh mountain air and four distinct seasons, from winter snow to spring blossoms.

Staying in grand historic guesthouses, exploring heritage areas and experiencing a vibrant arts scene are all part of the Blue Mountains experience. In addition to bushwalking and strolling through delightful gardens, the area offers a variety of adventure activities, including rock-climbing and canyoning.

Visitors can choose from a range of sensory indulgences, from eating well in specialty gourmet shops and bakeries, fine cafés and restaurants to taking the opportunity to relax in a day spa.

Things to do
– Walk in the wilderness. Well marked walking trails cross-crop Blue Mountains National Park, passing streams and waterfalls, descending into cool gorges and snaking around sheer cliffs.
– Experience the splendour of the mountains on horseback, mountain bike or in a 4WD through rugged and picturesque terrain.
– Entice your palate with some of the Blue Mountain’s outstanding produce. Sample boutique wines and chocolate; enjoy rich, flavoursome coffee at one of the cafés in Leura or Katoomba, and savour ‘slow food’ at a number of outstanding restaurants.

Attractions

Everglades Historic House and Gardens
National Trust-listed 1930s gardens feature 5.06 hectares of European-style gardens within a spectacular native wilderness. www.evergladesgardens.info

Jenolan Caves
These majestic limestone caves have been a favourite with travellers for more than a century. www.jenolan.caves.org.au

Megalon Valley Heritage Centre
This is an iconic Australian experience that includes horse-riding, quad bikes, an animal farm and campfires in the beautiful Megalgon Valley. www.megalong.cc

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden
These gardens showcase native as well as exotic plants from cold-climate countries. www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Scenic World Blue Mountains
Take in the beauty of the Blue Mountains on the Scenic Railway (the world’s steepest railway), Scenic Cableway and Scenic Walkway. www.scenicworld.com.au

The Edge Cinema
This giant six-storey cinema screen in Katoomba shows a custom-made 70-mm film on the scenic grandeur of the Blue Mountains. www.edgecinema.com.au

Three Sisters Echo Point
A unique Australian shopping experience – visitors can sample wines, shop for opals and see World Heritage wildlife exhibits. www.threesistersblue-mountains.com.au

Tours

City Rail
A Blue Mountains Explorer Link ticket includes return train travel to Sydney and an all-day hop-on, hop-off Explorer Bus tour for one to three days. www.cityrail.com.au

Aboriginal Blue Mountains Walkabout Tours
Join Aboriginal Blue Mountains Walkabout Tours for guided tours that showcase the beauty of the mountains with an indigenous interpretation of their creation and spiritual meaning. www.blue-mountainswalkabout.com

Blue Mountains Cultural Tours
Packages include Sydney to the Blue Mountains, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and Mount Wilson, night tours and shuttle services from Sydney to the Blue Mountains. www.bmgst.com

Blue Mountains Explorer
Departing from Katoomba, the Blue Mountains Trolley Tours provide visitors with a hop-on, hop-off pass to 29 attractions. Jenolan Caves day tours from Katoomba are also available. www.trolleytours.com.au

Three Sisters Horseback Riding
Hourly or day horse-riding through the mountains and the nearby Megalgon Valley. www.australianbluehorserides.com.au

Dear Lightly Eco Tours
Bushwalking, nocturnal wildlife tours, astronomy and 4WD eco tours. www.dearlighly.com.au

Werriberri Trail Rides
Hourly or day horse-riding through the mountains and the nearby Megalgon Valley. www.werriberri.com.au

Accommodation

In the Blue Mountains there are sleek resorts, spa retreats, heritage-listed guesthouses, B&Bs, rustic cabins and eco lodges. The area also has quality budget motels and backpacker hotels. For details, see pages 51–52.
Hunter Valley

A tour of the Hunter Valley complements award-winning fine wine with fresh local produce, luxury accommodation and a sense of history.

Why go there
While a wine-tasting tour is an essential part of a visit to the Hunter Valley, the region has developed into a destination with universal appeal, with everything from hot-air balloon flights to winery tours in luxury limousines. Visitors will find warmth and charming service in historic country towns that hold many reminders of times when they were stagecoach stops on the road from Sydney. They will also experience some of the finest boutique accommodation and restaurants in the country.

Food and wine
The Hunter produces first-class produce as well as wines. Olives and washed rind cheeses are just some of the foods that are made in the Hunter. Visitors can book a tour of cooking and food appreciation courses, from gourmet cooking classes to coffee-making courses and wine appreciation seminars.

Indulgence
The Hunter Valley knows how to bring a dash of style to any occasion. Chauffeur-driven wine tours and horse-carriage picnics among vineyards are just two possible outings, and the region also has a fine range of luxury accommodation, including golf retreats, health spas and luxury lodges.

Heritage
Towns such as Maitland, Wollombi and Morpeth are endowed with historic buildings that date back to the earliest days of European settlement. Visitors can discover convict-built houses, roads and bridges, and even spend the night in colonial-era inns and guesthouses. Maitland in particular has a number of fine churches and heritage houses from the early 18th century. For another side of the area’s colonial past, tour the notorious Maitland Gaol.

Tours
- Balloon Aloft
  Hot-air ballooning over the valley is a magical experience. An award-winning company with 27 years experience. www.balloonaloft.com
- Belltrees Tours
  This guided tour of a grand manor includes lunch with wine, taking in the historic mansion, woolshed and chapel. www.belltrees.com
- Boutique Wine Tours
  Visitors will enjoy a combination of luxury, personalised service, value for money and fun. www.boutiquewinetours.com
- Cellar Door Pass NSW
  Wine experience package for two includes a smartcard, guide book, audio CD and up to six bottles of wine. www.cellardoorpass.com
- Fine Wine Tours
  Includes wine-tasting at several leading boutique wineries and learning how to match food with wine. www.finewinetours.net
- Red Carpet Custom Tours
  Personalised small group tours for the discerning visitor. Daily tours available. www.redcarpettours.com
- Rover Coaches
  Wine-tasting tours on specialised buses and coaches from Sydney, Newcastle, Maitland and Singleton. www.rovercoaches.com.au
- Wine Country Tours
  A maximum of eight guests travel in an air-conditioned luxurious mini-coach to the Hunter Valley. www.winecountrytours.com.au

