

# Australia

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## Sydney & Around

(PDF Chapter)

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# Sydney & Around

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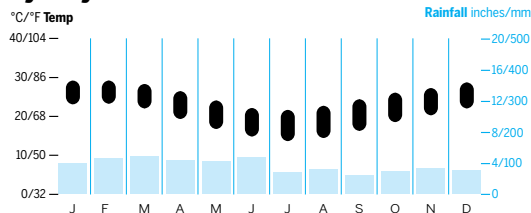
## Why Go?

Chances are Sydney will be your introduction to the island continent and, quite simply, there isn't a better one. The city's spectacular harbour setting, sun-kissed beaches and sophisticated sheen make it unique in Australia, while its outdoorsy population endows it with a confident charm that every city yearns for but few achieve. Surrounded on all sides by either water or national parks, there's literally a wild edge to the city.

It would be reasonable to assume that the areas neighbouring Sydney would be content to bask in the reflected and undeniably golden glow of the metropolis, but that's not the case. From Hawkesbury River deep to Blue Mountains high, each has its own delights. The mountains, in particular, offer magnificent bush-clad vistas and munificent opportunities to snuggle in front of log fires. In the Hawkesbury, the pace of life is as languid as the river itself.

## When to Go

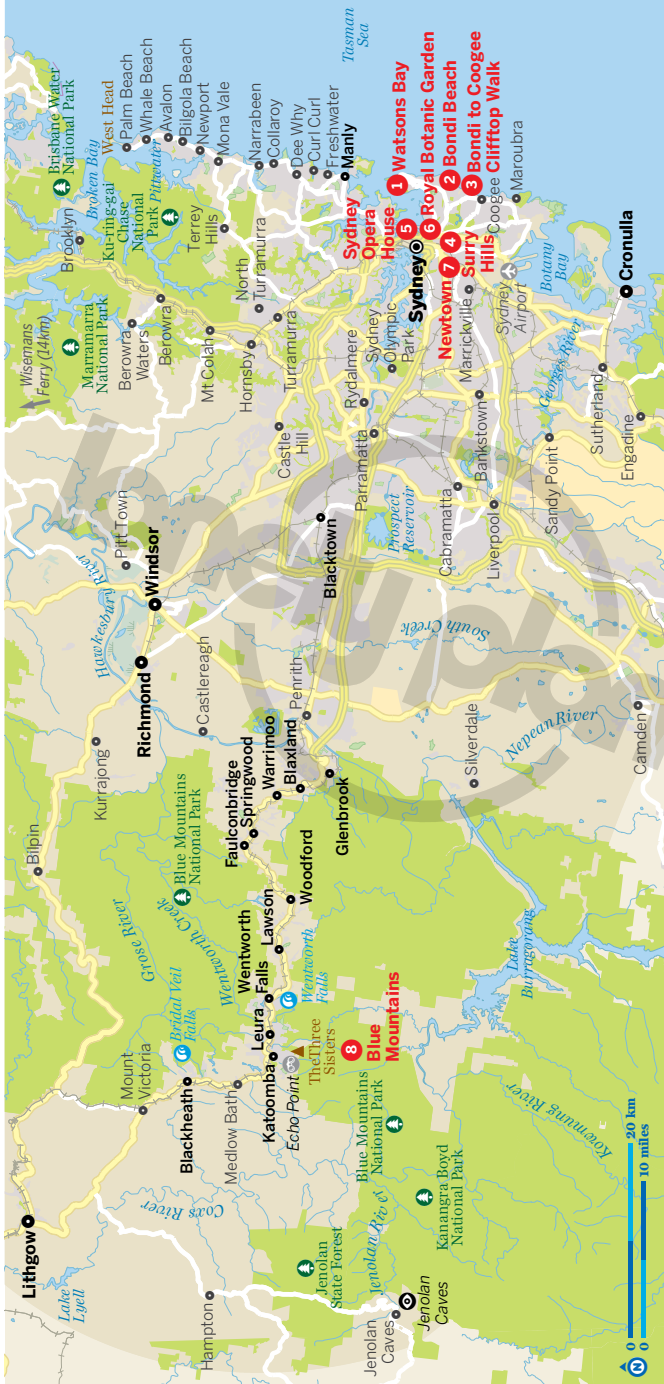
### Sydney



**Jan** The year kicks off with a spectacular fireworks display over Sydney Harbour.

**Mar** Sydney's summer party season culminates with the Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.

**Jul** Enjoy wood fires, wine and winter menus in the Blue Mountains.



## Sydney & Around Highlights

- 1** Hopping on one of Sydney's harbour ferries and heading to **Watsons Bay** (p93).
- 2** Whiling away the day on the golden sands of **Bondi Beach** (p93).
- 3** Enjoying the dramatic coastal scenery of the **Bondi to Coogee clifftop walk** (p96).
- 4** Eating and drinking your way through hip **Surry Hills** (p116).

- 5** Attending a performance at the **Sydney Opera House** (p127).
- 6** Strolling the leafy paths of the **Royal Botanic Garden**

- 7** Rummaging through the secondhand stores and eclectic boutiques of bohemian **Newtown** (p131).

- 8** Following a bush trail under dense and ancient forest canopies in the **Blue Mountains** (p139).

## History

What is now Greater Sydney is the ancestral home of at least three distinct Aboriginal peoples, each with their own language. Ku-ring-gai was generally spoken on the northern shore, Dharawal along the coast south of Botany Bay, and Dharug from the harbour to the Blue Mountains. The coastal area around Sydney is the ancestral home of the Eora people (which literally means 'from this place'), who were divided into clans such as the Gadigal and the Wangal.

In 1770 Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook dropped anchor at Botany Bay. The ship's arrival alarmed the local people, and Cook noted in his journal: 'All they seem'd to want was for us to be gone.'

In 1788 the British came back, this time for good. Under the command of naval captain Arthur Phillip, the 'First Fleet' included a motley crew of convicts, marines and livestock. Upon arriving at Botany Bay, Phillip was disappointed by what he saw – particularly the lack of a fresh water source – and ordered the ships to sail north, where he found 'the finest harbour in the world'. The date of the landing at Sydney Cove was 26 January, an occasion that is commemorated each year with the Australia Day public holiday (known to many Indigenous members of the community as 'Invasion Day').

Armed resistance to the British was led by Indigenous warriors including Pemulwuy (c 1750–1802), a member of the Dharug-speaking Bidjigal clan from around Botany Bay, and Musquito (c 1780–1825), an Eora man from the north shore of Port Jackson. The Indigenous fighters were eventually crushed and the British colony wrested control. The fleet brought with them European diseases such as smallpox, which devastated the Eora people (only three of the Gadigal clan are said to have survived).

The early days of settlement were difficult, with famine a constant threat, but gradually a bustling port was established with stone houses, warehouses and streets. The surrounding bushland was gradually converted into farms, vegetable gardens and orchards.

In 1793 Phillip returned to London and self-serving military officers took control of Government House. Soon, the vigorous new society that the first governor had worked so hard to establish began to unravel. Eventually London took action, dispatching a new governor, Lachlan Macquarie, to restore

the rule of law. Under his rule many grand buildings were constructed (most of which still stand today), setting out a vision for Sydney that would move it from its prison-camp origins to a worthy outpost of the British Empire.

In 1813 the Blue Mountains were penetrated by explorers Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, opening the way for the colony to expand onto the vast fertile slopes and plains of the west. By the 1830s the Lachlan, Macquarie, Murrumbidgee and Darling river systems had been explored and the New South Wales (NSW) colony started to thrive.

The 20th century saw an influx of new migrants from Europe (especially after WWII), Asia and the Middle East, changing the dynamics of the city as it spread westwards and became the multicultural metropolis that it is today.

## Indigenous Sydney

Traditionally the Indigenous peoples of the Sydney area were semi-nomadic, moving within their territories to fish, hunt and gather plants. As well as providing food, the land also formed the basis for their spiritual life and Dreaming (belief system), which is why its forcible appropriation by the Europeans had such catastrophic consequences. At the most recent national census (2011) there were 54,800 Aboriginal people in Greater Sydney (1.2% of the total population).

There are various ways to gain an insight into the city's Indigenous culture while you are here. The Australian Museum (p86), Art Gallery of NSW (p76), Museum of Contemporary Art (p70), Museum of Sydney (p78), Powerhouse Museum (p85) and the Rocks Discovery Museum (p70) all have exhibits relating to Aboriginal life and culture. You can see pre-colonial rock engravings up close on the Manly Scenic Walkway (p99) and in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (p102). Both the Royal Botanic Garden (p74) and Taronga Zoo (p97) offer Aboriginal-themed tours. Other tours with Indigenous guides incorporating cultural themes include Blue Mountains Walkabout (p139) and EcoTreasures (p105). Short cultural performances are held throughout the day at the Waradah Aboriginal Centre (p138) in Katoomba.

For further information, go to [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com) or [www.tourism.australia.com//aboriginal.aspx](http://www.tourism.australia.com//aboriginal.aspx).

## National Parks

Sydney is ringed by national parks, with Ku-ring-gai Chase (p102) and Marramorra to the north, Wollemi and Blue Mountains (p135) to the west, Royal National Park to the south and Sydney Harbour National Park (p66), clinging to the edges of the harbour to the east. Other parks are ringed by the city itself, the most accessible of which is Lane Cove National Park (p97).

Check the website of the **NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service** (NPWS; [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)) for details of visitor centres, walking tracks and camping options. Some parks charge a daily entry fee, which is generally \$7 per vehicle. If you plan on visiting a number of parks, consider purchasing an annual multi-park pass (\$65), which gives unlimited entry to all the state's parks and reserves except Kosciuszko National Park.

Many parks have camp sites with varying levels of facilities; some are free, others cost between \$5 and \$10 a night per person. Popular sites are often booked out during holidays. Bush camping is allowed in some parks.



## Activities

Sydney and the surrounding national parks offer a huge array of activities suiting every level of fitness and fearlessness.

### Bushwalking

Almost every national park has marked trails or wilderness-walking opportunities; these range from gentle wanders to longer, more challenging treks.

Near Sydney, the wilderness areas of Royal National Park hide dramatic clifftop walks including a 28km coastal walking trail. There are smaller bushwalks around the inlets of Broken Bay in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. West of Sydney, the sandstone bluffs, eucalyptus forests and wild flowers of the Blue Mountains offer a breathtaking experience. Keen walkers should try the 45km Six Foot Track from Katoomba to the Jenolan Caves.

The **NPWS website** ([www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)) offers loads of information about walks within its parks and reserves, and the **National Parks Association of NSW** ([www.npsnw.org.au](http://www.npsnw.org.au)) publishes the highly regarded *Bushwalks in the Sydney Region Volumes 1 & 2* by S Lord and G Daniel. Also look out for *Sydney's Best Bush, Park & City Walks*, which includes 50 walks and covers most of the major national parks, and the highly regarded *Blue Mountains: Best Bushwalks* (both by Veechi Stuart). Another useful re-

source is the online bushwalking and camping resource **Wildwalks** ([www.wildwalks.com](http://www.wildwalks.com)), which provides free maps and track notes for over 900 walks.

### Cycling

Sydney's ever-growing network of cycling paths is a pivotal component of Sydney City Council's praiseworthy Sydney 2030 sustainability initiative. See [www.sydneycyclingways.net](http://www.sydneycyclingways.net) for details. Other popular cycling destinations include the Blue Mountains and the Great North Rd around the Hawkesbury River.

You can access cycling guides and maps, a handy bike-shop finder and safety tips on the **Bicycle NSW website** ([www.bicyclensw.org.au](http://www.bicyclensw.org.au)). Lonely Planet's *Cycling Australia* is another useful resource.

### Scenic Drives

Spectacular scenic drives include the Greater Blue Mountains Drive and the Bells Line of Road between Richmond and Lithgow.

### Surfing

You can fine-tune your surfing skills (or indeed learn some) at Bondi, Manly and dozens of other Sydney beaches. For surf forecasts and other information, go to [www.coastalwatch.com](http://www.coastalwatch.com).

### Whale & Dolphin Watching

Every year between late May and late November, southern right and humpback whales migrate along the coast. You can view these magnificent creatures on a whale-watching cruise or grab a perch on any of the coastal cliffs and play spot-the-spots.

Dolphins are very occasionally seen off Sydney's Eastern Beaches.

## Getting There & Around

- Sydney Airport is the main gateway for most visitors to Australia and is also the country's major domestic hub.
- Sydney is NSW's major bus hub, with services extending as far afield as Brisbane in the north, Melbourne in the south and Adelaide in the west.
- Trains also head to Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide, with the luxurious Indian Pacific continuing all the way to Perth.
- By car and motorcycle, you'll probably reach Sydney via the Hume Hwy (Rte 31) if you're coming from the south, or via the Pacific Hwy (Rte 1) if you're coming from the north. The Princes Hwy heads south from Sydney along NSW's southern coast.
- For more information on getting to/from Sydney, see p132.

## SYDNEY

POP 4.4 MILLION

Sunny, sophisticated and supremely self-confident, Sydney is the show pony of Australian cities. Built around one of the most beautiful harbours in the world, its myriad attractions include three of Australia's most emblematic sights – Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House and Bondi Beach. This is the country's oldest, largest and most diverse city, home to magnificent galleries, even more magnificent beaches and an edgy multiculturalism that injects colour and vitality into the inner neighbourhoods and outer suburbs.

### Sights

#### Sydney Harbour


Stretching 20km inland from the ocean to the mouth of the Parramatta River, this magnificent natural harbour is the city's shimmering soul. Providing a serene and picture-perfect backdrop to Sydney's fast-paced urban lifestyle, the harbour's beaches, coves, islands and wildlife-filled pockets of national park offer innumerable options for recreation, relaxation and rejuvenation. Exploring this vast and visually arresting area by ferry is one of Sydney's great joys.

Forming the gateway to the harbour from the ocean are North Head and South Head. The former fishing village of Watsons Bay nestles on South Head's harbour side, and the city's favourite day-trip destination, Manly, occupies a promontory straddling harbour and ocean near North Head.

The focal point of the inner harbour and the city's major ferry hub is Circular Quay. From here, you are able to catch ferries to destinations along both shores of the harbour, as well as up the river and to some of the harbour islands.

#### Sydney Harbour Bridge

BRIDGE

(Map p72;  Circular Quay) Sydneysiders adore their giant 'coathanger'. Opened in 1932, this majestic structure spans the harbour at one of its narrowest points. The best way to experience the bridge is on foot – don't expect much of a view crossing by car or train. Stairs climb up the bridge from both shores, leading to a footpath running the length of the eastern side. You can climb the southeastern pylon to the Pylon Lookout or ascend the great arc on the wildly popular BridgeClimb (p105).


The harbour bridge is a spookily big object – moving around town you'll catch sight of it in the corner of your eye, sometimes in the most surprising of places. At 134m high, 1149m long, 49m wide and weighing 52,800 tonnes, it's the largest and heaviest (but not the longest) steel arch in the world.

The two halves of chief engineer JJC Bradfield's mighty arch were built outwards from each shore. In 1930, after nine years of merciless toil by 1400 workers, the two arches were only centimetres apart when 100km/h winds set them swaying. The coathanger hung tough and the arch was finally bolted together.

Perhaps Sydney poet Kenneth Slessor said it best: 'Day and night, the bridge trembles and echoes like a living thing.'



#### Sydney Harbour National Park

NATIONAL PARK

(www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) Sydney Harbour National Park protects large swathes of bushland around the harbour shoreline, plus several **harbour islands**. In among the greenery you'll find walking tracks, scenic lookouts, Aboriginal carvings, beaches and a handful of historic sites. The park incorporates **South Head** (Map p68; www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au; Cliff St; ☎ 5am-10pm;  Watsons Bay) and Nielsen Park (p91) on the south side of the harbour, but most of the park is on the North Shore – including **Bradleys Head**, **Middle Head**, **Dobroyd Head** and North Head (p98).