Attractions
- Bimbadgen Estate, Pokolbin
  Vineyard views, open-plan winemaking facilities, Esca – an award-winning restaurant – and high-quality wines. www.bimbadgen.com.au
- Cypress Lakes Golf & Country Club, Pokolbin
  Visitors can enjoy a round of golf on one of Australia’s famous 18-hole championship golf courses. www.cypresslakes.com.au
- Hunter Valley Gardens, Pokolbin
  Twenty-five hectares feature 12 theme gardens, accommodation, a restaurant and a chapel. www.hvg.com.au
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Dining
- Chez Pek Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Peppers Guest House signature restaurant uses fresh local produce and sources fine wine from the region. www.peppers.com.au
- Elizabeth’s Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Fine regional cuisine is expertly matched with McWilliams wines in a relaxed setting. www.mirvachotels.com.au
- Esca Bimbadgen, Pokolbin
  Bimbadgen Wines’ winery restaurant offers magnificent vineyard views accompanied by great food and wine. www.bimbadgen.com.au
- Harrigan’s Irish Pub, Pokolbin
  With plenty of Irish charm, Harrigan’s is the perfect place to dine with family and friends. www.hvg.com.au/harrigans_pub.asp
- Infusion Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Award-winning modern Australian cuisine matched by the Hunter Valley’s famous wines. www.mirvachotels.com.au
- Lazarrini’s Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Italian cuisine complemented by great service and a variety of Italian and Australian wines. www.hvg.com.au/lazarrinis.asp
- Roberts Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Set in an early settler’s slab cottage, Roberts is an award-winning restaurant. www.robertsrestaurant.com
- San Martino Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Celebrate the pleasure of eating and drinking at San Martino. St Martin is the patron saint of winemakers. www.hunterresort.com
- Terroir Restaurant, Pokolbin
  Celebrate the pleasure of eating and drinking at San Martino. St Martin is the patron saint of winemakers. www.hunterresort.com
- Terroir Restaurant, Pokolbin

Accommodation
Choose from stylish boutique accommodation, motels, rustic cottages, vineyard resorts, BB&Is, cottages and guesthouses. For details, see page 52.

FAST FACTS
The Hunter Valley is located 150 km (93 miles) north of Sydney and is based around the village of Pokolbin, in the shadow of the Brokenback Range. Wine grapes were first planted here in the 1870s but development was relatively slow until 1970, when Australian winemaking first received worldwide recognition.

The Hunter consistently produces wines of remarkable finesse and longevity. Most of the region’s 120 wineries are open for cellar-door tastings and sales.

Photographs
above left to right: Chefs of Hunter Valley Wine Country; Superb dining, Roberts Restaurant, Pokolbin; (Jenron Smart); Spa sensation at Golden Door Health Retreat – Ellyse, Border Garden, Hunter Valley Gardens

[ SHORT TRIPS FROM SYDNEY ]
Hunter region

Surrounding the Hunter Valley on three sides, Lake Macquarie, the city of Newcastle and the sublime wilderness of the Barrington Tops offer visitors endless diversity.

Why go there

This is a multi-faceted region offering rich rewards for all – adventurers, historians and beachcombers alike.

A 90-minute drive from Sydney, Lake Macquarie is an aquatic playground, ideal for anyone who enjoys fishing, sailing or other water sports.

Stretching from the northern shores of the lake, Newcastle is an energetic city with a proud history as one of the State’s industrial powerhouses. It also has a lively arts and live music scene, as well as fabulous beaches.

A short distance further north, Barrington Tops is a world of gushing streams, waterfalls, forested forests and soaring cliffs, well known for its rugged bushwalking and camping as well as its unique plant and animal life.

Things to do

Each season brings its own rewards in the Hunter region.

In the warmer months, the beaches in this part of the world are hard to resist. Visitors can choose from gentle lakeside coves to Newcastle’s legendary surf beaches. This is also a great time to experience some of the cruises and other water sports available on Lake Macquarie.

Spring and autumn are perfect for exploring the cool-climate wonderland of Barrington Tops, while winter is the time to check out Newcastle’s lively arts scene.

Lake Macquarie

– Enjoy a lake cruise or hire your own boat and spend the day out on the lake.
– Spend the day at Blacksmiths, a popular family beach which is patrolled during the warmer months.
– Experience Caves Beach, which has a network of sea caves at its southern end, and great picnic and barbecue facilities.
– Head for Queen’s Wharf when the sun goes down and get set for a great night out by the water side.
– Take a dive into Merewether Baths, the largest ocean baths in the southern hemisphere.
– Walk the Bathers Way, a scenic 5-km (3-mile) coastal walk from Merewether Beach.

Barrington Tops

– Explore the diverse beauty of forests in four distinct regions.
– Watch for grey kangaroos, swamp wallabies and wombats in the national park.
– Experience the ultimate thrill of skydiving at the Gloucester aerodrome.
– Go whitewater canoeing on the rapids. There are four pristine rivers in the area.

Accommodation

The area has hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs, cabins, lodges, quality motels and backpacker hostels. For details, see page 52.

Port Stephens

Whether it’s diving, fishing, boating, snorkelling or sand-castle building, this huge bay has everything required for year-round aquatic action.

Why go there

Port Stephens is a natural playground. Just east of Nelson Bay, the tiny promontory of Fly Point is an aquatic reserve teeming with marine life that features sea caves, sponge gardens and shipwrecks. Another superb diving site is just off the coast at Broughton Island.

To the south of Nelson Bay, Stockton Beach has the country’s largest coastal sand dune system; – good fun on a dune buggy, quad bike, horse, camel or toboggan.

Things to do

– Take a dolphin-watch cruise or hop in a sea kayak and frolic with the dolphins.
– Take a tour of the Stockton sand dunes by quad bike or four-wheel drive.
– Hire a catamaran, surf-ski or canoe on the beach at Shoal Bay.
– Explore the beaches at Tomaree Head or spend the day at D turch Beach.
– Visit the koala colony on the picturesque Tilligerry Peninsula.
– Play a round of golf at one of the area’s 18-hole golf courses.

Accommodation

Visitors can stay in hotels, motels and apartments by the beach. For details, see page 52.
Central Coast

A favourite escape for Sydneysiders, the Central Coast is endowed with magnificent beaches, coastal resorts, lakes, waterways and national parks.

Why go there
Famous for its surf beaches, lakes and national parks, the Central Coast provides visitors with easy access to a broad range of typically Australian land- and seascape features, including surf beaches, waterways and bushland.

Visitors can hear the sound of a whip bird calling from a rainforest gully in a national park and experience some of the astonishing plant life of the Australian bush.

The tracks and trails in the national parks and State forests also provide great opportunities for bushwalking, four-wheel driving and mountain-biking.

Visitors can sample some of the Central Coast’s great range of water sports – from fishing and waterskiing to scenic cruises, sailing and sea-kayaking – while the towns and villages such as The Entrance and Terrigal dotted around the area offer a sophisticated choice of dining and accommodation.

Places to go
– The Entrance, the gateway to Tuggerah Lake, is famous for its pelicans.
– Terrigal is a popular surf beach with a sophisticated dining and café culture.
– Avoca Beach is a popular holiday resort with a bustling atmosphere and vibrant surf culture.
– Wyong, close to wooded valleys and lakes, boasts a fine coastal walk to the historic lighthouse at Norah Head.
– Gosford, the commercial hub of the Central Coast, is packed with many recreational facilities.
– Ettalong, a waterfront town with lagoons, waterways and many safe swimming beaches, is accessible via ferry from Palm Beach.
– Woy Woy is a waterside town close to majestic bushland and the idyllic beaches of Bouddi National Park.