#### Pylon Lookout

VIEWPOINT

(Map p72;  02-9240 1100; www.pylonlookout.com.au; adult/child \$13/6.50; ☎ 10am-5pm;  Circular Quay) The views from the top of the Harbour Bridge's southeast pylon are awesome, and museum exhibits here explain how the bridge was built. The pylons may look as though they're shouldering all the weight, but they're largely decorative – right down to their granite facing. Enter via the bridge stairs on Cumberland St.

#### Cockatoo Island

ISLAND

(Map p68;  02-8969 2100; www.cockatooisland.gov.au;  Cockatoo Island) Studded with photographic industrial relics, convict architecture and art installations, fascinating Cockatoo Island (Wareamah) opened to the public in 2007 and now has regular ferry services, a campground, rental accommodation, a cafe and a bar. Information boards and audio guides (\$5) explain the island's time as a prison, shipyard and naval base.

A spooky tunnel passes clear through the middle of the island and you can also explore the remains of the prison. During WWII most of the old sandstone buildings were stripped of their roofs and converted into bomb shelters. Solitary confinement cells were unearthed here recently after being filled in and forgotten in the 1890s.

### Goat Island

ISLAND

(Map p68; ☑ 02-9253 0888; www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au; tour adult/child \$38/29) Goat Island, west of the Harbour Bridge, has been a shipyard, quarantine station and gunpowder depot in its previous lives. Heritage tours are offered for groups of 20 or more (see the national parks website for details).

### Fort Denison

FORTRESS

(Map p68; www.fortdenison.com.au; tour \$16/14; ☺ tours 11am, 12.15pm, 1.45pm & 2.45pm) Called Mat-te-wan-ye (rocky island) by the Gadigal people, in colonial times the small fortified island off Mrs Macquaries Point was a sorry site of suffering, used to isolate recalcitrant convicts. It was nicknamed 'Pinchgut' for its meagre rations. Fears of a Russian invasion during the mid-19th-century Crimean War led to its fortification. The NPWS offers tours of the Martello tower (cheaper if prebooked with your ferry ticket), although plenty of people just pop over to visit the cafe.

Both Captain Cook Cruises (p105) and Manly Fast Ferry (p134) have several servic-

es per day heading to the island from Darling Harbour and Circular Quay.

### Shark Island

ISLAND

(Map p68; www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au; ferry adult/child \$20/17) Little Shark Island, off Rose Bay, makes a great picnic getaway. There's not a lot here except for toilets and drinking water – and at 250m by 100m, you'll soon have explored every inch of it. Captain Cook Cruises (p105) runs four ferries per day to the island from Circular Quay (jetty 6) and Darling Harbour (pier 26).

## ◉ The Rocks & Circular Quay

Sydney Cove carries the weight of Sydney iconography, with the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House abutting each point of its horseshoe. The site of Australia's first European settlement is unrecognisable from the squalid place it once was, where ex-convicts, sailors and whalers boozed and brawled in countless harbourside pubs and nearly as many brothels and opium dens. The open sewers and foul alleys of **the Rocks** have been transformed into an 'olde worlde' tourist trap, while the Circular Quay promenade serves as a backdrop for buskers of mixed merit and locals disgorging from harbour ferries.

The Rocks remained a commercial and maritime hub until shipping services left Circular Quay in the late 1800s. A bubonic

## SYDNEY IN...

### Two Days

Start your first day with our walking tour through **the Rocks**. Visit the **Museum of Contemporary Art** (p70) and then follow the harbour past the **Opera House** (p74) to the **Royal Botanic Garden** (p74) and on to the **Art Gallery of NSW** (p76). That night, enjoy a performance at the **Opera House** (p127) or check out the action in **Kings Cross** or **Darlinghurst**.

Next day, it's time to spend the day soaking up the sun and scene at **Bondi** – be sure to take the **cliff-top walk** to Coogee and then make your way back to Bondi for a sunset dinner at **Icebergs Dining Room** (p120).

### Four Days

On day three, board a ferry and sail through the harbour to **Manly**, where you can swim at the beach or follow the **Manly Scenic Walkway** (p99). That night, head to **Surry Hills** for drinks and dinner.

On day four, learn about Sydney's convict heritage at the **Hyde Park Barracks Museum** (p77) and then spend the afternoon shopping in **Paddington** or **Newtown**.

### One Week

With a week, you can spare a couple of days to visit the majestic **Blue Mountains**, fitting in a full day of bushwalking before rewarding yourself with a gourmet dinner. Back in Sydney, explore **Watsons Bay**, **Darling Harbour** and **Taronga Zoo**.

## Sydney







## Sydney

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- 42 Slide ..... C5

### Shopping

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plague outbreak in 1900 continued the decline. Construction of the Harbour Bridge in the 1920s brought further demolition and entire streets disappeared under the bridge's southern approach. It wasn't until the 1970s that the Rocks' cultural and architectural heritage was recognised and the ensuing tourism-driven redevelopment saved many old buildings.

Beyond the **Argyle Cut** (Map p72; Argyle St; Circular Quay), an impressive tunnel excavated by convicts, is **Millers Point**, a charming district of early colonial homes.

### SH Ervin Gallery

GALLERY

(Map p72; 02-9258 0173; www.shervingallery.com.au; Watson Rd; adult/concession/under 12 \$7/5/free; 11am-5pm Tue-Sun; Wynyard) High on the hill inside the old Fort St School (1856), the SH Ervin Gallery exhibits invariably rewarding historical and contemporary Australian art. Annual mainstays include the Salon des Refusés (alternative Archibald Prize entries) and the Portia Geach Memorial Award. There's a cafe here, too.

### Sydney Observatory

OBSERVATORY

(Map p72; 02-9921 3485; www.sydneyobservatory.com.au; 1003 Upper Fort St; 10am-5pm; Circular Quay) **FREE** Built in the 1850s, Sydney's copper-domed, Italianate observatory squats atop pretty **Observatory Hill**, overlooking the harbour. Inside is a collection of vintage apparatus, including Australia's oldest working telescope (1874). Also on offer are audiovisual displays, including Aboriginal sky stories and a virtual reality **3D Theatre** (www.sydneyobservatory.com.au; adult/child \$10/8; 2.30pm & 3.30pm daily, plus 11am & noon Sat & Sun; Circular Quay). Bookings are essential for night-time stargazing sessions (adult/child \$18/12).

If you're feeling more earthly, Observatory Hill is great for a picnic. Studded with huge Moreton Bay fig trees, the grassy hilltop buzzes with sweaty hill-climbing joggers, lunch-time CBD escapees and travellers taking time out from the Rocks below. The hill was the site of the colony's first windmill (1796), which ground wheat until someone stole its canvas sails and the structure collapsed.

### Susannah Place Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p72; 02-9241 1893; www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au; 58-64 Gloucester St; adult/child \$8/4; tours 2pm, 3pm & 4pm; Circular Quay) Dating from 1844, this diminutive terrace of four houses and a shop selling historical wares is a fascinating time capsule of life in the Rocks since colonial times. After you watch a short film about the people who lived here, a guide will take you through the claustrophobic homes, which are decorated to reflect different periods in their histories.

### Rocks Discovery Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p72; 02-9240 8680; www.rocksdiscoverymuseum.com; Kendall Lane; 10am-5pm; Circular Quay) **FREE** Divided into four chronological displays – Warrane (pre-1788), Colony (1788-1820), Port (1820-1900) and Transformations (1900 to the present) – this excellent museum digs deep into the Rocks' history and leads you on an artefact-rich tour. Sensitive attention is given to the Rocks' original inhabitants, the Gadigal people.

### Museum of Contemporary Art

GALLERY

(Map p72; 02-9245 2400; www.mca.com.au; 140 George St; 10am-5pm Fri-Wed, to 9pm Thu; Circular Quay) **FREE** One of country's best and most challenging galleries, the MCA is a showcase for Australian and international contemporary art. Aboriginal art features

## DISCOUNT PASSES

**Sydney Museums Pass** (www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/sydney-museums-pass; adult/child \$18/9) allows a single visit to four boutique museums: Museum of Sydney, Hyde Park Barracks, Justice & Police Museum and Susannah Place. It's valid for three months and available at each of the participating museums.

**Ultimate Sydney Pass** (adult/child \$99/70) provides access to the high-profile, costly attractions operated by British-based Merlin Entertainment: Sydney Tower Eye (including the Skywalk), Sydney Sea Life Aquarium, Wild Life Sydney Zoo, Madame Tussauds and Manly Sea Life Sanctuary. It's available from each of the venues, but is often considerably cheaper online (visit any of the websites of the individual attractions). If you only plan on visiting some of these attractions, discounted **Sydney Attractions Passes** are available in any combination you desire.

## WORTH A TRIP

## PARRAMATTA RIVER

Sydney Harbour gets all the attention but a jaunt upriver to the geographical centre of the metropolis is just as interesting. As you pass old industrial sites and gaze into millionaires' back yards, a window opens onto a watery world in the heart of Sydney where school rowing crews get put through their paces, groups of mates glide past on yachts, solo kayakers work up a sweat and Mediterranean men fish off the wharves at night.

In geological terms the harbour is actually a drowned river valley, which makes it very hard to distinguish what's harbour and what's river, but as you glide past Cockatoo Island, where the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers meet, it's river all the way.

The ferry from Circular Quay to Parramatta takes about 1¼ hours (adult/child \$7.60/3.80), although on some low tides the boats stop at Rydalmere, one wharf earlier, and a bus continues from there. If you feel like making a day of it, Sydney Olympic Park and Parramatta both have a smattering of interesting sights. And if you want to speed up your return trip, both are connected to the train network.

In Parramatta, make your first stop the **Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre** (📞 1300 889 714; [www.discoverparramatta.com](http://www.discoverparramatta.com); 346a Church St; 🕒 9am-5pm; 📍 Parramatta) and grab a map of key sights. The centre is a museum in its own right, with temporary exhibits by local artists, as well as a permanent exhibition on Parramatta's history and culture.

The second European settlement in Australia, Parramatta was founded by First Fleet convict labour when Sydney Cove proved to be lousy for growing vegetables. Although Sydney's reserves of glamour are running dry by the time you get this far west, there are some interesting historic sights to visit, including:

**Old Government House** (📞 02-9635 8149; [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au); Parramatta Park; adult/child \$10/8; 🕒 10am-4pm Tue-Sun; 📍 Parramatta) The country residence of the early governors. This elegant Georgian Palladian building is now a preciously maintained museum furnished with original colonial furniture. It dates from 1799, making it the oldest remaining public building in Australia. Phone for details of monthly ghost nights.

**Elizabeth Farm** (📞 02-9635 9488; [www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au](http://www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au); 70 Alice St; adult/child \$8/4; 🕒 10.30am-3.30pm Sat & Sun; 📍 Rosehill) Elizabeth Farm contains part of Australia's oldest surviving European home (1793), built by renegade pastoralist and rum trader John Macarthur. Heralded as the founder of Australia's wool industry, Macarthur was a ruthless capitalist whose politicking made him immensely wealthy and a thorn in the side of successive governors. The pretty homestead is now a hands-on museum where you can recline on the reproduction furniture and thumb voyeuristically through Elizabeth Macarthur's letters.

prominently. The fab Gotham City-style art deco building bears the wounds of a redevelopment that has grafted on additional gallery space and a rooftop cafe/sculpture terrace – and ruined the George St facade in the process.

Volunteer-led guided tours are offered at 11am and 1pm daily, and at 7pm Thursdays and 3pm on weekends.

**St Patrick's Church**

CHURCH

(Map p72; 📞 02-9254 9855; [www.stpatschurchhill.org](http://www.stpatschurchhill.org); 20 Grosvenor St; 🕒 9am-4.30pm; 📍 Wynyard) This attractive sandstone church (1844) was built on land donated by William Davis, an Irishman transported for his role in the 1798 uprisings. Inside it's incredibly quiet, which makes the brass altar, the stained-glass win-

dows and the colourful statues of St Patrick, St Joan of Arc and St Michael (complete with dragon) seem even more striking. Guided tours are infrequent but worthwhile; visit the website for details.

Davis' home (on the site of the chapel-turned-cafe) was arguably the first Catholic chapel in Australia; it was used for clandestine devotions and secretly housed a consecrated host after the colony's only Catholic priest was deported in 1818.

**Customs House**

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p72; 📞 02-9242 8555; [www.sydneycustomshouse.com.au](http://www.sydneycustomshouse.com.au); 31 Alfred St; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm Sat & Sun; 📍 Circular Quay) **FREE** This elegant harbour-side edifice (1885) houses a bar, **Cafe**

# Central Sydney, The Rocks & Circular Quay

0 200 m  
0.1 miles

SYDNEY & AROUND SYDNEY



## Central Sydney, The Rocks & Circular Quay

### 📍 Top Sights

- 1 Royal Botanic Garden ..... D3
- 2 Sydney Harbour Bridge ..... C1
- 3 Sydney Opera House ..... D2

### 📍 Sights

- 4 5 Martin Place ..... C5
- 5 Archibald Memorial Fountain ..... C6
- 6 Argyle Cut ..... B2
- 7 Australian Museum ..... D7
- 8 Commonwealth Bank branch ..... C5
- 9 Customs House ..... C3
- Customs House Library ..... (see 9)
- 10 Domain ..... D5
- 11 Government House ..... D2
- 12 GPO Sydney ..... B5
- 13 Great Synagogue ..... C6
- 14 Hyde Park Barracks Museum ..... D5
- 15 Justice & Police Museum ..... C3
- 16 Martin Place ..... B5
- 17 Museum of Contemporary Art ..... C3
- 18 Museum of Sydney ..... C4
- 19 Parliament House ..... D5
- 20 Pylon Lookout ..... C1
- 21 Queen Victoria Building ..... B6
- 22 Rocks Discovery Museum ..... C2
- 23 SH Ervin Gallery ..... A3
- 24 St James' Church ..... C5
- 25 St Mary's Cathedral ..... D6
- 26 St Patrick's Church ..... B3
- 27 State Library of NSW ..... D4
- 28 Susannah Place Museum ..... B3
- 29 Sydney Observatory ..... A2
- 30 Sydney Tower Eye ..... C6
- 31 Sydney Town Hall ..... B7

### 📍 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 32 BlueBananas ..... B6
- 33 Bonza Bike Tours ..... B2
- 34 BridgeClimb ..... B2
- 35 Captain Cook Cruises ..... C3
- 36 Cook & Phillip Park ..... D7
- 37 The Rocks Walking Tours ..... B2

### 📍 Sleeping

- 38 Establishment Hotel ..... C4
- 39 Harbour Rocks ..... B2
- 40 Langham ..... A3
- 41 Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel ..... A2
- 42 Park Hyatt ..... C1
- 43 Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour  
    QT Sydney ..... (see 81)
- 44 Quay West Suites ..... B3
- 45 Russell ..... B3
- 46 Shangri-La ..... B3
- 47 Sydney Harbour Bed & Breakfast ..... B3
- 48 Sydney Harbour YHA ..... B3

- 49 Westin Sydney ..... B5

### 📍 Eating

- 50 Aria ..... D2
- 51 Ash St Cellar ..... B5
- Cafe Sydney ..... (see 9)
- 52 Central Baking Depot ..... A5
- 53 Est. .... B4
- 54 Ippudo Sydney ..... C6
- 55 Le Grand Café ..... B6
- 56 Mr Wong ..... B4
- 57 Quay ..... C2
- 58 Rockpool ..... B4
- 59 Rockpool Bar & Grill ..... C4
- 60 Sailors Thai Canteen ..... C2
- 61 Saké ..... B2
- 62 Sepia ..... A6
- Spice Temple ..... (see 59)

### 📍 Drinking & Nightlife

- 63 Australian Hotel ..... B2
- 64 Baxter Inn ..... B6
- 65 Blu Bar on 36 ..... B3
- 66 Establishment ..... B4
- 67 Fortune of War ..... B3
- 68 Frankie's Pizza ..... C4
- 69 Grandma's ..... B6
- 70 Harts Pub ..... B3
- 71 Hero of Waterloo ..... B2
- 72 Ivy ..... B5
- Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel ..... (see 41)
- 73 Marble Bar ..... B6
- 74 O Bar ..... B4
- 75 Opera Bar ..... D2
- 76 Rook ..... B6
- 77 Spice Cellar ..... C5

### 📍 Entertainment

- Bangarra Dance Theatre ..... (see 83)
- 78 Basement ..... C3
- 79 City Recital Hall ..... B5
- 80 Dendy Opera Quays ..... D2
- 81 State Theatre ..... B6
- 82 Sydney Conservatorium of Music ..... D4
- Sydney Dance Company ..... (see 83)
- Sydney Opera House ..... (see 3)
- 83 Sydney Theatre Company ..... B1

### 📍 Shopping

- 84 Australian Wine Centre ..... B3
- 85 David Jones ..... C6
- 86 Gannon House ..... B2
- 87 Kinokuniya ..... B6
- 88 Opal Minded ..... C2
- Queen Victoria Building ..... (see 21)
- 89 Strand Arcade ..... B6
- Westfield Sydney ..... (see 30)

**Sydney** (Map p72; ☎ 02-9251 8683; www.cafe.sydney.com; L5, Customs House, 31 Alfred St; mains \$38-39; ☀ noon-11pm Mon-Fri, 5-11pm Sat, noon-3.30pm Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay), on the top floor, and the three-level **Customs House Library** (Map p72; ☎ 02-9242 8555; 31 Alfred St; ☀ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay), which has a great selection of international newspapers and magazines, internet access and interesting temporary exhibitions. In the lobby, look for the swastikas in the tiling (and the plaque explaining their symbolism), and a fascinating 1:500 model of the inner city under the glass floor.