Things to do
– Explore the Australian Rainforest Sanctuary, a habitat for almost 200 species of rainforest flora and over 726 native bird species.
– Take a hike through Brisbane Water National Park and see the Bulgandry Aboriginal engravings of male and female forms, kangaroos and marine life.
– Try your hand at deep-sea fishing with one of the local charter operators or simply sample fresh local seafood.

Tours
– Crab ‘N’ Oyster Cruise

Cruise on the Hawkesbury River and gain an insight into Australian oyster farming. Enjoy tastings of fresh Sydney rock oysters and mud crabs cooked on board.

www.crab-n-oystercruises.com.au

– Glenworth Valley Horse Riding

Go horse-riding within 1,200 hectares of green valleys and rainfall forests at Australia’s largest horse-riding centre. Lessons provided.

www.glenworth.com.au

– Mt Penang Gardens, Kariong

Guided tour of a unique contemporary garden that showcases Australia’s native plants in 12 interactive feature gardens.


– Norah Head Lighthouse Tour

Guided tour of this historic lighthouse with commentary about shipwrecks and the lives of lighthouse keepers. Enjoy breathtaking 360-degree views.

www.norahheadlighthouse.com.au

– Ocean Planet Kayaking

Kayaking tours in tranquil inland waterways with tuition and expert guidance. Open-water kayak tours are also available.

www.oceanplanet.com.au

– Australian Reptile Park, Somersby

Handle-free kangaroos, have your photograph taken with a koala, hold a snake, see crocodiles and other native Australian wildlife in the Australian bush.

www.reptilepark.com.au

– Cedar Park Lavender Farm, Yarramalong Road

Experience a working lavender farm: visit the lavender field and the lavender oil distillery, and purchase lavender-based products.

www.cctourism.com.au

– Dooralong Valley Resort

A hinterland resort offering canoeing, target golf, cycling, horse-riding and feeding at the animal farm. Accommodation also available.

www.dooralong.com

– Firescreek Fruit Wines, Holgate

Boutique winery producing fruit, flower and herb wines using traditional winemaking techniques. Wine tastings available.

www.firescreek.com.au

– Magenta Shores Golf

Ross Watson designed this 18-hole golf course set on style dunes and native rainforest for golfers of all levels.

www.mirvachotels.com.au

– Pelican Feeding at The Entrance

Daily pelican feeding with commentary about these birds, their habitats and origins. www.theeentrance.org

– Yarramalong Macadamia Nut Farm, Yarramalong Road

Learn macadamia nut processing from tree to table, sample macadamia nut delights and lunch at the Macadamia Nut Farm café.

www.cctourism.com.au

Dining
– Central Coast Leagues Club

Enjoy an ‘all you can eat’ buffet at the Peking Garden Chinese Restaurant. www.cclc.com.au

– Ettalong Beach Club

Visitors can enjoy an à la carte dinner, seafood platter or Asian banquet, followed by karaoke. Relax in the lounge, on the terrace or in the gaming area.

www.ettalongbeachclub.com.au

– Scallywags Family Feasts Buffet Restaurant

Offers Asian food, a carvery and seafood, plus regular live music and a gaming lounge in the club.

www.scallywags.com.au

– The Haven, Terrigal (Hamilton Lund); Pelican’s paradise, The Entrance (Hamilton Lund); Maitland Bay, Bouddi National Park Marine Extension (John Blackadder); Budgewoi Beach, Central Coast (Hamilton Lund)

Accommodation

Accommodation options include beachside resorts, motels, country lodges and B&Bs. For details, see pages 52–53.
Drive the North Coast

The journey north from Sydney along the Pacific Coast Touring Route is the best way to discover the seductive and glorious North Coast.

Why drive it
The 1,000-km (620-mile) route between Sydney and Brisbane travels through pastures, rainforests and sleepy villages past an almost continuous line of beaches.

Top stops
The larger towns and cities along the way are ideal bases for exploring and experiencing some of the local attractions, which include wineries, World Heritage rainforests, waterfalls, village markets and whale-watch cruises.

NEWCASTLE
Natural attractions
At Stockton Beach, north of Newcastle, is the country’s largest coastal dune system, a popular spot for commercial filming as well as sand-boarding, quad-biking and 4WD tours.

Things to do
– Take a beach stroll from the foot of Fort Scratchley to the lighthouse on Nobbys Head.
– Catch the harbour ferry to Stockton.
– Watch the surf action at Bar Beach.

PORT MACQUARIE
Natural attractions
The city has a five-star array of beaches, from Town Beach, at the very front of the city centre, to the 16-km (10-mile) golden swathe of North Beach. Several rivers are born on the hills of the Great Dividing Range to the west and leap down the rugged hillsides through eucalypt forests.

Things to do
– Ride a camel along Lighthouse Beach.
– Taste the wines at Cassegrain Winery.
– Experience the pioneers’ life and work, recreated at Timbertown.

COFFS HARBOUR
Natural attractions
Every evening between November and April, muttonbirds return to their burrows on Muttonbird Island. Dorrigo National Park is one of the loveliest of the east coast rainforests, and has easy strolls and more challenging bushwalks.

Things to do
– Take a drive through the Bellinger Valley, home to many alternative lifestyles.
– Take the Walk with the Birds through the forest canopy in Dorrigo National Park.
– Take in the action at the Pet Porpoise Pool.

BYRON/BALLINA
Natural attractions
In this region of outstanding beauty, it’s warm enough for winter swimmers. Behind the coast is a lush hinterland with subtropical rainforest and macadamia nut and coffee plantations.

Things to do
– Walk along the Cape Byron Walking Track and breakfast at one of the local beach cafés.
– Shop for leather and handmade crafts in Byron Bay.
– Check out the surf break at Lennox Head.

TWEED COAST
Natural attractions
Dominated by the Tweed Valley, the crater of an extinct volcano, the region is home to three national parks with a World Heritage listing.

Things to do
– Discover the region from an Aboriginal perspective at the Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre.
– See the amazing vistas from the Razorback Lookout across the Tweed River Valley.
– Explore Murwillumbah’s World Heritage Rainforest Centre.

Accommodation
Includes motels, luxury resorts, waterfront cottages, beach houses, guesthouses, B&Bs and campsites. For details, see page 54.

How to get there
Visitors can fly to airports in Newcastle, Taree, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Ballina or Coolangatta, collect a hire car and begin travelling. The railway line between Sydney and Brisbane runs parallel to the Pacific Coast Touring Route, with express services to major stations. See page 49 for more information.