**Justice & Police Museum** MUSEUM  
(Map p72; ☎ 02-9252 1144; www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au; cnr Albert & Phillip Sts; adult/child \$10/5; ☀ 10am-5pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay) Occupying the old Water Police Station (1858), this mildly unnerving museum documents the city's dark and disreputable past through old police photographs and an often macabre collection of exhibits.

★ **Sydney Opera House** BUILDING  
(Map p72; ☎ 02-9250 7250; www.sydneyopera.house.com; Bennelong Point; tours adult/child \$37/20; ☀ tours 9am-5pm; 🚶 Circular Quay) Designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon, this World Heritage-listed building is Australia's most recognisable landmark. Visually referencing the billowing white sails of a seagoing yacht (but described by some local wags as more accurately resembling the sexual congress of turtles), it's a commanding presence on Circular Quay. The complex comprises five performance spaces where dance, concerts, opera and theatre are staged.

The best way to experience the building is to attend a performance, but you can also take a one-hour guided tour, conducted in a variety of languages. There's also a two-hour 'access all areas' backstage tour (\$165), which departs at 7am and includes breakfast in the Green Room.

## 🕒 Royal Botanic Garden & the Domain

★ **Royal Botanic Garden** GARDENS  
(Map p72; ☎ 02-9231 8111; www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au; Mrs Macquaries Rd; ☀ 7am-8pm Oct-Feb, to 5.30pm Mar-Sep; 🚶 Circular Quay) **FREE** These expansive gardens are the city's favourite picnic destination, jogging route and snuggling spot. Bordering Farm Cove,

## City Walk The Rocks

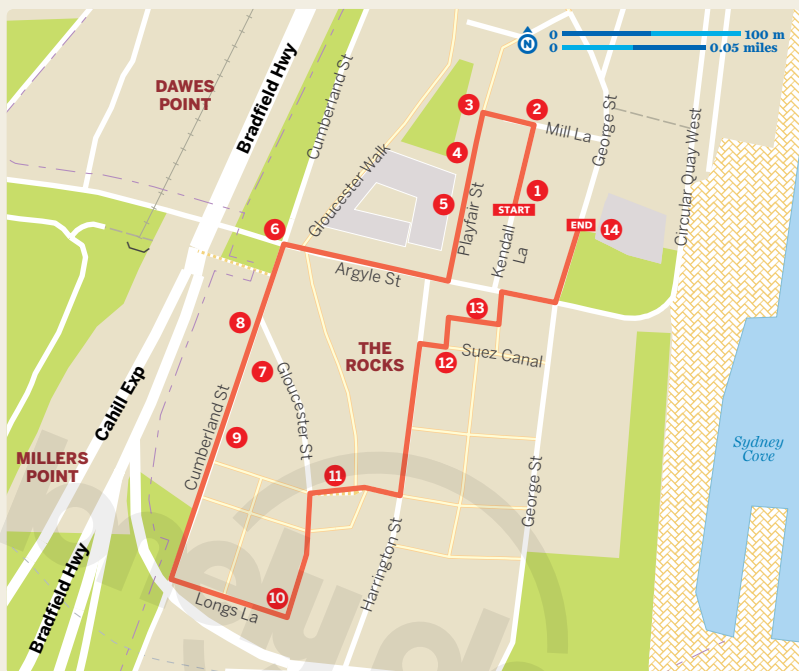
**START THE ROCKS DISCOVERY MUSEUM**  
**FINISH CADMAN'S COTTAGE**  
**LENGTH 880M**  
**DURATION ONE HOUR**

The area where British convicts landed on 26 January 1788 remains the first port of call for most visitors to Sydney. Start this walk at the **1 Rocks Discovery Museum** (p70), where the exhibits offer an excellent overview of the area's rich and often disreputable history. From the museum, walk north up Kendall Lane to its junction with **2 Mill Lane**, named after a steam-powered flour mill that was once located here. The mill was demolished around 1920, one of many 18th- and 19th-century buildings in the Rocks to suffer the same fate during the 20th century.

Turn left (west) into Mill Lane and walk up to **3 The Rocks Square** on the corner of Playfair St where, in 1973, local residents, conservationists, social activists and members of trade unions clashed with police and put themselves in the path of bulldozers that were demolishing structures on this site. The protesters were intent on preserving the streets and buildings that had been home to local families for generations, and their fight became known in the national media as the 'Battle for the Rocks'. In 1975 the NSW State Government, which had initially backed the developers, bowed to popular opinion and declared that all remaining historic buildings north of the Cahill Expressway were to be retained, conserved and restored.

Turn left (south) into Playfair St and walk past **4 Argyle Terrace** (1877) and **5 Argyle Stores** (1828-1913) on your right. Then turn right and walk west up Argyle St to **6 Argyle Cut** (p70), a road cut through a sandstone ridge of rock to allow access between Circular Quay and the port at Millers Point. It was created between the 1830s and 1860s, initially by convicts and later by qualified stonemasons.

Turn left into Cumberland St until you see the **7 Australian Hotel** on the corner of Gloucester St. The **8 King George V Recreation Centre** opposite the hotel was designed by Lippmann Associates and



opened in 1998; wedged between the historic street and the boundary wall of the elevated freeway, it's an interesting contemporary architectural intervention in this historic precinct.

Continue along Cumberland St. On the left-hand side of the road is **9 Sydney Harbour YHA** (p107), an unusual building which straddles an archaeological dig site. In 1994 the remains of over 30 houses, two laneways, shops and pubs were excavated here, along with over 750,000 artefacts.

Turn left into narrow Longs Lane, which will take you through to Gloucester St. On the northwest corner of the lane is handsome **10 Jobbins Terrace**, constructed between 1855 and 1857. Further along Gloucester St, the modest 1844 terrace now functioning as the **11 Susannah Place Museum** (p70) presents an interesting contrast.

From the museum's shop, which sells a quirky range of Australiana souvenirs, walk down the stairs in Cumberland Pl to Harrington St, then turn left and walk north down to **12 Suez Canal**, a narrow laneway on the right-hand side. In the 19th century this was one of the most infamous locations in Sydney, frequented by prostitutes and members

of the 'Rocks Push' larrikin gang that ruled the area from the 1870s to the end of the 1890s. Members were known for assault and battery against police and pedestrians; one of their tried and trusted techniques was to have female members of the gang entice drunks and seamen into dark areas to be assaulted and robbed.

Turn into Suez Canal and then left into the Well Court yard, once used for dog baiting and cock fighting. Then walk down the steps to stone-paved Greenway Lane, named after famous convict architect Francis Greenway, who lived nearby on the corner of Argyle and George Sts.

Exit onto Argyle St; the building at No 45–47 is **13 Gannon House**, built in 1839 as a residence and carpentry store by former convict Michael Gannon; he was known for the quality of his coffins.

Turn right, towards the harbour, and walk down to George St. In the park opposite is diminutive **14 Cadman's Cottage**, built in 1815–16 for John Cadman, the Government Coxswain. It's Sydney's oldest house and the only remaining element of the city's original dockyard precinct.

## AUSTRALIAN CONVICT SITES

Added to Unesco's World Heritage List in 2010, this group of 11 historic locations is spread across Australia, from Fremantle in Western Australia to remote Norfolk Island, far to the east. Four of the sites are in or around Sydney: **Cockatoo Island** (p66), **Hyde Park Barracks** (p77), **Old Government House and Domain** (p71) and the **Great North Road** (p135), which you can visit on your way to the Hunter Valley.

For more information, visit [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/convict-sites](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/convict-sites).

east of the opera house, the gardens were established in 1816 and feature plant life from Australia and around the world. They include the site of the colony's first paltry vegetable patch, but their history goes back much further than that; long before the convicts arrived, this was an initiation ground for the Gadigal people.

Free 1½-hour guided walks depart at 10.30am daily. From November to March there's an additional hour-long tour at 1pm on weekdays. Book ahead for an **Aboriginal Heritage Tour** (☎02-9231 8134; adult/child \$37/17; ☀10am Fri), which covers local history, traditional plant uses and bush-food tastings.

### Government House

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p72; ☎02-9931 5222; [www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au](http://www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au); Macquarie St; ☀grounds 10am-4pm, tours 10.30am-3pm Fri-Sun; 📍Circular Quay) **FREE** Encased in English-style grounds within the Royal Botanic Gardens, this Gothic sandstone mansion (built 1837-43) is the official residence of the Governor of NSW. It's also used for hosting visiting heads of state and royalty. The interior can only be accessed on a free guided tour; collect your ticket from the gatehouse.

### Mrs Macquaries Point

PARK

(Map p68; Mrs Macquaries Rd; 📍Circular Quay) Adjoining the Royal Botanic Garden but officially part of the Domain, Mrs Macquaries Point forms the northeastern tip of Farm Cove and provides beautiful views over the bay to the Opera House and city skyline. It was named in 1810 after Elizabeth, Governor Macquarie's wife, who ordered a seat chiselled into the rock from which she could

view the harbour. **Mrs Macquaries Chair**, as it's known, remains to this day.

### Domain

PARK

(Map p72; [www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au); Art Gallery Rd; 📍St James) Administered by the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Domain is a large grassy tract east of Macquarie St, set aside by Governor Phillip in 1788 for public recreation. Phillip's intent rings true: today's city workers use the space to work up a sweat or eat their lunch. Large-scale public events are also held here.

Sculptures dot the park, including a reclining Henry Moore figure, and Brett Whiteley's *Almost Once* (1991) – two giant matches, one burnt – rising from the ground near the Art Gallery of NSW.

On the lawn in front of the gallery you can listen to religious zealots, nutters, political extremists, homophobes, hippies and academics express their earnest opinions at the by turns entertaining and enraging **Speakers' Corner** (Map p68; [www.speakerscorner.org.au](http://www.speakerscorner.org.au); Art Gallery Rd; ☀2-5pm Sun; 📍St James). Some of them have something interesting to say; most are just plain mad. Either way, it makes for an interesting afternoon. BYO soapbox.

### ★ Art Gallery of NSW

GALLERY

(Map p88; ☎1800 679 278; [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au); Art Gallery Rd; ☀10am-5pm Thu-Tue, to 10pm Wed; 📍St James) **FREE** With its classical Greek frontage and modern rear end, this much-loved institution plays a prominent and gregarious role in Sydney society. Blockbuster international touring exhibitions arrive regularly and there's an outstanding permanent collection of Australian art, including a substantial Indigenous section. The gallery also plays host to lectures, concerts, screenings, celebrity talks and children's activities. A range of free guided tours is offered on different themes and in various languages; enquire at the desk or check the website.

### 🗨 Macquarie St

Splendid sandstone colonial buildings grace this historic street, which defines the central city's eastern edge. Many of these buildings were commissioned by Lachlan Macquarie, the first NSW governor with a vision for Sydney beyond its convict origins. He enlisted convict architect Francis Greenway to help realise his plans, and together they set a gold standard for town planning and architectural excellence that the city has – alas – never since managed to replicate.



**State Library of NSW**

LIBRARY

(Map p72; ☎02-9273 1414; www.sl.nsw.gov.au; Macquarie St; ☀9am-8pm Mon-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri-Sun; 📄Martin Pl) **FREE** Among the State Library's over five million tomes are James Cook's and Joseph Banks' journals and William Bligh's log from the mutinous *HMAV Bounty*. It's worth dropping in to peruse the temporary exhibitions in the galleries, and the elaborately sculpted bronze doors and grand atrium of the neoclassical Mitchell Wing (1910); note the map of Abel Tasman's journeys in the mosaic floor. The main reading room is an elegant temple of knowledge clad in milky marble.

Outside, on the Macquarie St side of the building, is a sculpture of explorer Matthew Flinders; look for his intrepid cat Trim on the windowsill behind.

**Parliament House**

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p72; ☎02-9230 2111; www.parliament.nsw.gov.au; 6 Macquarie St; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri; 📄Martin Pl) **FREE** Twin of the nearby Mint, the venerable Parliament House (1816) has been home to the Parliament of New South Wales since 1829, making it the world's oldest continually operating parliament building. And like the Mint, its front section (which now blends into a modern addition on the eastern side) was part of the Rum Hospital (built in exchange for a monopoly on the rum trade).

You need to pass through a metal detector to access the inner sanctum, where you can check out art exhibitions in the lobby and the historical display in the wood-panelled Jubilee Room. On nonsitting days both assembly chambers are open, but when Parliament is sitting, you're restricted to the Public Gallery.

**Hyde Park Barracks Museum**

MUSEUM

(Map p72; ☎02-8239 2311; www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au; Queens Sq, Macquarie St; adult/child \$10/5; ☀10am-5pm; 📄St James) Convict architect Francis Greenway designed this squarish, decorously Georgian structure (1819) as convict quarters. Between 1819 and 1848, 50,000 men and boys did time here, most of whom had been sentenced by British courts to transportation to Australia for property crime. It later became an immigration depot, a women's asylum and a law court. These days it's a fascinating (if not entirely cheerful) museum, focusing on the barracks' history and the archaeological efforts that helped reveal it.

**St James' Church**

CHURCH

(Map p72; ☎02-8227 1300; www.sjks.org.au; 173 King St; ☀10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat, 7am-4pm Sun; 📄St James) Built from convict-made bricks, Sydney's oldest church (1819) is widely considered to be architect Francis Greenway's masterpiece. It was originally designed as a courthouse, but the brief changed and the cells became the crypt. Check out the dark-wood choir loft, the sparkling copper dome, the crypt and the 1950s stained-glass 'Creation Window'.

**Hyde Park****★Hyde Park**

PARK

(Map p82; Elizabeth St; 📄St James & Museum) Formal but much-loved Hyde Park has manicured gardens and a tree-formed tunnel running down its spine which looks particularly pretty at night, illuminated by fairy lights. The park's northern end is crowned by the richly symbolic art deco **Archibald Memorial**

**SYDNEY FOR CHILDREN**

Organised kids' activities ramp up during school holidays (December/January, April, July and September); check [www.sydneyforkids.com.au](http://www.sydneyforkids.com.au), [www.au.timeout.com/sydney/kids](http://www.au.timeout.com/sydney/kids) and [www.childmags.com.au](http://www.childmags.com.au) for listings.

Darling Harbour is home to **Sea Life** (p82), **Wild Life** (p83) and the **Maritime Museum** (p83), as well as the kid-focused **Monkey Baa Theatre Company** (p129) and a great playground at **Tumbalong Park** (p83). The hands-on **Powerhouse Museum** (p85) in neighbouring Ultimo is also worth investigating, as are the children's events run by the **Art Gallery of NSW** (p76). Elsewhere, **Taronga Zoo** (p97) and **Luna Park** (p97) are sure to please.

Otherwise, if the weather's fine, head to the beach. The harbour beaches have less wave action, but most of the surf beaches have enclosed ocean pools suitable even for toddlers and babies. Great options include **Nielsen Park** (p91), **Balmoral Beach** (p97) and **Clovelly Beach** (p93). Gnarly seven-year-olds can learn to surf with **Let's Go Surfing** (p103) at North Bondi.

**Fountain** (Map p72; ☑ St James), featuring Greek mythological figures, while at the other end is the Anzac Memorial (p78).

### St Mary's Cathedral

CHURCH

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9220 0400; www.stmaryscathedral.org.au; St Marys Rd; crypt \$5; ☀ 6.30am-6.30pm; ☑ St James) Built to last, this 106m-long Gothic Revival-style cathedral was begun in 1868, consecrated in 1905 and substantially finished in 1928, but the massive, 75m-high spires weren't added until 2000. The crypt has an impressive terrazzo mosaic floor depicting the Creation, inspired by the Celtic-style illuminations of the *Book of Kells*.

### Anzac Memorial

MEMORIAL

(Map p82; www.anzacmemorial.nsw.gov.au; Hyde Park; ☀ 9am-5pm; ☑ Museum) **FREE** Fronted by the Pool of Remembrance, this dignified art deco memorial (1934) commemorates the soldiers of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzacs) who served in WWI. The interior dome is studded with 120,000 stars – one for each New South Welsh man and woman who served. These twinkle above Rayner Hoff's poignant sculpture *Sacrifice*, featuring a naked soldier draped over a shield and sword. There's also a small museum downstairs where a 13-minute film screens every 30 minutes.

## City Centre

### Museum of Sydney

MUSEUM

(MoS; Map p72; ☎ 02-9251 5988; www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au; cnr Phillip & Bridge Sts; adult/child \$10/5; ☀ 9.30am-5pm; ☑ Circular Quay) Built on the site of Sydney's first (and infamously pungent) Government House, the MoS is a fragmented, storytelling museum, which uses state-of-the-art installations to explore the city's people, places, cultures and evolution. The history of the Indigenous Eora people is highlighted – touching on the millenniums of continuous occupation of this place. Be sure to open some of the many stainless-steel and glass drawers (they close themselves).

### Martin Place

SQUARE

(Map p72; ☑ Martin Place) Studded with imposing edifices, long, lean Martin Place was closed to traffic in 1971, forming a terraced pedestrian mall complete with fountains and areas for public gatherings. It's the closest thing to a main civic square that Sydney has. In 2014 the Lindt cafe at 53 Martin Place

was the site of a 16-hour siege, ending in the death of two hostages and the gunman. At the time of writing, a permanent memorial to the victims was being planned.

As iconic in its time as the Opera House, **GPO Sydney** (Map p72; www.gposydney.com; 1 Martin Pl; ☑ Martin Place), built in 1874, is a beautiful colonnaded Victorian palazzo that was once Sydney's General Post Office. It has since been gutted, stabbed with office towers and transformed into the Westin Sydney hotel, swanky shops, restaurants and bars. Inspired by Italian Renaissance palaces, architect James Barnet caused a minor fracas by basing the faces carved on the sandstone facade on local identities. Queen Victoria dominates the central white-marble statuary, surrounded by allegorical figures. Under a staircase in the basement there is a small historical display and a pipe housing the dribbling remnants of the Tank Stream.

Built in 1916, 12-storey **5 Martin Place** (Map p72; www.5martinplace.com.au; 5 Martin Pl; ☑ Martin Place) was Australia's first steel-framed 'skyscraper'. At the time of writing, it was in the process of a major redevelopment, with a glass tower being grafted on to it.

A **Commonwealth Bank branch** (Map p72; 48 Martin Pl; ☑ Martin Place) has taken over the old State Savings Bank building; it's a beaut example of interwar beaux-arts architecture, featuring green-marble Ionian columns and an enclosed brass-and-marble teller area.

Near the George St end of Martin Place you'll find the **Centoph**, commemorating Australia's war dead. Abutting Martin Place on George St is the former **Commercial Banking Corporation of Sydney** – an impressive marbled edifice, worth a look if you're passing by.

### Sydney Tower Eye

TOWER

(Map p72; ☎ 1800 258 693; www.sydneytowereye.com.au; 100 Market St; adult/child \$27/16, Skywalk adult/child \$70/49; ☀ 9am-9.30pm; ☑ St James) The 309m-tall Sydney Tower (built 1970–81) offers unbeatable 360-degree views from the observation level 250m up – and even better ones for the daredevils braving the Skywalk on its roof. The visit starts with the 4D Experience – a short 3D film giving you a bird's-eye view (a parakeet's to be exact) of city, surf, harbour and what lies beneath the water, accompanied by mist sprays and bubbles; it's actually pretty darn cool.

## Great Synagogue

SYNAGOGUE

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9267 2477; [www.greatsynagogue.org.au](http://www.greatsynagogue.org.au); 187a Elizabeth St; tours adult/child \$10/5; ☺ tours noon Thu & 1st & 3rd Tue; 🏠 St James) The heritage-listed Great Synagogue (1878) is the spiritual home of Sydney's oldest Jewish congregation, established in 1831. It's considered the Mother Synagogue of Australia and is architecturally the most important in the southern hemisphere, combining Romanesque, Gothic, Moorish and Byzantine elements. Tours include the AM Rosenblum Museum's artefacts and a video presentation on Jewish beliefs, traditions and history in Australia.

## Queen Victoria Building

HISTORIC BUILDING

(QVB; Map p72; ☎ 02-9264 9209; [www.qvb.com.au](http://www.qvb.com.au); 455 George St; tours \$15; ☺ 11am-5pm Sun, 9am-6pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat, 9am-9pm Thu; 🏠 Town Hall) Unbelievably, this High Victorian masterpiece (1898) was repeatedly slated for demolition before it was restored in the mid-1980s. Occupying an entire city block on the site of the city's first markets, the QVB is a Venetian Romanesque temple to the gods of retail.

Sure, the 200 speciality shops are great, but check out the wrought-iron balconies, the Byzantine copper domes, the stained-glass shopfronts, the mosaic floors, the replica crown jewels, the ballroom, the tinkling baby grand and the hyperkitsch animated Royal Clock (featuring the Battle of Hastings and an hourly beheading of Charles I). Informative 45-minute tours (11.30am Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) depart from the concierge desk on the ground floor.

Outside there's an imposing statue of Queen Vic herself. Nearby is a wishing well featuring a bronze replica of her beloved pooch, Islay, which disconcertingly speaks in the baritone voice of former radio rabble-rouser John Laws.

## Sydney Town Hall

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p72; [www.sydneytownhall.com.au](http://www.sydneytownhall.com.au); 483 George St; ☺ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri; 🏠 Town Hall) Mansard roofs, sandstone turrets, wrought-iron trimmings and over-the-top balustrades: the French Second Empire wedding-cake exterior of the Town Hall (built 1868-89) is something to behold. Unless there's something on, you can explore the halls off the main entrance. The wood-lined concert hall has a humongous pipe organ with nearly 9000 pipes; it was once the largest in the world. It's used regularly for recitals, some of which are free.

## Haymarket

### Chinatown

AREA

(Map p82; [www.sydney-chinatown.info](http://www.sydney-chinatown.info); 🏠 Town Hall) With a discordant soundtrack of blaring Canto pop, Dixon St is the heart and soul of Chinatown: a narrow, shady pedestrian mall with a string of restaurants and their urgently attendant spruikers. The ornate dragon gates (*paifang*) at either end of the street are topped with fake bamboo tiles, golden Chinese calligraphy (with English translations), ornamental lions to keep evil spirits at bay and a fair amount of pigeon poo.

This is actually Sydney's third Chinatown: the first was in the Rocks in the late 19th century before it moved to the Darling Harbour end of Market St. Dixon St's Chinatown dates from the 1920s. Look for the fake-bamboo awnings guarded by dragons, dogs and lions, and kooky upturned-wok lighting fixtures.

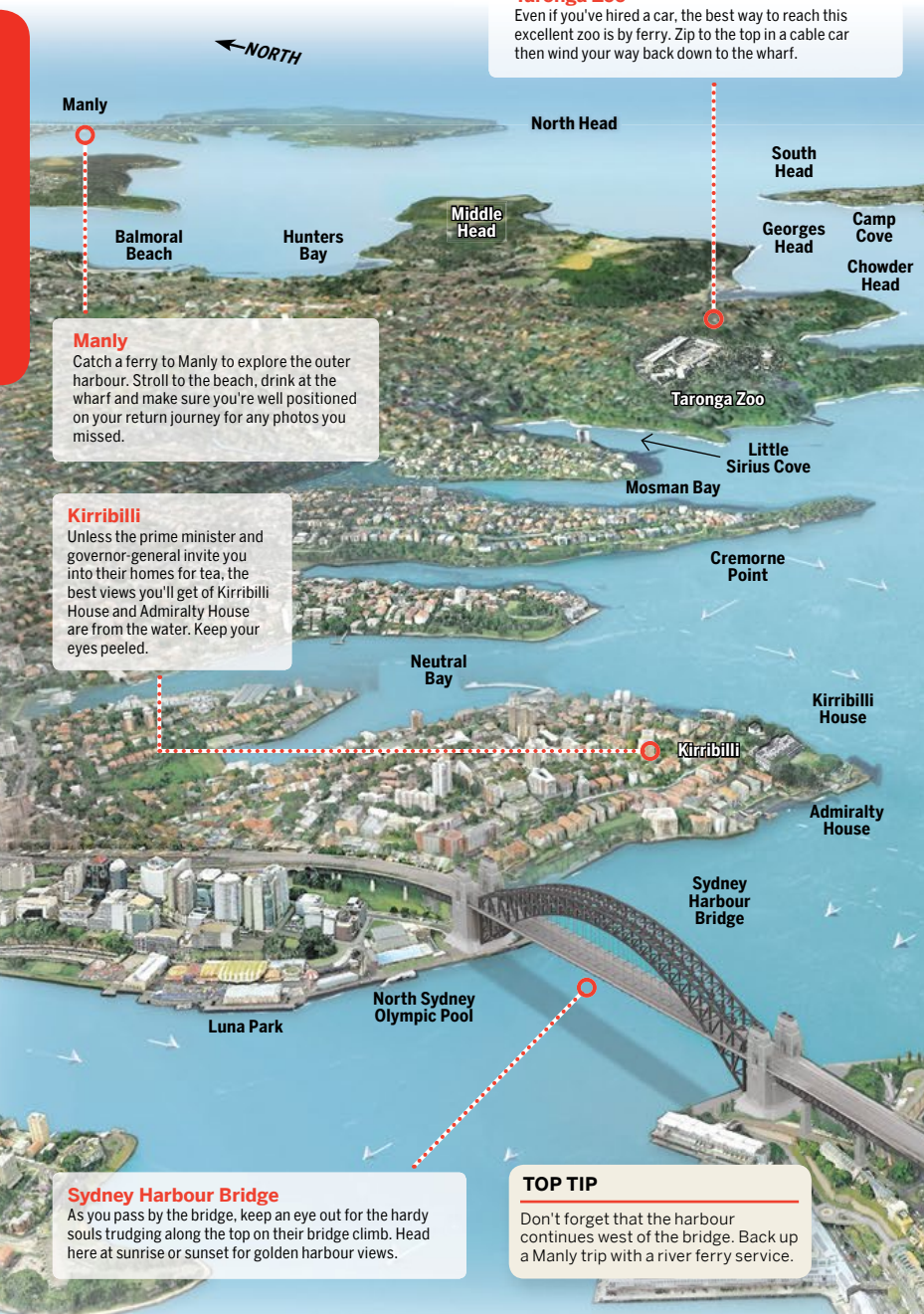
On Hay St, the surreal **Golden Water Mouth** (Map p82; Hay St; 🏠 Town Hall) sculpture drips with gilt and water. Formed from a eucalyptus trunk from Condobolin, the destination of many gold-rush-era Chinese, its feng shui is supposed to promote positive energy and good luck. A little further down Hay St, **Paddy's Markets** (Map p82; [www.paddysmarkets.com.au](http://www.paddysmarkets.com.au); 9-13 Hay St; ☺ 10am-6pm Wed-Sun; 🏠 Central) fills the lower level of a hefty brick building. It started out in the mid-19th century with mainly European traders, but the tightly packed market stalls are more evocative of present-day Vietnam these days.

## Darling Harbour & Pyrmont

Dotted between the flyovers and fountains of Sydney's purpose-built tourist hub (opened for the bicentennial in 1988) are some of the city's highest-profile paid attractions. Every other inch of this former dockland is given over to visitor amusements, bars and restaurants.

Darling Harbour is currently in the grip of a major redevelopment involving the demolition of many of its '80s edifices and the building of a giant convention centre. At the same time, the precinct is spreading north along its eastern shore with the rapid construction of the Barangaroo complex of office towers, waterside parks and entertainment venues. When it's finished, Sydney's second mega-casino will glare across the water at its competitor, the Star, which has also recently been redeveloped.

# Sydney Harbour



## Taronga Zoo

Even if you've hired a car, the best way to reach this excellent zoo is by ferry. Zip to the top in a cable car then wind your way back down to the wharf.

## Manly

### Manly

Catch a ferry to Manly to explore the outer harbour. Stroll to the beach, drink at the wharf and make sure you're well positioned on your return journey for any photos you missed.

### Kirribilli

Unless the prime minister and governor-general invite you into their homes for tea, the best views you'll get of Kirribilli House and Admiralty House are from the water. Keep your eyes peeled.

### Sydney Harbour Bridge

As you pass by the bridge, keep an eye out for the hardy souls trudging along the top on their bridge climb. Head here at sunrise or sunset for golden harbour views.

### TOP TIP

Don't forget that the harbour continues west of the bridge. Back up a Manly trip with a river ferry service.

### Watsons Bay

Imagine Watsons Bay as the isolated fishing village it once was as you pull into its sheltered wharf. Stroll around South Head for views up the harbour and over ocean-battered cliffs.

### Fort Denison

Known as Pinchgut, this fortified speck was once a place of fearsome punishment. The bodies of executed convicts were left to hang here as a grisly warning to all; the local Aborigines were horrified.



PETER DRACOVICH ©

### FERRIES

Circular Quay is the hub for state-run Sydney Ferries; nine separate routes leave from here, journeying to 38 different wharves.



### Sydney Opera House

You can clamber all over it and walk around it, but nothing beats the perspective you get as your ferry glides past the Opera House's dazzling sails. Have your camera at the ready.

### Circular Quay

Circular Quay has been at the centre of Sydney life since the First Fleet dropped anchor here in 1788. Book your ferry ticket, check the indicator boards for the correct pier and get onboard.