■ Airport Transfers Byron Bay
Shuttle bus and limousine services to Byron Bay. www.airporttransfersbyronbay.com

■ Summerland Coaches
Airport transfers and charter services for groups in northern NSW and south-east Queensland. www.summerlandcoaches.com.au

■ Catch-a-Crab, Tweed Heads
Cruise that includes oysters, fishing and possible crab lunch. www.catchacrab.com.au

■ Kool Katz, Byron Bay
Learn to surf at Byron. Group or private lessons available. www.koolkatzsurf.com

■ Mountain Bike Tours, Northern Rivers
Guided mountain bike tours through World Heritage national parks in Byron Bay’s hinterland. Single to multi-day trips and longer adventures. www.mountainbiketours.com.au

■ New Tweed Coast Adventures, Kingscliff
Tailored kayaking adventures and surfing activities for the beginner or experienced adventurer. www.tweedcoastadventures.com.au

■ Surfaris
Surfing safari tours between Sydney and Byron Bay. www.surfaris.com.au

Natural attractions
At Stockton Beach, north of Newcastle, is the country’s largest coastal dune system, a popular spot for commercial filming as well as sand-boarding, quad-biking and 4WD tours.

Indicates wholesale product
Regional New South Wales

Drive the South Coast

South of Sydney is a green ribbon of river valleys, richly forested national parks and seaside villages, edged with golden beaches and bordered by endless blue sea.

Why go there

The Sydney to Melbourne Coastal Drive begins on Sydney’s southern outskirts with the spectacular Grand Pacific Drive, the prelude to a long and lingering route that takes in pretty seaside towns and historic villages. The route passes an almost continuous string of pristine beaches and bays. Marine parks and reserves and more than 30 national parks make this a paradise for outdoor adventurers.

Places to go

Grand Pacific Drive

Beginning at Sydney’s Royal National Park, this sensational touring route meanders through rainforests, seaside villages and a glorious strip of coast. The scenic climax of the Grand Pacific Drive is the 665-m Sea Cliff Bridge, an engineering marvel that swerves out from the cliffs. Other highlights include scenic lookouts, beaches, Minnamurra Rainforest and Wollongong, the State’s third largest city.

Wollongong, Kiama and Shellharbour

Wollongong, a lively city in a glorious natural setting, has a growing reputation as a city that appreciates fine food and wine. Kiama is a classic seaside holiday town that features a famous attraction – its ocean blowhole. Kiama Terrace, the row of weatherboard cottages along Collins Street, is the country’s oldest weatherboard terrace, now given new life as a handsome row of cafes, bookshops and arts and crafts shops.

In a stunning location with a number of dazzling beaches, Shellharbour is totally devoted to the sun, sea and sand. Bass Point, the long peninsula that curls to embrace the town to the south, is the region’s only marine aquatic reserve and one of the South Coast’s scuba-dive and snorkel hot spots.

Further afield

The Grand Pacific Drive ends just north of Nowra, from here, the Princes Highway continues the journey south along the coast, threading through a succession of villages, national parks, sunny seaside towns and lush forests. Alternatively, visitors can head for Sydney by turning inland through Kangaroo Valley and climbing the spectacular escarpment to the Southern Highlands.

Southern Highlands

Perched on the edge of the Great Dividing Range, barely one hour’s drive from Sydney, this superb natural wonderland has cool-climate gardens, wilderness walks, great golf courses, antique stores and country towns brimming with atmosphere. Among its many treasures is Bemmara, an outstanding example of a colonial town, with beautifully preserved coaching inns, an imposing sandstone courthouse and a gaol.

Booraw is the style centre of the Southern Highlands, well known for its antique shops, cool-climate gardens and Bradman Museum, a tribute to both cricket and its namesake.

Things to do

■ Walk along the 665-m Sea Cliff Bridge near Stanwell Park.
■ Snorkel in Bushrangers Bay, a Marine Aquatic Reserve at Bass Point, Shellharbour.
■ Explore Minnamurra Rainforest.
■ Marvel at the power of the Kiama Blowhole.
■ Play a round of golf on Narooma’s breathtaking clifftop course.
■ Visit Mogo Zoo’s rare and endangered animals.
■ Hear the intriguing story of Old Tom at the former whaling station at Eden.

Attractions

■ Australia’s Industry World
Visitors enjoy a unique view of the coal, fertilizer, grain, steel and transport industries around Port Kembla harbour.

www.aiw.org.au

■ Grand Pacific Drive
This 140-km drive south from Sydney follows the coastline through rainforests and seaside villages. The dramatic Sea Cliff Bridge is a highlight. www.grandpacificdrive.com.au

■ Sydney to Melbourne Coastal Drive
A 1,000-km journey takes you from Sydney to Melbourne past beaches, villages full of history and great gardens. A side trip to Canberra adds a colourful cultural dimension. www.sydney-melbourne.com.au

■ Bradman Museum, Bowral
Photos, historic footage and memorabilia recreate the life of Australia’s greatest cricketer, Sir Donald Bradman. www.bradman.com.au

■ Crooked River Wines
A stylish winery and café in Gerringong, between the mountains and the sea. www.crookedriverwines.com

■ Elise Pascoe International Cooking School
Cooking classes in picturesque Jamberoo Valley.

www.cookingschool.com.au

■ Five Islands Brewing Company
The largest micro-brewery in Australia is located near the beach in Wollongong. Ten local beers and various food options are available. www.fiveslandsbrewery.com

■ Jamberoo Action Park
This water theme park offers thrilling rides plus comfortable accommodation. www.jamberoo.net

■ Nan Tien Temple, Berkeley
The largest Buddhist temple in the southern hemisphere. Tours and weekend retreats available. www.nantien.org.au

■ Shellharbour Links Golf Course
Everyone is welcome to play a round of golf on this links-style championship course. www.shellharbournlks.com.au

■ Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh
See Australia’s native wildlife, including koalas, dingoes, crocodiles and kangaroos. www.symbiozoo.com.au

■ Bradman Museum, Bowral
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FAST FACTS

The region stretches from Sydney’s Royal National Park to Eden, near the Victorian border.

The South Coast is home to some of the country’s most magnificent beaches – Hyams Beach in Jervis Bay has some of the whitest sand in the world.

Its many national parks ring with the sights and sounds of wild Australia.

A succession of picture-perfect villages nestle in green valleys. There is excellent fishing in estuaries, rivers and the ocean.

Photographs

above left to right: Tour the Grand Pacific Drive (Illawarra Tourism). The Ella Traput Cafe at Tilba (Mike Howden). Mollymook Beach, Shoalhaven (Hamiltone Land); Merrimba pub, Sapphire Coast

Tours

■ Cellar Door Pass NSW
Wine experience package for two in the Shoalhaven includes a smartcard, guide book, audio CD and up to six bottles of wine. www.cellardoorpass.com.au

■ Dolphin Watch Cruises, Jervis Bay

■ Hangglide Oz and Sydney Hang Gliding Centre
Feel the exhilaration of a tandem hang-glide from Bald Hill, Stanwell Park. www.hangglideoz.com.au

■ Just Cruisin’ Motorcycle Tours, Wollongong
Cruise the Illawarra and surrounds on a chauffeured Harley Davidson Tours. Trips from 20 minutes to full-day tours. www.justcruisintours.com.au

■ NSW Air, near Wollongong
Scenic flights over the picturesque coastline of the Illawarra. www.nswair.com.au

■ Skydive the Beach, Wollongong
The only place in NSW where you can skydive onto a beach. Pick-ups from Sydney available. www.skydivethebeach.com

Accommodation

Choose from hotels and motels, guesthouses, villas and cosy B&Bs. For details, see page S3.
Outback NSW

Its extraordinary flora and fauna, scenic grandeur, rich Aboriginal culture and remarkable people make Outback NSW a unique part of the State.