## Haymarket & Chinatown



### Haymarket & Chinatown

#### 📍 Top Sights

- 1 Hyde Park ..... D1

#### 📍 Sights

- 2 Anzac Memorial ..... D1  
 3 Chinatown ..... B3  
 4 Golden Water Mouth ..... B3  
 5 Powerhouse Museum ..... A2

#### 🎪 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 6 I'm Free ..... C1

#### 🏠 Sleeping

- 7 Adina Apartment Hotel Sydney ..... B1  
 8 D3 Hostel ..... D3  
 9 Hyde Park Inn ..... D2  
 10 Meriton Serviced Apartments  
 Kent Street ..... C2

#### 🍴 Eating

- 11 Alpha ..... D1  
 12 Bar H ..... D3

- 13 Chat Thai ..... C3  
 14 Din Tai Fung ..... C2  
 15 Longrain ..... D3  
 16 Mamak ..... B2  
 17 Single Origin Roasters ..... D3  
 18 Spice I Am ..... D3  
 19 Sydney Madang ..... C2  
 20 Tetsuya's ..... B1

#### 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 21 Good God Small Club ..... B2  
 22 Wild Rover ..... D3

#### 🎬 Entertainment

- 23 Capitol Theatre ..... C3  
 24 IMAX ..... A1  
 25 Monkey Baa Theatre Company ..... B1

#### 🛍️ Shopping

- 26 Paddy's Markets ..... B3

In the meantime, it's business as usual for all of the other operators. If you're after a slice of real Sydney life you won't find it here, but it's still worth allocating an hour for a walkabout.

### Sydney Sea Life Aquarium

AQUARIUM

(Map p84; ☎ 02-8251 7800; www.sydneyaquarium.com.au; Aquarium Pier; adult/child \$40/28; 🕒 9.30am-8pm; 🚶 Town Hall) 🌿 As well as regular wall-mounted tanks and ground-level enclosures, this impressive complex has two large pools that you can walk through, safely

enclosed in Perspex tunnels, as an intimidating array of sharks and rays pass overhead. Other highlights include clownfish (howdy Nemo), platypuses, moon jellyfish (in a disco-lit tube), sea dragons and the swoon-worthy finale: the two-million-litre Great Barrier Reef tank.

The aquarium's two dugongs were rescued after washing up on Queensland beaches. Attempts to return them to the wild failed, so the Dugong Island enclosure was built to house them. As sad as it is to see such large marine mammals in captivity, it offers a fascinating and rare opportunity to get close to them.

Needless to say, kids love this place; arrive early to beat the crowds. It's cheaper to book online.

### Wild Life Sydney Zoo ZOO

(Map p84; ☎ 02-9333 9245; [www.wildlifesydney.com.au](http://www.wildlifesydney.com.au); Aquarium Pier; adult/child \$40/28; ☀ 9.30am-7pm; 📍 Town Hall) Complementing its sister and neighbour, Sea Life, this large complex houses an impressive collection of Australian native reptiles, butterflies, spiders, snakes and mammals (including kangaroos and koalas). The nocturnal section is particularly good, bringing out the extrovert in the quolls, potoroos, echidnas and possums. As interesting as Wild Life is, it's not a patch on Taronga Zoo. Still, it's worth considering as part of a combo with Sea Life, or if you're short on time. Tickets are cheaper online.

### Madame Tussauds MUSEUM

(Map p84; [www.madametussauds.com/sydney](http://www.madametussauds.com/sydney); Aquarium Pier; adult/child \$40/28; ☀ 9.30am-8pm; 📍 Town Hall) In this celebrity-obsessed age, it's hardly surprising that Madame Tussauds' hyperrealistic waxwork dummies are just as popular now as when the eponymous madame lugged her macabre haul of French revolution death masks to London in 1803. Where else do mere mortals get to strike a pose with Hugh Jackman and cosy up to Kylie?

### Cockle Bay Wharf BUILDING

(Map p84; [www.cocklebaywharf.com](http://www.cocklebaywharf.com); 📍 Town Hall) The first vaguely tasteful development in Darling Harbour, Cockle Bay Wharf occupies the harbour's cityside frontage as far as Pyrmont Bridge. Its sharp, contemporary angles are softened by the use of timber and whimsical sculptures (we particularly like the jaunty dancing storks).

### Tumbalong Park PARK

(Map p84; 📍 Town Hall) Flanked by the new Darling Walk development, this grassy circle on Darling Harbour's southern rump is set up for family fun. Sunbakers and frisbee throwers occupy the lawns; tourists dunk their feet in fountains on hot summer afternoons; and there's an excellent children's playground with a 21m flying fox.

### ★ Chinese Garden of Friendship GARDENS

(Map p84; ☎ 02-9240 8888; [www.chinesegarden.com.au](http://www.chinesegarden.com.au); Harbour St; adult/child \$6/3; ☀ 9.30am-5pm; 📍 Town Hall) Built according to Taoist principles, the Chinese Garden of Friendship is usually an oasis of tranquillity – although construction noise from Darling Harbour's redevelopment can intrude from time to time. Designed by architects from Guangzhou (Sydney's sister city) for Australia's bicentenary in 1988, the garden interweaves pavilions, waterfalls, lakes, paths and lush plant life.

### Australian National Maritime Museum MUSEUM

(Map p84; ☎ 02-9298 3777; [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au); 2 Murray St; adult/child \$7/3.50; ☀ 9.30am-5pm; 📍 Pyrmont Bay) Beneath an Utzon-like roof (a low-rent Opera House?), the Maritime Museum sails through Australia's inextricable relationship with the sea. Exhibitions range from Indigenous canoes to surf culture, to the navy. Entry includes free tours and there are kids' activities on Sundays. The 'big ticket' (adult/child \$27/16) includes entry to the vessels moored outside, including the submarine HMAS *Onslow*, the destroyer HMAS *Vampire* and an 1874 square rigger, the *James Craig*, which periodically offers sailing trips (p103). Normally a replica of Cook's *Endeavour* also drops anchor.

### Sydney Fish Market MARKET

(Map p84; ☎ 02-9004 1108; [www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au](http://www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au); Bank St; ☀ 7am-4pm; 📍 Fish Market) This piscatorial precinct on Blackwattle Bay shifts over 15 million kilograms of seafood annually, and has retail outlets, restaurants, a sushi bar, an oyster bar and a highly regarded cooking school. Chefs, locals and overfed seagulls haggle over mud crabs, Balmain bugs, lobsters and slabs of salmon at the daily fish auction, which kicks off at 5.30am weekdays. Check it out on a behind-the-scenes tour (adult/child \$30/10).

## Darling Harbour & Pyrmont

0 200 m  
0 0.1 miles

SYDNEY & AROUND SYDNEY



### 📍 Ultimo, Glebe & Chippendale

Clinging to the city's southern edge and crisscrossed by fume-belching arterial routes, Ultimo and Chippendale have never been the prettiest parts of central Sydney.

However, in recent years world-famous architects have been working their magic on major developments on either side of Broadway, the main route dividing the two neighbourhoods. Chippendale, in particular, has started to sprout hip eateries, bars and



## Darling Harbour & Pyrmont

### 📍 Top Sights

- 1 Chinese Garden of Friendship ..... D6

### 📍 Sights

- 2 Australian National Maritime Museum ..... C3  
 3 Cockle Bay Wharf ..... D4  
 4 Madame Tussauds ..... D4  
 5 Sydney Fish Market ..... A5  
 6 Sydney Sea Life Aquarium ..... D4  
 7 Tumbalong Park ..... D6  
 8 Wild Life Sydney Zoo ..... D3

### 📍 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 9 Harbour Jet ..... D3  
 10 James Craig ..... C2  
 Sailing Sydney ..... (see 9)

- 11 Sydney Showboats ..... D3

### 📍 Sleeping

- 12 1888 Hotel ..... A3  
 13 The Darling ..... B3

### 📍 Eating

- 14 Adriano Zumbo ..... B3  
 15 Café Court ..... B3  
 16 Flying Fish ..... B1  
 17 Sokyo ..... B3

### 📍 Drinking & Nightlife

- 18 Slip Inn & Chinese Laundry ..... D3

### 📍 Entertainment

- 19 Sydney Lyric ..... B3

galleries and is quickly moving from up-and-coming to up-and-come.

To the west of Ultimo, Glebe has a more leafy and residential feel, its rows of Victorian terraces housing blue-collar families, students, urban hippies, gays and lesbians, and one of the largest Aboriginal communities in the inner city.

### Powerhouse Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p82; ☎02-9217 0111; [www.powerhouse-museum.com](http://www.powerhouse-museum.com); 500 Harris St; adult/child \$15/8; ☺9.30am-5pm; 🚶Paddy's Markets) A short walk from Darling Harbour, this science and design museum whirs away inside the former power station for Sydney's defunct, original tram network. High-voltage interactive demonstrations wow school groups with the low-down on how lightning strikes, magnets grab and engines growl. It's a huge hit with kids but equally popular with adults, touching on subjects such as fashion and furniture design.

### Central Park

AREA

(Map p121; [www.centralparksydney.com](http://www.centralparksydney.com); Broadway; 🚶Central Station) Occupying the site of an old brewery, this work-in-progress residential and shopping development will eventually cover 6500 sq metres, and is already revitalising the central fringe suburb of Chippendale. Most impressive is Jean Nouvel's award-winning, vertical garden-covered tower, **One Central Park** (2013; 117m). The cantilevered roof has been designed to reflect sunlight onto the greenery below. A striking new Frank Gehry building is being built on the University of Technology campus across Broadway.

### White Rabbit

GALLERY

(Map p121; [www.whiterabbitcollection.org](http://www.whiterabbitcollection.org); 30 Balfour St; ☺10am-5pm Wed-Sun, closed Feb & Aug; 🚶Redfern) **FREE** If you're an art lover or a bit of a Mad Hatter, this particular rabbit hole will leave you grinning like a Cheshire Cat. There are so many works in this private collection of cutting-edge, contemporary Chinese art, that only a fraction can be displayed at one time. Who knew that the People's Republic was turning out work that was so edgy, funny, sexy and idiosyncratic?

### 📍 Surry Hills

Sydney's hippest neighbourhood bears absolutely no resemblance to the beautiful hills of Surrey, England, from which it takes its name. And these days it also bears little resemblance to the tightly knit, working-class community so evocatively documented in Ruth Park's classic Depression-era novels.

The rows of Victorian terrace houses remain, but they're now home to a mishmash of inner-city hipsters, foodies and gay guys, all of whom keep the many excellent neighbourhood restaurants and bars in business.

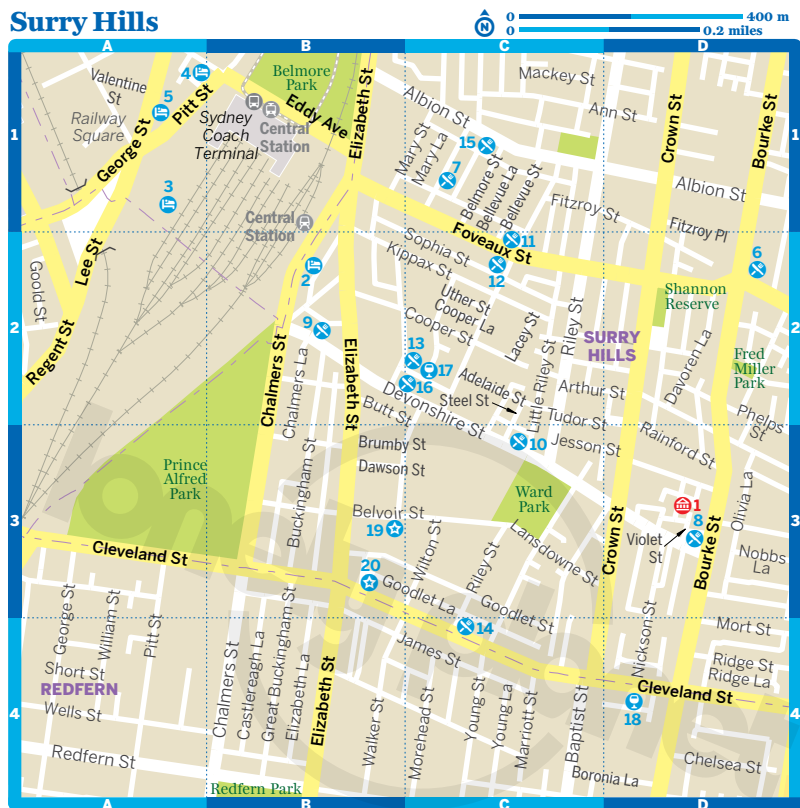
### Brett Whiteley Studio

GALLERY

(Map p86; ☎1800 679 278; [www.brettwhiteley.org](http://www.brettwhiteley.org); 2 Raper St; ☺10am-4pm Fri-Sun; 🚶Central) **FREE** Acclaimed local artist Brett Whiteley (1939-92) lived fast and without restraint. His hard-to-find studio (look for the signs on Devonshire St) has been preserved as a gallery for some of his best work. At the door is a miniature of his famous sculpture *Almost Once*, which you can see in all its glory in the Domain.

## Surry Hills

SYDNEY & AROUND SYDNEY



### Darlinghurst

Immediately east of the city, Darlinghurst is synonymous with Sydney's vibrant and visible gay community. The shabby lower end of Oxford St has traditionally been Sydney's sequinned mile, and while it's seen better days, it's still home to most of the city's gay venues and the Mardi Gras parade.

### Australian Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p72; ☎02-9320 6000; [www.australianmuseum.net.au](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au); 6 College St; adult/child \$15/8; ☀9.30am-5pm; 🏠Museum) This natural-history museum, established just 40 years after the First Fleet dropped anchor, has endeavoured to shrug off its museum-that-should-be-in-a-museum feel by jazzing things up a little. Hence dusty taxidermy has been interspersed with video projections and a terrarium with live snakes, while dinosaur skeletons cosy up to life-size

recreations. Yet it's the more old-fashioned sections that are arguably the most interesting – the large collection of crystals and precious stones, and the hall of skeletons.

### Sydney Jewish Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p88; ☎02-9360 7999; [www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au](http://www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au); 148 Darlinghurst Rd; adult/child \$10/7; ☀10am-4pm Sun-Thu, to 2pm Fri; 🏠Kings Cross) Created largely as a Holocaust memorial, this museum examines Australian Jewish history, culture and tradition, from the time of the First Fleet (which included 16 known Jews), to the immediate aftermath of WWII (when Australia became home to the greatest number of Holocaust survivors per capita, after Israel), to the present day. Allow at least two hours to take it all in. Free 45-minute tours leave at noon on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

## Surry Hills

### 📍 Sights

- 1 Brett Whiteley Studio ..... D3

### 🛏 Sleeping

- 2 Bounce ..... B2  
3 Railway Square YHA ..... A1  
4 Sydney Central YHA ..... A1  
5 Wake Up! ..... A1

### 🍴 Eating

- 6 4Fourteen ..... D2  
7 Bodega ..... C1  
8 Bourke Street Bakery ..... D3  
9 Devon ..... B2  
10 Devonshire ..... C3

- 11 El Loco ..... C2  
12 Le Monde ..... C2  
13 MoVida ..... C2  
14 Portefino ..... C4  
15 Reuben Hills ..... C1  
16 Sample Coffee ..... C2

### 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 17 121BC ..... C2  
18 Vasco ..... D4

### 🎭 Entertainment

- 19 Belvoir ..... B3  
20 Venue 505 ..... B3

## 📍 Woolloomooloo

Possibly the only word in the world with eight 'o's, the suburb of Woolloomooloo, down **McElhone Stairs** (Map p88; Victoria St; ☑ Kings Cross) from Kings Cross, was once a slum full of drunks and sailors (a fair few of whom were drunken sailors). Things are more genteel these days – the pubs are relaxed and Woolloomooloo Wharf is now home to a boutique hotel and a row of up-market restaurants. Outside the wharf is the famous Harry's Cafe de Wheels (p118), where generations of Sydneysiders have stopped to sober up over a late-night 'Tiger' (beef pie served with mushy peas, mashed potato and gravy) on the way home from a big night at the Cross.