Why go there
Spread across the western third of the State, the Outback is a vast, raw, brooding landscape etched with ancient rivers and sculpted by the elements, a place where the pioneering spirit still runs strong. This region has a long connection with the mining industry, whether it’s the giant nickel and lead mines of Broken Hill or the tiny, one-man opal shafts at White Cliffs.

Many of the region’s natural treasures can be explored in its national parks. Visitors can also experience these landscapes through the eyes of the local Aboriginal people. Wildlife abounds in the Outback and includes many colourful bird species, reptiles and red kangaroos, the kings of the bush. It’s no surprise that the photogenic qualities of the region have made it a favourite with visitors and film- and commercial-makers in search of authentic Outback scenery.

Places to go
Broken Hill
The unofficial capital of Outback NSW, Broken Hill is known for its isolation, rich mineral deposits, desert landscapes and vast, dramatic skies. These surroundings have inspired some of Australia’s most famous artists and the town now has more than 23 art galleries.

Silverton
Just a short drive from Broken Hill, Silverton boomed when silver was discovered there in the 1880s, and quickly became a ghost town when the boom ended. Today Silverton has a tiny population, but its cinematic landscape has made it popular with film-makers and earned it the title ‘Hollywood of the Outback’.

White Cliffs
Australia’s oldest commercial opal field, White Cliffs established Australia as the leading producer of this fiery stone. To escape the fierce summer temperatures, the locals went underground, where most of the town now lies.

National parks
Although the Outback might look timeless and intractable, this is a fragile environment, and the national parks of the region preserve the natural and cultural values of this special place. Visitors can discover the fascinating flora and fauna that have adapted to this harsh environment, and walk in the footsteps of some of the planet’s earliest human inhabitants.

Things to do
Art in the Outback
The Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery is the oldest regional gallery in the State and the place to see some of the work of the ‘Brushmen of the Bush’, the famous painters who have lived and worked in Broken Hill.

The most celebrated of these is Pro Hart, a Broken Hill native, whose Wyman Street gallery houses a significant private collection of European masters as well as Hart’s own works.

About 10 km west of Broken Hill, in the Living Desert Reserve, Sundown Hill is the site of the 12 Living Desert Sculptures. Created by a group of international artists in 1993, these sculptures are particularly striking at sunset.

Mining exploration
At the Daydream Mine near Silverton, visitors can take a one-hour walking tour through the silver mine and gain an insight into the mining industry of a century ago.

The opals that were discovered at White Cliffs were more vivid than opals mined anywhere else, so they quickly became popular in Europe.

Aboriginal rock art
Mutawintji National Park, north-east of Broken Hill, has many examples of Aboriginal rock art. The finest are found in the Mutawintji Historic Site, a restricted area that can be visited on a guided tour in the company of a park ranger.

Accommodation
Options in the region include historic pubs, motels, B&Bs and sheep and cattle stations, as well as an underground hotel in White Cliffs. For details, see page 53.

How to get there
Broken Hill airport has daily flights to Sydney. The Indian-Pacific train passes through Broken Hill on its journey from Sydney to Adelaide, and on to Perth.

Mungo National Park
Deep in the south-west corner of the State, Mungo National Park is a wild, lonely moonscape of saltbush and sand dunes. Before the last Ice Age, much of this area was covered by the Willandra Lakes, a series of large, shallow lakes that provided a rich habitat for fish, shellfish and wallabies.

Drawn by this natural abundance, Aboriginal people lived here perhaps as long as 60,000 years ago. The lakes dried up about 10,000 years ago, but a journey into this sun-seared landscape is an evocative experience.

Along the eastern sides of the dry lakes are crescent-shaped dunes called lunettes, formed from quartz sands cemented together by powdered clay. The most famous of these are the Walls of China, which tower 30 m above the plain and run for 30 km.

Many of the region’s natural treasures can be explored in its national parks. Visitors can also experience these landscapes through the eyes of the local Aboriginal people.

Wildlife abounds in the Outback and includes many colourful bird species, reptiles and red kangaroos, the kings of the bush. It’s no surprise that the photogenic qualities of the region have made it a favourite with visitors and film- and commercial-makers in search of authentic Outback scenery.

The historic woolshed at Lake Mungo was built by Chinese labourers in about 1869.

Photographs above left to right: A prize-winning goat, Coolabah (Mike Newling); Silverton Hotel (Mike Newling); Tilpa Pub (Mike Newling); Mungo National Park (Don Fuchs)
Country NSW

Country NSW is a diverse, sprawling region at the centre of the State, a majestic slice of the real Australia that pulses with life.

Why go there

Stretching from the Victorian border in the south to Queensland in the north, Country NSW includes the Great Dividing Range and the Central Western plains.

Places to go

Bathurst
The oldest inland settlement in the country, Bathurst is virtually an open-air museum.

Orange
This handsome city is renowned for its expert chefs who cook the fine local produce.

Dubbo
Gateway to the State’s Outback region, Dubbo has a famous open-range zoo.

Mudgee
Founded in the gold rush era, this sophisticated town is the centre of a winegrowing district.

Armidale
Home to wonderful historic buildings, Armidale is a city of culture and learning.

Tamworth
Each January, Australia’s country music capital hosts the Country Music Festival.

The Murray
Australia’s longest river is lined with river red gums and towns founded in river steamer days.

Things to do

– Discover the region’s towns, with their historic buildings from the pioneering days.
– Sample wine from one of the wineries.
– Visit riverside towns along the Darling, the Murray and the Murrumbidgee.
– Explore the region’s national parks, including the volcanic spires of the Warrumbungles.

Attractions

– Cellar Door Pass NSW
A wine package for two in Mudgee includes a smartcard, guide book, audio CD and up to six bottles of wine. www.cellardoorpass.com.au

– Quadrant Australia
Specialist agricultural tour operator provides an in-depth look at a range of farming operations. www.quadrantaustralia.com

– Western Plains Zoo
Australia’s leading open-range zoo, home to more than 1,500 animals, including endangered species. www.westernplainszoo.com.au

– Visit:
– In summer, play water sports and go fishing, cycling, hiking and camping.
– Ski at one of Kosciuszko National Park’s four ski resorts.
– Take a historic tour of the Snowy Mountains towns that were founded in gold rush days.

FAST FACTS

The mighty Murray River is 2,550 km (1,580 miles) long. Visitors can either drive, walk or cycle the 6-km long road around Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo.

Orange produces rare and seasonal produce, from stone fruits and sheep’s cheeses to mushrooms.

Take a farm tour in season in Country NSW.