### Woolloomooloo Finger

#### Wharf

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p88; Cowper Wharf Rdwy; ☑ Kings Cross) A former wool and cargo dock, this beautiful Edwardian wharf faced oblivion for decades before a 2½-year demolition-workers' green ban on the site in the late 1980s saved it. It received a huge sprucing up in the late 1990s and has emerged as one of Sydney's most exclusive eating, drinking, sleeping and marina addresses.

## 📍 Kings Cross & Potts Point

Crowned by a huge illuminated **Coca-Cola sign** – Sydney's equivalent of LA's iconic Hollywood sign – 'the Cross' has long been the home of Sydney's vice industry. In the 19th and early 20th centuries the suburb was home to grand estates and stylish apartments, but it underwent a radical change in the 1930s when wine-soaked intellectu-

als, artists, musicians, pleasure-seekers and ne'er-do-wells rowdily claimed the streets for their own. The neighbourhood's reputation was sealed during WWII and the Vietnam War, when American sailors based at the nearby Garden Island naval base flooded the Cross with a tide of shore-leave debauchery.

Although the streets retain an air of seedy hedonism, the neighbourhood has recently undergone something of a cultural renaissance. Sleazy one minute and sophisticated the next, it's well worth a visit.

The gracious, tree-lined enclaves of neighbouring **Potts Point** and **Elizabeth Bay** have been popular residential areas ever since Alexander Macleay, Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, commissioned architect John Verge to design a mansion overlooking the water here in the 1830s.

Handsome **Rushcutters Bay** is a five-minute walk east of Kings Cross; its harbourside park is a lovely spot for a walk or jog.

### Elizabeth Bay House

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9356 3022; www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au; 7 Onslow Ave; adult/child \$8/4; ☀ 11am-4pm Fri-Sun; ☑ Kings Cross) Now dwarfed by 20th-century apartments, Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay's elegant Greek Revival mansion was one of the finest houses in the colony when it was completed in 1839. The architectural highlight is an exquisite oval entrance saloon with a curved and cantilevered staircase.

## 📍 Paddington & Woollahra

Paddington is an elegant area of beautifully restored terrace houses and steep





## Kings Cross, Darlinghurst & Woolloomooloo

### 📍 Top Sights

- 1 Art Gallery of NSW ..... B1

### 📍 Sights

- 2 Elizabeth Bay House ..... F2  
 3 Fitzroy Gardens ..... E3  
 4 McElhone Stairs ..... D1  
 5 Sydney Jewish Museum ..... C6  
 6 Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf ..... C1

### 🛏 Sleeping

- 7 ADGE Boutique Apartment Hotel ..... A6  
 8 Arts ..... C8  
 9 Bayswater ..... D4  
 10 Blue Parrot ..... E2  
 11 BLUE Sydney ..... C1  
 12 Cambridge Hotel ..... A6  
 13 Diamant ..... D4  
 14 Eva's Backpackers ..... D2  
 15 Hotel 59 ..... E4  
 16 Jackaroo ..... D4  
 17 Macleay Hotel ..... E1  
 18 Mariners Court ..... D2  
 19 Medusa ..... C5  
 20 Simpsons of Potts Point ..... E1  
 21 Victoria Court Hotel ..... D2

### 🍴 Eating

- 22 Aki's ..... C1  
 23 bills ..... D6  
 24 China Doll ..... C1  
 25 Cho Cho San ..... E1  
 26 Fratelli Paradiso ..... E1  
 27 Harry's Cafe de Wheels ..... D1  
 28 Messina ..... D5  
 29 Ms G's ..... D3

- 30 Otto Ristorante ..... C1  
 31 Piccolo Bar ..... E3  
 32 Red Lantern on Riley ..... A4  
 33 Room 10 ..... E3  
 34 Spice I Am ..... D5  
 35 Toby's Estate ..... B3  
 36 Wilbur's Place ..... E3

### 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 37 Arq ..... B7  
 38 Beresford Hotel ..... B8  
 39 Cliff Dive ..... A6  
 40 Eau-de-Vie ..... D5  
 41 Green Park Hotel ..... D6  
 42 Hello Sailor ..... B6  
 43 Hinky Dinks ..... D4  
 44 Kings Cross Hotel ..... D4  
 45 Kinselas ..... B7  
 46 Midnight Shift ..... A6  
 47 Palms on Oxford ..... B6  
 48 Shady Pines Saloon ..... A6  
 49 Stonewall Hotel ..... B7  
 50 Sugarmill ..... E3  
 51 World Bar ..... E4

### 🎬 Entertainment

- 52 El Rocco ..... D4  
 53 Oxford Art Factory ..... A5  
 54 Palace Verona ..... C8

### 🛍 Shopping

- 55 Ariel ..... C7  
 56 Artery ..... D5  
 57 Blue Spinach ..... D6  
 58 C's Flashback ..... A7

leafy streets where fashionable folks drift between designer shops, restaurants, art galleries and bookshops. Its main artery is Oxford St, extending from nearby Darlinghurst. The best time to visit is on Saturday, when the markets are effervescing. Neighbouring Woollahra is upper-crust Sydney at its finest: leafy streets, mansions, wall-to-wall BMWs and antique shops.

### Victoria Barracks

HISTORIC SITE

(Map p92; ☎ 02-8335 5170; [www.armymuseum.nsw.com.au](http://www.armymuseum.nsw.com.au); Oxford St; 🕒 tours 10am Thu; 📍 380)

**FREE** A manicured vision from the peak of the British Empire (built 1841 to 1848), these Georgian army barracks have been called the finest of their kind in the colonies. It's still an active army base, so entry is only possible on a free guided tour. You'll usually get to see a marching band perform (weather permitting) and afterwards you can visit the

on-site Army Museum of NSW (admission \$2). Good disabled access.

### Paddington Reservoir Gardens

PARK

(Map p92; cnr Oxford St & Oatley Rd; 📍 380) 🍃

Opened to much architectural acclaim in 2008, this impressive park makes use of Paddington's long-abandoned 1866 water reservoir, incorporating the brick arches and surviving chamber into an interesting green space featuring a sunken garden, a pond, a boardwalk and lawns. They've even preserved some of the graffiti dating from the many years when it was boarded up and abandoned to feral cats and stealthy spray-can artists.

### Centennial Park

PARK

(Map p92; ☎ 02-9339 6699; [www.centennialparklands.com.au](http://www.centennialparklands.com.au); Oxford St; 📍 Bondi Junction)

Scratched out of the sand in 1888 in grand Victorian style, Sydney's biggest park is a

rambling 189-hectare expanse full of horse riders, joggers, cyclists and in-line skaters. During summer Moonlight Cinema (p127) attracts the crowds.

## ◉ Double Bay

Once a bastion of the blue-rinse, a strange thing has been happening in Double Bay lately. With the introduction of lockout laws in the inner city in 2014, a section of the Kings Cross party crowd started seeking late-night sustenance in the nearest unaffected town centre – which just happened to be the staid streets of Double Bay.

It's a suburb in transition, with the re-opening of the InterContinental hotel (where Michael Hutchence met his untimely demise) adding a bit of razzle-dazzle, new restaurants shaking up what was a tired eating scene, and a whole lot of new bars and clubs attracting a young and up-for-it crowd.

## Murray Rose Pool

BEACH

(Redleaf Pool; Map p68; 536 New South Head Rd; ☎ Double Bay) **FREE** Not really a pool at all,

family-friendly Murray Rose (named after a champion Olympic swimmer) is the closest swimming spot to the city – as such, it attracts an urbane cross-section of inner-eastern locals. A boardwalk runs around the top of the shark net, and there are two sought-after floating pontoons.

## ◉ Vaucluse

Pretty Vaucluse is one of a seriously well-heeled set of suburbs clinging to the harbour's southern shore. Together they form a conservative conglomeration of elite private schools, European sedans, overpriced boutiques and heavily mortgaged waterside mansions.

## Nielsen Park

PARK, BEACH

(Shark Beach; Map p68; Vaucluse Rd; ☎ 325) Something of a hidden gem, this gorgeous harbourside park with a sandy beach was once part of the then 206-hectare Vaucluse House estate. Secluded beneath the trees is Greycliffe House, a gracious 1851 Gothic sandstone pile (not open to visitors), which

## REINVENTING THE CROSS

In the early years of the colony, Kings Cross was home to the city's wealthy citizens, who were attracted by its harbour views and handy distance from the smells and noise of the central city. Its grand villas, farming estates and genteel atmosphere were worlds away from the rough-and-tumble scene around Circular Quay and the Rocks.

This bucolic idyll lasted until the early 20th century, when the estates were subdivided and most of the villas were demolished (Tusculum on Manning St and Elizabeth Bay House on Onslow Ave were exceptions). Blocks of apartments took their place and the city's bohemian set moved in, attracted by cheap rents and a modernist vibe. These bohemians were closely followed by Sydney's criminal underclass, who set up businesses selling sly grog (untaxed alcohol), running illegal betting shops and operating brothels. The streets were home to writers, actors, poets, journalists, artists, petty crims and infamous brothel owners such as Tilly Devine and Kate Leigh – it was a neighbourhood where the louche charm of this convict-established city was pronounced, and where creativity flourished alongside crime.

The local scene changed during the Vietnam War, when heroin was imported from Southeast Asia and drug lords took over the streets, distributing drugs, running prostitution rings and opening sleazy nightclubs where strippers and dealers plied their trades. The bohemians moved out and addicts, street prostitutes, petty crims and enforcers moved in, joined by Sydneysiders who came to walk on the wild side every Friday and Saturday night.

But as the adage says, 'what goes around, comes around'. In recent years bohemians have returned, joined by upwardly mobile young professionals lured by the hip cafes, bars, restaurants and live-music venues that are mushrooming in the streets and laneways off Darlinghurst Rd. To experience the renaissance, head to Llanckelly Pl (a laneway where drug deals once took place and where arty cafes such as **Room 10** (p118) now preside), eat in the restaurants on Macleay St, sit by the recently restored and much-loved dandelion-shaped El Alamein fountain in **Fitzroy Gardens** (Map p88; cnr Macleay St & Darlinghurst Rd; ☎ Kings Cross) or party at the **Kings Cross Hotel** (p125).

## Paddington & Woollahra



### Paddington & Woollahra

#### 📍 Sights

- 1 Centennial Park.....C2
- 2 Paddington Reservoir Gardens.....A1
- 3 Victoria Barracks .....A1

#### 👤 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 4 SCG Tour Experience .....A2

#### 🛏 Sleeping

- 5 Kathryn's on Queen .....C2

#### 🍴 Eating

- 6 Chiswick Restaurant .....D1
- 7 Vincent .....C2

#### 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 8 Wine Library .....C2

#### 🎬 Entertainment

- 9 Moonlight Cinema .....D2
- 10 Sydney Cricket Ground .....A2

#### 🛍 Shopping

- 11 Corner Shop .....B1
- 12 Paddington Markets .....B1
- 13 Poepke .....B1

serves as the headquarters of Sydney Harbour National Park.

#### Vaucluse House

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p68; ☎02-9388 7922; [www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au](http://www.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au); Wentworth Rd; adult/child \$8/4; ☀11am-4pm Fri-Sun; 📍325) Construction of this imposing, turreted specimen of Gothic Australiana, set amid 10 hectares of lush gardens, commenced in 1805, but the house was tinkered with into the 1860s. Decorated with beautiful European period pieces including Bohemian glass, heavy oak Jacobethan furniture and Meissen china, the house offers visi-

tors a rare glimpse into early Sydney colonial life, as lived by the well-to-do.

#### Milk Beach

BEACH

(Map p68; 52 Vaucluse Rd; 📍325) The only things to distract you from serious beach time at divine Milk Beach are seaplanes and the glistening Sydney skyline. With wow-worthy harbour views and limited access down a steep bush path, this isolated stretch of sand at the base of Hermit Bay is still one of the city's best kept secrets. Heritage-listed Strickland House is out back, and clear, warm waters are in front, at this tiny parcel of paradise.



## 🗨️ Watsons Bay

The narrow peninsula ending in South Head is one of Sydney's most sublime spots and it's easily reached by ferry from Circular Quay. Watsons Bay was once a small fishing village, as evidenced by the tiny heritage cottages that pepper the suburb's narrow streets (and now cost a fortune). On the ocean side is **the Gap**, a dramatic cliff-top lookout gazing over the crashing surf.

At the northern end of Camp Cove beach, the **South Head Heritage Trail** kicks off, leading into a section of Sydney Harbour National Park. It passes old battlements and a path heading down to **Lady Bay** (popular with nudists and gay men), before continuing on to the candy-striped **Hornby Light-house** and the sandstone **Lightkeepers' Cottages** (1858) on South Head itself.

Before you get back on the ferry, tradition demands that you sit in the beer garden at the **Watsons Bay Hotel** at sunset and watch the sun fall behind the disembodied Harbour Bridge, jutting up above Bradleys Head.

### Camp Cove

BEACH

(Map p68; Cliff St; 📍Watsons Bay) Immediately north of Watsons Bay, this small swimming beach is popular with both families and topless sunbathers. When Governor Phillip realised Botany Bay didn't cut it as a site for a convict colony, he sailed north into Sydney Harbour, dropped anchor and sank his boots into Camp Cove's gorgeous golden sand on 21 January 1788.

## 🗨️ Eastern Beaches

Improbably good-looking arcs of sand framed by jagged cliffs, the Eastern Beaches are a big part of the Sydney experience. Most famous of all is the broad sweep of Bondi Beach, where the distracting scenery and constant procession of beautiful bods never fails to take your mind off whatever it was you were just thinking about...

### ★ Bondi Beach

BEACH

(Map p94; Campbell Pde; 📍380) Definitely Sydney, Bondi is one of the world's great beaches: ocean and land collide, the Pacific arrives in great foaming swells, and all people are equal, as democratic as sand. It's the closest ocean beach to the city centre (8km away), has consistently good (though crowded) waves, and is great for a rough-and-tumble swim (the average water tem-

perature is a considerate 21°C). If the sea's angry, try the child-friendly saltwater sea baths at either end of the beach.

Two surf clubs – Bondi and North Bondi – patrol the beach between sets of red-and-yellow flags, positioned to avoid the worst rips and holes. Thousands of unfortunates have to be rescued from the surf each year (enough to make a TV show about it), so don't become a statistic – swim between the flags.

Surfers carve up sandbar breaks at either end of the beach; it's a good place for learners, too. Prefer wheels to fins? There's a **skate ramp** (Map p94; Queen Elizabeth Dr; 📍380) at the beach's southern end. If posing in your budgie smugglers (Speedos) isn't having enough impact, there's an outdoor **workout area** (Map p94; Queen Elizabeth Dr; 📍380) near the North Bondi Surf Club. Coincidentally (or perhaps not), this is the part of the beach where the gay guys hang out.

Bondi Pavilion has changing rooms, lockers, cafes and a gelato shop. Ice-cream vendors also strut the sand in summer. At the beach's northern end there's a grassy spot with coin-operated barbecues. Booze is banned on the beach.

### Tamarama Beach

BEACH

(Map p94; Pacific Ave; 📍361) Surrounded by high cliffs, Tamarama has a deep tongue of sand with just 80m of shoreline. Diminutive, yes, but ever-present rips make Tamarama the most dangerous patrolled beach in New South Wales; it's often closed to swimmers. It's hard to picture now, but between 1887 and 1911 a roller coaster looped out over the water as part of an amusement park.

### Bronte Beach

BEACH

(Bronte Rd; 📍378) A winning family-oriented beach hemmed in by sandstone cliffs and a grassy park, Bronte lays claims to the title of the oldest surf lifesaving club in the world (1903). Contrary to popular belief, the beach is named after Lord Nelson, who doubled as the Duke of Bronte (a place in Sicily), and not the famous literary sorority. There's a kiosk and a changing room attached to the surf club, and covered picnic tables near the public barbecues.