The New England region is one of the world’s biggest producers of gem-quality sapphires.

There are more than 30 golf courses along the Murray River.

Snowy Mountains

The Snowy Mountains has glacial lakes, snow-gum forests, alpine experiences and Mount Kosciuszko itself, the country’s highest peak.

Why go there

This region of mountains, rivers and lakes is all within the borders of Kosciuszko National Park. Mountain streams, alpine meadows and the warmth of an open fire at the end of a long day skiing make Snowy Mountains perfect for adventure holidays.

Visitors can ski on Australia’s most celebrated slopes at resorts such as Thredbo and Perisher Blue, or visit Canberra, the national capital, a repository of culture.

Jindabyne, the gateway to the Snowys and the adventure base camp for sport in Kosciuszko National Park, is perched on the edge of an alpine lake.

Kosciuszko National Park
Although renowned for its winter snow falls and ski resorts, over recent years the Kosciuszko National Park has developed as a year-round destination, attracting hikers, kayakers and mountain-bike enthusiasts.

The park is home to snow-grass herbfields and endangered species of bog plants as well as rare animal species such as the mountain pygmy possum.

Things to do

– In summer, play water sports and go fishing, cycling, hiking and camping.
– Ski at one of Kosciuszko National Park’s four ski resorts.
– Take a historic tour of the Snowy Mountains towns that were founded in gold rush days.

Attractions

– Canberra
The national capital is a huge and fascinating attraction in its own right, bringing culture, style and sophistication to the rugged glories of the Snowy Mountains. Canberra is packed with great museums and galleries. www.visitcanberra.com.au

– Perisher Blue
This mega-resort, the largest in the country, has four adjacent ski areas that feature seven peaks, 50 lifts and more than 1,245 hectares of skiable terrain. www.perisherblue.com.au

– Thredbo Resort Centre
In winter, Thredbo is a thrilling mix of the longest runs in the country, tree-lined trails, open bowls and groomed superpipes, combined with a European-style alpine village and après-ski scene. Summer activities include hiking, cycling and fishing. www.thredbo.com.au

Accommodation
Visitors can choose from resorts, lodges, motels and self-contained apartments and cottages. For details, see page 54.

Visitor information
There are frequent coach and air services from Sydney to Cooma. The drive from Sydney to Jindabyne takes about five hours.

Snowy Mountains Holiday Centre
To book all NSW ski resorts and other activities in the region, visit: www.nmhc.com.au
Lord Howe Island

The peak of a soaring extinct volcano, Lord Howe is a timeless natural paradise where visitors can revel in the carefree lifestyle.

Why go there
Lord Howe is one of only four island groups in the world possessing World Heritage status, thanks to its volcanic geology, complex ecosystems and rare collection of plants, birds and marine life. Only 400 visitors are allowed on this natural paradise at any one time, and bicycles are the main mode of transport.

The island has woven the best of city life – great food, luxury retreats and boutique apartments – into its laid-back lifestyle. The diverse marine life around Lord Howe draws diving enthusiasts from around the globe, and there are well marked walking tracks for keen walkers and hikers.

Natural attractions
With 14 species of seabird breeding on the island, Lord Howe is Australia’s premier bird-watching destination. It also boasts more than 130 permanent and migratory bird species, including the woodhen, unique to Lord Howe.

The island’s rich volcanic soil and mountainous terrain supports a thriving plant life, and more than 100 species are unique to the island.

Snorkelers can swim with the fish in the clear waters of The Lagoon, or they may even be lucky enough to see a green turtle at coral-lined Sylphs Hole.

Visitors can take a sightseeing cruise around the island, peer at the reef through a glass-bottomed boat or take a sea trip on a chartered boat to spectacular Balls Pyramid. For those who like to operate under their own steam, kayaking is a great way to explore The Lagoon.

■ Pro Dive
Daily dives for all experience levels to the surrounding island reefs or Balls Pyramid.
www.prodive.com.au

Things to do
– Stroll through native kentia palm and banyan tree forests or over white-sand beaches.
– Snorkel over pristine coral reefs.
– Trek up Mt Gower, regarded as one of the best one-day hikes in the world.
– Explore the reef – walk out on the rock platform to see coral and fish in the rock pools at Neds or Middle beaches.
– Indulge in a spa, massage and facial.
– Play a round of golf.
– Enjoy the freshest seafood from the cleanest ocean in the world.

On the water
With more than 50 dive sites, there are plenty of opportunities to explore this marine playground.

Accommodation
There are luxury retreats, motels and cottages. For details, see page 54.
Traveller information

Climate
Sydney and the New South Wales coast enjoy a temperate climate; the warmest months are December to February, with an average maximum temperature of 26°C (79°F). The coolest months are June to August when daytime temperatures rarely fall below 7°C (45°F). From June to August it can be very cold at night with a winter minimum average of 0.1°C (30°F). In Outback NSW it can be very cold at night with a winter minimum average of 5ºC (41°F). For up-to-date weather forecasts visit: www.bom.gov.au

Tourism NSW
For holiday information about Sydney and the New South Wales coast enjoy a temperate climate; the warmest months are December to February, with an average maximum temperature of 26°C (79°F). The coolest months are June to August when daytime temperatures rarely fall below 7°C (45°F). From June to August it can be very cold at night with a winter minimum average of 0.1°C (30°F). In Outback NSW it can be very cold at night with a winter minimum average of 5ºC (41°F). For up-to-date weather forecasts visit: www.bom.gov.au

Safety tips
For information on water safety and general safety advice when travelling in Australia, visit: www.australia.com

Travel advice
Visitor Information Centres throughout New South Wales assist with accommodation, attractions and tours across the State. Visitor Information Centres are in most major towns or visit: www.seesydney.com

Getting around New South Wales

RAIL

Car hire

Avis
Budget Rent A Car

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Travelling time and distance table

Air

New South Wales

ALBURY-WODONGA	Canberra	Dubbo	Katoomba	Lake Macquarie	Nelson Bay

Bathurst	Cooma	Gosford	Maitland	Muswellbrook	Tamworth

Batemans Bay	Byron Bay	Coffs Harbour	Dubbo	Jervis Bay	Lake Macquarie

Bowral	Cooma	Cooma	Gosford	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie

Broken Hill	Dubbo	Jervis Bay	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie

Canberra	Dubbo	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie

Times and distances are indicative only and may vary according to road conditions and other factors.

100 km = 62 miles
100 miles = 160 km
Approx. travelling time between towns (hrs)
Approx. distance between towns (km)

Air companies

Jetstar
Qantas
Virgin Blue

New South Wales

North Coast
Newcastle
Coffs Harbour
Gold Coast
Port Macquarie

North Asia

Japan

South Asia

Bangladesh

Bangladesh

COACH CHARTER

AAT Kings
www.aatkings.com.au

Austalian Pacific Tours
www.apitouring.com.au

Gray Line
www.greyline.com.au

Northern Express
www.northernexpress.com.au

Sita
www.sitacoaches.com.au

Traveller information

Climate
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New South Wales

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Batemans Bay	Byron Bay	Coffs Harbour	Dubbo	Jervis Bay	Lake Macquarie

Bowral	Cooma	Cooma	Gosford	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie

Broken Hill	Dubbo	Jervis Bay	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie

Canberra	Dubbo	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie

Times and distances are indicative only and may vary according to road conditions and other factors.