### Clovelly Beach

BEACH

(Map p68; Clovelly Rd; 📍339) It might seem odd, but this concrete-edged ocean channel is a great place to swim, sunbathe and snorkel. It's safe for the kids, and despite

## Bondi



## Bondi

## 📍 Top Sights

- 1 Bondi Beach ..... C2

## 📍 Sights

- 2 Tamarama Beach ..... B3

## 🏊 Activities, Courses &amp; Tours

- 3 Bondi Icebergs Swimming Club ..... C2  
 4 Dive Centre Bondi ..... A2  
 5 Let's Go Surfing ..... D2  
 6 Skate Ramp ..... C2  
 7 Workout Area ..... C1

## 🏠 Sleeping

- 8 Adina Apartments Bondi Beach ..... B1  
 9 Bondi Beach House ..... B2  
 10 Bondi Beachouse YHA ..... B3

## 🍴 Eating

- 11 A Tavola ..... B1  
 12 Bondi Trattoria ..... B2  
 Icebergs Dining Room ..... (see 3)  
 13 Lox, Stock & Barrel ..... B1

## 🍷 Drinking &amp; Nightlife

- 14 Anchor ..... B2  
 15 Neighbourhood ..... B1

## 🎬 Entertainment

- 16 Bondi Openair Cinema ..... C2

## 🛍 Shopping

- 17 Bondi Markets ..... C1

the swell surging into the inlet, underwater visibility is great. A beloved friendly grouper fish lived here for many years until he was speared by a tourist. Bring your goggles, but don't go killing anything...

On the other side of the car park is the entrance to the Gordons Bay Underwater Nature Trail, a 500m underwater chain guiding divers past reefs, sand flats and kelp forests.

## Coogee Beach

BEACH

(Arden St; ☎ 372-373) Bondi without the glitz and the posers, Coogee (locals pronounce the double *o* as in the word 'took') has a deep sweep of sand, historic ocean baths and plenty of green space for barbecues and frisbee hurling. Between the world wars, Coogee had an English-style pier, with a 1400-seat theatre and a 600-seat ballroom... until the surf took it.

## 📍 Newtown & Around

The inner west is a sociological stew of students, goths, urban hippies, artists, Mediterranean immigrants and sexual subculturists. At its heart is Sydney University, a bastion of old-world architecture that dominates the surrounding suburbs. Southwest of the university, Newtown shadows sinuous King St, lined with interesting boutiques, secondhand clothes stores, bookshops, yoga studios, pubs, cafes and Thai restaurants. It's definitely climbing the social rungs, but Newtown is still free-thinking and idiosyncratic.

### University of Sydney

UNIVERSITY

(Map p121; ☎02-9351 2222; www.sydney.edu.au; Parramatta Rd; ☎422-440) Australia's oldest tertiary institution (1850) has over 49,000 students and even boasts its own postcode. You don't need to have a PhD to grab a free campus map and wander around. Flanked by two grand halls that wouldn't be out of place in Harry Potter's beloved Hogwarts, the **Quadrangle** has a Gothic Revival design that tips its mortarboard towards the stately colleges of Oxford. It's well worth seeking out the august collections of the Nicholson Museum, **University Art Gallery** (Map p121; www.sydney.edu.au/museums; Science Rd; ☎10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm 1st Sat of month; ☎422-440) **FREE** and Macleay Museum.

### Nicholson Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p121; www.sydney.edu.au/museums; University Pl; ☎10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm 1st Sat of month; ☎422-440) **FREE** Within the University of Sydney's quadrangle, this museum is a must-see for ancient-history geeks. Inside is an amazing accumulation of Greek, Roman, Cypriot, Egyptian and Near Eastern antiquities, including Padiashaikhet the mummy. It was founded in 1860 by orphan-made-good Sir Charles Nicholson, a key figure in the establishment of both the university and the Australian Museum (p86).

### Macleay Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p121; www.sydney.edu.au/museums; Science Rd; ☎10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm 1st Sat of month; ☎422-440) **FREE** The University of Sydney's natural history museum is the oldest of its kind in Australia, having its roots in the collection of the Macleay family (of Elizabeth Bay House (p87) fame). There's also a historic photographic collection and an

early assemblage of Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Pacific Island cultural material.

### Carriageworks

ARTS CENTRE

(Map p121; www.carriageworks.com.au; 245 Wilson St; ☎10am-6pm; ☒ Redfern) **FREE** Built between 1880 and 1889, this intriguing group of huge Victorian-era workshops was part of the Eveleigh Railyards. The rail workers chugged out in 1988 and in 2007 the artists pranced in. It's now home to various avant-garde arts and performance projects, and there's usually something interesting to check out.

### Sydney Park

PARK

(Map p68; Sydney Park Rd; ☒ St Peters) Full of dog walkers, kite flyers and stragglers from last night's party, 40-hectare Sydney Park is a great place to chill out. From the bald hilltop you can see the city rising like a volcanic island from a sea of suburbia, while to the south there are views over the airport to Botany Bay. Much of the land has been reclaimed from swamps, clay pits and brickworks.

## 📍 Balmain

Jutting out into the harbour, the pretty peninsula suburb of Balmain was once a notoriously rough neighbourhood of dockyard workers but is now an arty enclave flush with beautifully restored Victorian houses, welcoming pubs, cafes and trendy shops. It's easily reached by ferry.

## 📍 Lower North Shore

At the northern end of the Harbour Bridge are the unexpectedly tranquil waterside suburbs of **Milsons Point** and **McMahons Point**. Both command astonishing city views. Just east of the bridge is the stately suburb of **Kirribilli**, home to **Admiralty House** (Map p68) and **Kirribilli House** (Map p68), the Sydney residences of the governor general and prime minister respectively.

East of here are the upmarket residential suburbs of **Neutral Bay**, **Cremorne** and **Mosman**, known for their pretty coves, harbourside parks and 'ladies who lunch'. An excellent coastal walk stretches from Cremorne Point, past Mosman Bay and into a section of Sydney Harbour National Park hugging **Bradleys Head**. A less built-up alternative is the track tracing the **Middle Head** section of the national park, from **Chowder Bay** to **Balmoral**.

## City Walk Bondi to Coogee

**START** BONDİ BEACH

**FINISH** COOGEE BEACH

**LENGTH** 6KM

**DURATION** TWO TO THREE HOURS

Arguably Sydney's most famous, most popular and best walk, this coastal path shouldn't be missed. Both ends are well connected to bus routes, as are most points in between should you feel too hot and bothered to continue – although a cooling dip at any of the beaches en route should cure that. There's little shade on this track, so make sure you apply sunscreen and don a hat before setting out.

Starting at **1 Bondi Beach** (p93), take the stairs up the south end to Notts Ave, passing above the glistening **2 Icebergs swimming pool** (p104). Step onto the cliff-top trail at the end of Notts Ave. Walking south, the blustery sandstone cliffs and grinding Pacific Ocean couldn't be more spectacular (watch for dolphins, whales and surfers). Small but perfectly formed **3 Tamarama** (p93) has a deep reach of sand that is totally disproportionate to its width.

Descend from the cliff tops onto **4 Bronte Beach** (p93). Take a dip, lay out a picnic under the Norfolk Island pines or head to a cafe for a caffeine hit. After your break, pick up the path on the southern side of the beach.

Some famous Australians are among the subterranean denizens of the amazing cliff-edge **5 Waverley Cemetery**. On a clear day this is a prime vantage point for whale watchers.

Pass the locals enjoying a beer or a game of bowls at the Clovelly Bowling Club, then breeze past the cockatoos and canoodling lovers in **6 Burrows Park** to sheltered **7 Clovelly Beach** (p93). Follow the footpath up through the car park, along Cliffbrook Pde, then down the steps to the upturned dinghies lining **8 Gordons Bay**, one of Sydney's best shore-dive spots.

The trail continues past **9 Dolphin Point** then lands you smack-bang on glorious **10 Coogee Beach** (p94). Swagger into the Coogee Bay Hotel and toast your efforts with a cold drink or two.



## Luna Park

AMUSEMENT PARK

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9922 6644; www.lunaparksydney.com; 1 Olympic Dr; ☀ 11am-10pm Fri & Sat, 2-6pm Sun, 11am-4pm Mon; 📍 Milsons Point) **FREE** A sinister chip-toothed clown face forms the entrance to this old-fashioned amusement park overlooking Sydney Harbour. It's one of several 1930s features, including the Coney Island funhouse, a pretty carousel and the nausea-inducing rotor. You can purchase a two-ride pass (\$16), or buy a height-based unlimited-ride pass (from \$30, cheaper if purchased online). Hours are extended during school and public holidays.

## Mary MacKillop Place

CHURCH, MUSEUM

(Map p68; ☎ 02-8912 4878; www.marymackillopplace.org.au; 7 Mount St; adult/child \$9/6; ☀ 10am-4pm; 📍 North Sydney) This museum tells the life story of St Mary of the Cross (aka Mary MacKillop), Australia's only Catholic saint. Born in Melbourne in 1842, she was a dedicated and outspoken educator, and a pioneer who prevailed over conservative hierarchical ideals, despite being excommunicated for six months. You'll find her tomb inside the chapel.

## Taronga Zoo

ZOO

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9969 2777; www.taronga.org.au; Bradleys Head Rd; adult/child \$46/23; ☀ 9.30am-5pm; 📍 Taronga Zoo) 🌿 A 12-minute ferry ride from Circular Quay, Taronga Zoo has 75 hectares of bushy harbour hillside full of kangaroos, koalas and similarly hirsute Australians, and imported guests. The zoo's 4000 critters have million-dollar harbour views, but seem blissfully unaware of the privilege.

Highlights include the nocturnal platypus habitat, the Great Southern Oceans section and the Asian elephant display. Feedings and encounters happen throughout the day, while in summer, twilight concerts jazz things up.

Tours include **Nura Diya** (90min tour adult/child \$99/69; ☀ 9.45am Mon, Wed & Fri), where Indigenous guides introduce you to native animals and share Dreaming stories about them, giving an insight into traditional Aboriginal life; advance bookings essential. **Roar & Snore** (☎ 02-9978 4791; adult/child \$320/205) is an overnight family experience that includes a night-time safari, a buffet dinner, breakfast and tents under the stars.

Catching the ferry is part of the fun, and given that parking is expensive (per day \$17), it's well worth considering. From the

## WORTH A TRIP

### GO WILD IN THE SUBURBS

#### Lane Cove National Park

(www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au; Lady Game Dr; per car \$7; ☀ 9am-6pm; 📍 North Ryde) This 601-hectare park, surrounded by North Shore suburbia, is a great place to stretch out on some middle-sized bushwalks. It's home to dozens of critters, including some endangered owls and toads. If you visit in spring, the water dragons will be getting horny and the native orchids and lilies will be flowering.

There's a boat shed on Lane Cove River that rents out rowboats and kayaks, but swimming isn't a good idea. You can also cycle and camp, and some sections are wheelchair accessible.

wharf, the Sky Safari cable car or a bus will whisk you to the main entrance, from which you can traverse the zoo downhill back to the ferry. A Zoo Pass (adult/child/family \$53/27/148) from Circular Quay includes return ferry rides, the bus or cable-car ride to the top and zoo admission. Disabled access is good, even when arriving by ferry.

#### Balmoral Beach

BEACH

(Map p68; The Esplanade; 📍 245) The beachy enclave of Balmoral faces off with Manly across Middle Harbour, and has some good restaurants and a beaut swimming beach. Split in two by an unfeasibly picturesque rocky outcrop, Balmoral attracts picnicking North Shore families. Swimmers migrate to the shark-netted southern end.

### 📍 Manly

Laid-back Manly clings to a narrow isthmus abutting North Head, Sydney Harbour's northern gatepost. The suburb's unusual name comes from Governor Phillip's description of the physique of the native people he met here; his Excellency was clearly indulging in an early example of the very Sydney habit of body-scrutinising.

The Corso connects Manly's ocean and harbour beaches; here surf shops, burger joints, juice bars and pubs are plentiful. The refurbished Manly Wharf has classier pubs and restaurants, and there are some good cafes scattered around the back streets.

In summer, allocate a day to walking and splashing about. In winter, it's worth heading over for a quick look around, if only for

## Manly



Sydney's best ferry journey. Don't bother staying after dark – there are much better eateries and bars elsewhere.

### Manly Sea Life Sanctuary

AQUARIUM

(Map p98; ☎1800 199 742; [www.manlysealife.sanctuary.com.au](http://www.manlysealife.sanctuary.com.au); West Esplanade; adult/child \$25/15; ☀9.30am-5pm; 🚗Manly) This ain't the place to come if you're on your way to Manly Beach for a surf. Underwater glass tubes enable you to become alarmingly intimate with 3m grey nurse sharks. Reckon they're not hungry? **Shark Dive Xtreme** (introductory/certified dives \$280/205) enables you to enter their world.

Upstairs, the residents of the penguin enclosure have lawless amounts of fun. Manly has one of the last mainland colonies of little penguins in Australia, and this display aims to educate people about these cute-as-a-button critters (don't fret, none of these little guys were taken from the wild).

### Manly Art Gallery & Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p98; [www.manly.nsw.gov.au](http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au); West Esplanade; ☀10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 🚗Manly) **FREE** A short stroll from Manly Wharf, this passionately managed community gallery maintains a local focus, with exhibits of surfcraft, camp swimwear and beachy bits and pieces.

There's also a ceramics gallery, and lots of old Manly photos to peer at.

### ★ Manly Beach

BEACH

(Map p98; 🚗Manly) Sydney's second-most famous beach stretches for nearly two golden kilometres, lined by Norfolk Island pines and scrappy midrise apartment blocks. The southern end of the beach, nearest the Corso, is known as South Steyne, with North Steyne in the centre and Queenscliff at the northern end; each has its own surf lifesaving club.

### Shelly Beach

BEACH

(Map p68; 🚗Manly) This sheltered north-facing ocean cove is just a short 1km walk from the busy Manly beach strip. The tranquil waters are a protected haven for marine life, so it offers wonderful snorkelling.

### North Head

NATIONAL PARK

(Map p68; North Head Scenic Dr; 📞135) About 3km south of Manly, spectacular, chunky North Head offers dramatic cliffs, lookouts and sweeping views of the ocean, the harbour and the city; hire a bike and go exploring.

North Head is believed to have been used as a ceremonial site by the native Camaragal people. These days, most of the headland is part of Sydney Harbour National Park.

## Manly

### 📍 Top Sights

- 1 Manly Beach ..... C1

### 🏛️ Sights

- 2 Manly Art Gallery & Museum ..... A2  
3 Manly Sea Life Sanctuary ..... A2

### 🏊 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 4 Dive Centre Manly ..... B1  
5 Manly Bike Tours ..... B2  
6 Manly Kayak Centre ..... A2  
7 Manly Ocean Adventures ..... B2

### 🏠 Sleeping

- 8 101 Addison Road ..... D3

### 🍴 Eating

- 9 Barefoot Coffee Traders ..... B1  
10 Chat Thai ..... B2  
11 Hugos Manly ..... B2

### 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 12 Manly Wharf Hotel ..... B2

The 9km, four-hour Manly Scenic Walkway loops around the park; pick up a brochure from the visitor centre. Also here is the historic Quarantine Station.

### Manly Scenic Walkway

OUTDOORS

(Map p68; [www.manly.nsw.gov.au](http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au); 📍 Manly) This epic walk has two major components: the 10km western stretch between Manly and Spit Bridge, and the 9.5km eastern loop around North Head. Either download a map or pick one up from the information centre near the wharf.