100 km = 62 miles
100 miles = 160 km
Approx. travelling time between towns (hrs)
Approx. distance between towns (km)
The following accommodation list is representative of product currently working with international distribution channels. For a full listing of accommodation in New South Wales, visit: www.seesydney.com

**SYDNEY CITY**

5 STAR
- Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney www.amorahotels.com.au
- InterContinental Sydney www.intercontinental.com
- Meriton Pitt Street www.meritonapartments.com.au
- Quay Grand Suites Sydney www.mirvachotels.com.au
- Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney www.radisson.com
- Rydges World Square Sydney www.rydges.com
- Sherraton on the Park www.stamford.com.au
- Sir Stamford at Circular Quay www.stamford.com.au
- Sofitel Wentworth Sydney www.accorhotels.com.au
- Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay www.marriott.com
- The Westin Sydney www.thewestin.com

4.5 STAR
- The York Apartment Hotel www.yorkapartments.com.au

4 STAR
- Bayview Boulevard Sydney www.boulevard.com.au
- Best Western Hotel StIles, Sydney www.bestwestern.com.au
- Citigate Sebel Sydney Citigate Central Sydney www.mirvachotels.com.au

3 STAR
- Fraser Suites, Sydney www.fraserhotelsplaty.com
- Grace Hotel www.gracehotel.com.au
- Medina Classic Martin Place Medina Executive Sydney Central Medina Grand Sydney www.medina.com.au
- Metro Hotel on Pitt www.metrohotels.com.au
- Radisson Hotel and Suites Sydney www.radisson.com
- Saville 2 Bond Street Sydney www.sandlighthotels.com.au
- The Menzies Sydney and Mercure Sydney www.accorhotels.com.au
- Vibe Hotel Sydney www.vibehotels.com.au

3 STAR
- Aarons Hotel www.aaronshotel.com.au
- Best Western Hotel UniLodge Sydney www.bestwestern.com.au
- Capitol Square Hotel Sydney www.citinery.com.au
- Footprints Westend, Sydney www.constellationhotels.com
- Metro Hotel Sydney Central www.metrohotels.com.au
- Park Regis Hotel [unrated] www.leisurehotels.com.au
- Peninsone Hotel Sydney [unrated] www.eighthotels.com.au
- Oaks Concierge Apartment Hotel www.theoakgroup.com.au
- Travelodge Phillip Street Travelodge Sydney Travelodge Wymond Sydney www.travelodge.com.au

Also:
- Australian Bed and Breakfast
- Coogee, Glebe, Greenwich, Rose Bay andotts Point www.australianbedandbreakfast.com.au
- Padi Sydney hotel accommodation www.paddysatapliners.com.au
- Youth Hostels Association (YHA) Sydney City, Coogee, Bondi Beach, Collaroy, Cronulla, Dulwich Hill, Royal National Park, Pittwater via Church Point www.yha.com.au

**THE ROCKS**

5 STAR
- Four Seasons Hotel Sydney www.fourseasons.com
- Park Hyatt Sydney [unrated] www.kyton.com
- Shangri-La Hotel Sydney www.shangri-la.com
- The Observatory Hotel www.orient-express.com

4 STAR
- Harbour Rocks Hotel www.harbourrocks.com.au
- Holiday Inn Old Sydney www.holidayinn.com.au
- Quay West Suites Sydney www.mirvachotels.com.au
- Rendezvous Stafford Hotel – Clarion Collection www.choicehotels.com.au
- The Sebel Pier One Sydney www.mirvachotels.com.au

3 STAR
- Arden Hotel www.ardenhotel.com.au
- Best Western Hotel Sydney UnLodge Sydney www.bestwestern.com.au
- City of Sydney Hotel Sydney www.cityofsydneyhotel.com
- Hotel Bis World Sydney, Mercury Hotel Ultimo, Sydney www.accorhotels.com.au
- Novotel Darling Harbour Sydney www.meritonapartments.com.au
- Quest on Dixon Darling Harbour www.questapartments.com.au

**KINGS CROSS/POTTS POINT/WOOLLOOMOOLLOO**

5 STAR
- Blue Sydney www.tghotels.com
- Best Western Aqua Executive Apartments, Sydney (Potts Point) www.bestwestern.com.au
- Holiday Inn Potts Point Sydney www.holidayinn.com.au
- Victoria Court Hotel Sydney www.victoriacourt.com.au

3.5 STAR
- Crest Hotel [unrated] www.cresthotel.com.au
- DeVere Hotel [unrated] www.devere.com.au
- Woolloomooloo Waters Apartments www.woolloomooloo.com.au

3 STAR

**DARLING HARBOUR**

5 STAR
- Star City Hotel and Apartments www.starcity.com.au
- Clarion Suites Southern Cross Darling Harbour www.choicehotels.com.au
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Darling Harbour www.crowneplaza.com.au
- Four Points by Sherraton Darling Harbour Sydney www.starwoodhotels.com.au
- Grand Mercure Apartments One Darling Harbour Sydney www.meritonapartments.com.au
- Holiday Inn Darling Harbour www.holidayinn.com.au
- Medina Grand Harbourside www.medina.com.au
- Novotel Darling Harbour Sydney www.mirvachotels.com.au
- Vibe Hotel Rushcutters www.vibehotels.com.au

**DARLINGURST AND SURRY HILLS**

4 STAR
- Quality Hotel Cambridge www.choicehotels.com.au

**RUSHCUTTERS BAY, EDGECLIFF AND DOUBLE BAY**

5 STAR
- Stamford Plaza Double Bay www.stamford.com.au

4 STAR
- Medina Executive Double Bay www.medina.com.au

3 STAR
- Sir Stamford at Double Bay www.stamford.com.au

**SYDNEY AIRPORT**

4 STAR
- Holiday Inn Sydney Airport www.holidayinn.com.au
- Mercure Hotel Sydney Airport www.accorhotels.com.au
- Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport www.stamford.com.au
- Travelodge Manly Warringah www.travelodge.com.au

3 STAR
- Best Western Wesley Lodge, Sydney (Parramatta) www.bestwestern.com.au
- Courtyard Parramatta www.marriott.com

**PARRAMATTA**

5 STAR
- Meriton Parramatta www.meritonapartments.com.au

4.5 STAR
- Waldorf Apartment Hotel, Parramatta www.waldof.com.au

4 STAR
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Parramatta www.marriott.com
- Mercure Hotel Parramatta www.accorhotels.com.au
- Pacific International Suites Parramatta www.pacifi cinthotels.com.au
- Quest Rivsheld www.questapartments.com.au
- Rydges Parramatta Sydney www.rydges.com.au
- The Sebel Parramatta www.mirvachotels.com.au

3 STAR
- Best Western Westley Lodge, Sydney (Parramatta) www.bestwestern.com.au

**MANLY AND SURROUND**

4 STAR
- Quest Grande Espanade www.questapartments.com.au
- The Sebel Manly Beach www.mirvachotels.com.au

3 STAR
- Travelodge Manly Warringah www.travelodge.com.au

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK**

4 STAR

3 STAR

**PENDINGTON**

4 STAR
- Hughesend Boutique Hotel www.hughendinhotels.com.au
- Coogee Sands Hotel Apartments www.cogeesands.com.au
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Coogee Beach www.crowneplaza.com.au
- Medina Executive Coogee www.medina.com.au
- Ravesi’s on Bondi Beach [unrated] www.ravesi.com.au
- Swiss Grand Resort and Spa Bondi www.swissgrand.com.au

**REST OF SYDNEY**

North Coast accommodation

Pacific Coast Touring Route
For accommodation and itineraries from Sydney to Brisbane, visit: www.pacificcoast.com.au and refer to the accommodation listings below. Also refer to Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast accommodation pp52-53.

Accor
4 STAR ★★★★★ Novotel Pacific Bay Resort Coffs Harbour, All Seasons Kiama, Port Macquarie www.acchotels.com.au

Beaches Apartments, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★★★ Apartment accommodation www.beachesbyronbay.com.au

Best Western
4 STAR ★★★★★ Foster, Port Macquarie, Yamba
3 STAR ★★★ Casino, Coffs Harbour, Forster, Lithgow, Narrabri Heads, Port Macquarie, Tarrawanna www.bestwestern.com.au

Breakfree Resorts
4 STAR ★★★★★ Aanuka Beach Coffs Harbour, Paradise Resort Kingscliff, Eco Beach Byron Bay, Molly’s Beachside Retreat Boomerang Beach
3 STAR ★★★ Pacific Royal Kingscliff www.breakfree.com.au

Byron Accom
For all your Byron accommodation and activity needs www.byronbayacom.net

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Byron Beachcomber, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★★★ Apartment accommodation www.byronbeachcomber.com.au

Byron Blushouse, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★★★ Villa accommodation www.byronblushouse.com.au

Byron Quarter, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★★★ Apartment accommodation www.byronquarterapartments.com.au

Casabelle Country Guesthouse, Bellingen
4 STAR ★★★★★ Guesthouse www.casabelle.com

Comfort Inn
4 STAR ★★★★★ Ballina, Tweed Heads
3 STAR ★★★ Coffs Harbour, Griffith, Kempsey, Limmen, Port Macquarie, Tarrew www.choicehotels.com.au

Country Comfort
3 STAR ★★★ Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie www.confortinnhotel.com

Crystal Creek Rainforest Retreat, Upper Crystal Creek
4 STAR ★★★★★ Guesthouse accommodation www.crystalcreekrainforestretreat.com.au

Domain Resorts, Cassarina Beach
New Tweed Coast
Includes Santa, Drift Apartments and Villas, Manning Tweed Apartments, Beach Shacks and (opening late 2007) Pandanus Pocket www.cassarinabeach.com.au

Eco Point Resorts
4 STAR ★★★ Angourie Resort Angourie, Myal Shores Resort via Hawks Nest www.ecopointresorts.com.au

Friday on the Beach
Hotel accommodation (unrated) www.fridayonthebeach.com.au

Headland Beach Resort, Lennox Head
4 STAR ★★★ Self-contained serviced apartments www.headlandbeachresort.com.au

Lennox Point Holiday Apartments, Lennox Head
4 STAR ★★★ Self-contained apartments www.lennoxpointholidayapartments.com

Lord Byron Resort, Byron Bay
3 STAR ★★★ Hotel accommodation www.lordbyronresort.com

Manta on Salt Beach, Kingscliff New Tweed
4 STAR ★★★ Apartments www.mantaonsaltbeach.com.au

Chains Resort and Tee Stop Houses, Byron Bay
3 STAR ★★★ Self-contained apartments www.byrnonyasiasresort.com.au

Peppers
4 STAR ★★★★ Cassula Lodge Byron, Hillendale, Peppers Salt Resort and Spa, Kingscliff www.peppers.com.au

Plaza Hotels
4 STAR ★★★ Ballina Island Motor Inn, Forestiers Beach Resort
3 STAR ★★★ The Sanctuary Resort, Coffs Harbour www.plazahotels.com.au

Quality Inn and Resorts

Rydges
4 STAR ★★★ Port Macquarie www.rydges.com.au

The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, Byron Bay
Luxury hotel accommodation (unrated) www.thebyronbyron.com.au

The Crest Apartments, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★ Apartments www.thecrestbyronbay.com.au

The Sebel Alquaria Beach Resort Coffs Harbour
4 STAR ★★★ Apartment hotel www.thesebelalquaria.com.au

The Villas of Byron, Byron Bay
Villa accommodation www.thelovelyvillas.com.au

YHA Backpacker Hostel
Ballina, Bellingen, Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Forster, Lennox Head, Murwillumbah, Ninderry, Port Macquarie www.yha.com.au

Plaza Hotels
4 STAR ★★★ Balmain Island Motor Inn, Forestiers Beach Resort
3 STAR ★★★ The Sanctuary Resort, Coffs Harbour www.plazahotels.com.au

Quality Inn and Resorts

Rydges
4 STAR ★★★ Port Macquarie www.rydges.com.au

The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, Byron Bay
Luxury hotel accommodation (unrated) www.thebyronbyron.com.au

The Crest Apartments, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★ Apartments www.thecrestbyronbay.com.au

The Sebel Alquaria Beach Resort Coffs Harbour
4 STAR ★★★ Apartment hotel www.thesebelalquaria.com.au

The Villas of Byron, Byron Bay
Villa accommodation www.thelovelyvillas.com.au

YHA Backpacker Hostel
Ballina, Bellingen, Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Forster, Lennox Head, Murwillumbah, Ninderry, Port Macquarie www.yha.com.au

Lord Howe accommodation

Arajilla Retreat
Luxury one-bedroom suites and two-bedroom apartments www.arajilla.com.au

Capella
Luxury suite accommodation www.capella.com.au

PineTree's Lodge
Motel and garden cottage accommodation www.pinetrees.com.au

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Byron Blushouse, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★★★ Villa accommodation www.byronblushouse.com.au

Byron Quarter, Byron Bay
4 STAR ★★★★★ Apartment accommodation www.byronquarterapartments.com.au

Casabelle Country Guesthouse, Bellingen
4 STAR ★★★★★ Guesthouse www.casabelle.com

Comfort Inn
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3 STAR ★★★ Coffs Harbour, Griffith, Kempsey, Limmen, Port Macquarie, Tarrew www.choicehotels.com.au

Country Comfort
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Motel and garden cottage accommodation www.pinetrees.com.au
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