The western section traces the coast past million-dollar harbour-view properties and then through a rugged 2.5km section of Sydney Harbour National Park, which remains much as it was when the First Fleet sailed in. After crossing the Spit Bridge you can take a bus either back to Manly (bus 140, 143 or 144) or into the city (176 to 180).

The eastern loop is known as the North Head Circuit Track and takes between three and four hours. From the wharf, follow Eastern Esplanade and Stuart St to Spring Cove, head into the North Head section of Sydney Harbour National Park, and make your way through the bush to the spectacular Fairfax Lookout on North Head (approximately 45 minutes in total). From the lookout, walk the Fairfax Loop (1km, 30 minutes) and then head back via the Cabbage Tree Bay Walk, which follows the

sea-sprayed shoreline back to Manly Beach via picturesque Shelly Beach and tiny Fairy Bower Beach.

### Quarantine Station

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Map p68; ☎ 02-94661551; [www.quarantinestation.com.au](http://www.quarantinestation.com.au); 1 North Head Scenic Dr; 🕒 museum 10am-4pm Sun-Thu, to 8pm Fri & Sat; 📍 135) **FREE** From 1835 to 1983 this eerie-but-elegant complex was used to isolate new arrivals suspected of carrying disease, in an attempt to limit the spread of cholera, smallpox and bubonic plague. These days the 'Q Station' has been reborn as a tourist destination with a museum, accommodation, restaurants and a whole swathe of tour options.

### 🌊 Northern Beaches

The 20km stretch of coast between Manly and Palm Beach has been called the most impressive urban surfing landscape in the world, and the sun-bronzed locals who swim and catch the waves at Freshwater, Curl Curl, Dee Why, Collaroy, Narrabeen, Mona Vale, Newport, Bilgola, Avalon, Whale and Palm Beaches are uniformly proud to agree. Each of these beaches has a markedly different atmosphere.

Driving is by far the best way to explore, but if that's not an option and you still feel the need to make a *Home & Away* pilgrimage, bus L90 will get you from Railway Sq to Palm Beach in just under two hours.

### Dee Why

BEACH

(The Strand; 📍 176) A no-fuss family beach fronted by chunky apartments, some good cafes and ubiquitous surf shops. Grommets hit the waves and mums hit the rock pool.

### Narrabeen

BEACH

(Ocean St; 📍 L88, L90) Immortalised by the Beach Boys in *Surfin' USA*, Narrabeen is hard-core surf turf – get some experience before hitting the breaks. Not the best swimming, but there is a pool and a lagoon too.

### Bilgola

BEACH

(Bilgola Ave; 📍 L88, L90) With its saltwater pool, Bilgola feels like a bit of a secret gem. Good swimming.

### Avalon

BEACH

(Barrenjoey Rd; 📍 L88, L90) Caught in a sandy '70s time warp, Avalon is the mythical Australian beach you always dreamt of but could never find. Challenging surf and tangerine sand.

**Whale Beach**

(Whale Beach Rd; ☑ L90) Sleepy Whale Beach, 3km south of Palm Beach, is well worth seeking out – a paradisiacal slice of deep, orange sand flanked by steep cliffs; good for surfers and families.

BEACH

**Palm Beach**

(Ocean Rd; ☑ L90) Long, lovely Palm Beach is a meniscus of bliss, famous as the setting for cheesy TV soap *Home & Away*. The 1881 **Barrenjoey Lighthouse** (☑ L90) punctuates the northern tip of the headland in an annexe of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. You'll need some decent shoes for the steep 20-minute hike (no toilets!), but the views across Pittwater are worth the effort. On Sundays short tours run every half-hour from 11am to 3pm; no need to book ahead.

BEACH

**Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park**

(☎ 02-9472 8949; [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au); Bobbin Head Rd, Mount Colah; per car per day \$11, landing fee by boat adult/child \$3/2) This spectacular 14,928-hectare park, 24km from the city centre, forms Sydney's northern boundary. It's a classic mix of sandstone, bushland and water vistas, taking in over 100km of coastline along the southern edge of Broken Bay, where it heads into the Hawkesbury River.

PARK

Ku-ring-gai takes its name from its original inhabitants, the Guringai people, who were all but wiped out just after colonisation through violence at the hands of British settlers and introduced disease. It's well worth reading Kate Grenville's Booker-nominated *The Secret River* for an engrossing but harrowing telling of this story.

Remnants of Aboriginal life are visible today thanks to the preservation of more than 800 sites, including rock paintings, middens and cave art. To learn more, enter the park through the Mt Colah entrance and visit the **Kalkari Discovery Centre** (☎ 02-9472 9300; Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd; ☺ 9am-5pm) **FREE**, which has displays and videos on Australian fauna and Aboriginal culture. There is a self-guided walk on which you can see swamp wallabies, bush turkeys, native ducks and goannas.

From the Resolute picnic area at West Head you can amble 100m to Red Hands Cave, where there are some very faint ochre handprints. About another 500m along Resolute Track (after a short steep section) is an Aboriginal engraving site. You can turn around and head back now, or continue to one more site and make a 3.5km loop that

takes in Resolute Beach. The view from the West Head Lookout is truly spectacular – don't miss it.

Less than 3km west of the picnic area along West Head Rd is the Basin Track, which offers an easy stroll to a good set of engravings. Approximately 2.5km further along the track is the Basin, a shallow round inlet where there is a camping area with barbecues, showers and toilets. Access is via the Basin Track or by ferry or water taxi from Palm Beach. For information about the park, stop at the **Bobbin Head Information Centre** (☎ 02-9472 8949; Bobbin Head; ☺ 10am-4pm), operated by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. Also here are a marina, picnic areas, a cafe and a boardwalk leading through mangroves.

Access to the park is by car or the Palm Beach Ferry that is run by Fantasea. This runs hourly from Palm Beach to Mackerel Beach, via the Basin. To get to Palm Beach from the CBD, catch bus L90 from Railway Sq or bus 156 or 169 from Manly Wharf.

If you are arriving by car, enter Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd off Pacific Hwy, Mt Colah; Bobbin Head Rd, North Turramurra; or McCarrs Creek Rd, Terrey Hills.

**Activities****Diving**

Sydney's best shore dives are at Gordons Bay, north of Coogee; Shark Point, Clovelly; and Ship Rock, Cronulla. Other destinations include North Bondi, Camp Cove and Bare Island. Popular boat-dive sites are the grey nurse shark colony at Magic Point, off Maroubra; Wedding Cake Island off Coogee; Sydney Heads; and off Royal National Park.

**Dive Centre Bondi**

DIVING

(Map p94; ☎ 02-9369 3855; [www.divebondi.com.au](http://www.divebondi.com.au); 198 Bondi Rd; ☺ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 7.30am-6pm Sat & Sun; ☎ 380) This Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) centre offers learn-to-dive courses (three days \$395), plus various boat and shore dives around Sydney.

**Dive Centre Manly**

DIVING

(Map p98; ☎ 02-9977 4355; [www.divesydney.com.au](http://www.divesydney.com.au); 10 Belgrave St; ☺ 8.30am-6pm; ☑ Manly) Offers snorkel safaris (\$50), two-day learn-to-dive PADI courses (from \$445), guided shore dives (one/two dives \$95/125) and boat dives (two dives \$175).



## Kayaking

### Sydney Harbour Kayaks

KAYAKING

(Map p68; ☎02-9960 4389; www.sydneyharbourkayaks.com.au; Smiths Boat Shed, 81 Parriwi Rd, Mosman; ☀9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 7.30am-5pm Sat & Sun; ☑173-180) Rents kayaks (from \$20 per hour) and stand-up paddle boards (from \$25), and leads four-hour ecotours (\$99) from near the Spit Bridge.

### Manly Kayak Centre

KAYAKING

(Map p98; ☎1300 529 257; www.manlykayakcentre.com.au; West Esplanade; 1/2/8hr from \$25/40/70; ☀9am-5pm; ☑Manly) As long as you can swim, you can hire a kayak or paddle board from this stand near Manly Sea Life Sanctuary; with additional stands near **Manly Wharf Hotel** (Map p98; www.manlywharfhotel.com.au; Manly Wharf; ☀11.30am-midnight; ☑Manly) and the Quarantine Station (p99). You'll be provided with a life jacket, paddling instruction and tips on secluded beaches to visit. Three-hour kayak tours cost \$89.

## Sailing

### James Craig

SAILING

(Map p84; ☎02-9298 3888; www.shf.org.au; Wharf 7, Pyrmont; adult/child \$150/50; ☑Pyrmont Bay) The *James Craig* is a hulking three-masted iron barque built in England in 1874 that's normally moored outside the Maritime Museum. It sails out beyond the heads roughly twice-monthly (bookings essential). Trips include morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a sea shanty or three.

### Champagne Sailing

SAILING

(☎02-9948 1578; www.champagnesailing.com.au; 4hr charters \$1200) If you've got champagne tastes or ever fancied recreating Duran Duran's *Rio* video, charter a 10m catamaran and muster your 20 best friends to split the bill.

### Sailing Sydney

SAILING

(Map p84; ☎1300 670 008; www.sailingsydney.net; King St Wharf 9; adult/child \$129/99; ☑Darling Harbour) Learn the ropes on a 2½-hour cruise on an actual America's Cup yacht.

## Surfing

On the South Shore, get tubed at Bondi, Tamarama, Coogee, Maroubra and Cronulla. The North Shore is home to a dozen surf beaches between Manly and Palm Beach, including Curl Curl, Dee Why, Narrabeen, Mona Vale and Newport.

## WORTH A TRIP

### SOUTHSIDE SURFING

**Cronulla** (☑Cronulla) is a beachy surf suburb south of Botany Bay, its long surf beach stretching beyond the dunes to the Botany Bay refineries. It can be an edgy place (captured brilliantly in the 1970s cult teen novel *Puberty Blues*), with dingy fish-and-chip shops, insomniac teens and a ragged sense of impending 'something', which in 2005 erupted into racial violence. That said, the beach is beautiful, with a pleasant promenade, and it's easy to reach by train from Bondi Junction.

### Let's Go Surfing

SURFING

(Map p94; ☎02-9365 1800; www.letsgosurfing.com.au; 128 Ramsgate Ave; board & wetsuit hire 1hr/2hr/day/week \$25/30/50/150; ☀9am-5pm) North Bondi is a great place to learn to surf, and this well-established surf school offers lessons catering to practically everyone. There are classes for grommets aged seven to 16 (1½ hours, \$49) and adults (two hours, \$99; women-only classes available), or you can book a private tutor (1½ hours, \$175). There's a second shop in Bondi Pavilion.

### Manly Surf School

SURFING

(Map p68; ☎02-9932 7000; www.manlysurfschool.com; North Steyne Surf Club; ☑Manly) Offers two-hour surf lessons year-round (adult/child \$70/55), as well as private tuition. Also runs surf safaris up to the Northern Beaches, including two lessons, lunch, gear and city pick-ups (\$120).

## Swimming

There are 100-plus public swimming pools in Sydney, and many beaches have protected rock pools. Harbour beaches offer sheltered and shark-netted swimming, but nothing beats Pacific Ocean waves. Always swim within the flagged lifeguard-patrolled areas, and never underestimate the surf.

### Cook & Phillip Park

SWIMMING

(Map p72; www.cookandphillip.org.au; 4 College St; adult/child \$7/5.20; ☀6am-10pm Mon-Fri, 7am-8pm Sat & Sun; ☑St James) This Olympic-sized indoor pool has a hydrotherapy area and a gym (\$20 including pool use), plus yoga, pilates, a basketball court, swimming lessons and a wave pool for cooling off the kids.

## Bondi Icebergs Swimming Club

SWIMMING

(Map p94; ☎ 02-9130 4804; www.icebergs.com.au; 1 Notts Ave; adult/child \$6/4; ☀ 6.30am-6.30pm Fri-Wed) Sydney's most famous pool commands the best view in Bondi and has a cute little cafe.

## Wylie's Baths

SWIMMING

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9665 2838; www.wylies.com.au; 4B Neptune St; adult/child \$4.80/1; ☀ 7am-7pm Oct-Mar, to 5pm Apr-Sep; ☎ 372-374) On the rocky coast south of Coogee Beach, this superb seawater pool (1907) is targeted at swimmers more than splashabouts. After your swim, take a yoga class (\$18), enjoy a massage, or have a coffee at the kiosk, which has magnificent ocean views.

## Mahon Pool

SWIMMING

(Marine Pde; ☎ 376-377) **FREE** Hidden within the cliffs, 500m north of Maroubra Beach, Mahon Pool is an idyllic rock pool, where the surf crashes over the edges at high tide. It's quite possibly Sydney's most beautiful bogey hole (sea bath).

## North Sydney Olympic Pool

SWIMMING

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9955 2309; www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au; 4 Alfred St South; adult/child \$7.10/3.50; ☀ 5.30am-9pm Mon-Fri, 7am-7pm Sat & Sun; ☎ Milsons Point/Luna Park) Next to Luna Park is this art deco Olympic-sized outdoor pool, plus a 25m indoor pool, kids' splash zones, a gym (\$18.50 with pool access), a crèche and a cafe, all with unbelievable harbour views.

## Aquatic Centre

SWIMMING

(☎ 02-9752 3666; www.aquaticcentre.com.au; Olympic Blvd; adult/child \$7/6; ☀ 5am-9pm Mon-Fri, 6am-7pm Sat & Sun; ☎ Olympic Park) Indulge your Ian Thorpe or Misty Hyman fantasies in the actual record-shattering pool which was used in the 2000 Olympics. There's also a leisure pool with a whirlpool in one corner, a state-of-the-art gym, a cafe and a swim shop. Wheelchair accessible.

## Tours

### Bike Tours

#### BlueBananas

CYCLING

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9114 8488; www.bluebananas.com.au; 281 Clarence St; ☎ Town Hall) Take some of the puff out of a guided cycling tour on an electric bike. Options include the 1½-hour Bike the Bridge tour (\$59) and the 2½-hour Sydney City Tour (\$99).

### Bike Buffs

CYCLING

(☎ 0414 960 332; www.bikebuffs.com.au; adult/child \$95/70; ☎ Circular Quay) Offers daily four-hour, two-wheeled tours around the harbourside sights (including jaunts over the Harbour Bridge), departing from Argyle Place. They also hire bikes (per half day/day/week \$35/60/295).

### Bonza Bike Tours

CYCLING

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9247 8800; www.bonzabiketours.com; 30 Harrington St; adult/child \$119/99; ☎ Circular Quay) These bike boffins run a 2½-hour Sydney Highlights tour (adult/child \$66/79) and a four-hour Sydney Classic tour (\$119/99). Other tours tackle the Harbour Bridge and Manly. They also hire bikes (per hour/half day/day \$15/35/50).

### Manly Bike Tours

CYCLING

(Map p98; ☎ 02-8005 7368; www.manlybiketours.com.au; 54 West Promenade; hire per hr/day from \$15/31; ☀ 9am-6pm; ☎ Manly) 🍃 Hires bikes and runs daily two-hour bike tours around Manly (10.30am, \$89, bookings essential).

### Boat Tours

#### Manly Ocean Adventures

BOAT TOUR

(Map p98; ☎ 1300 062 659; www.manlyoceanadventures.com.au; 1/40 East Esplanade; from \$85; ☎ Manly) Blast out to sea in a speedboat, following the coastline from Manly all the way to Bondi. From May to December they also offer whale-watching excursions.

#### Harbour Jet

BOAT TOUR

(Map p84; ☎ 1300 887 373; www.harbourjet.com; King St Wharf 9; adult/child from \$85/50; ☎ Darling Harbour) One of several jet-boat operators (Sydney Jet, Oz Jet Boating, Thunder Jet – take your pick), these guys run a 35-minute white-knuckle ride with 270-degree spins, fishtails and 75km/h power stops that'll test how long it's been since you had breakfast.

#### Whale Watching Sydney

CRUISE

(☎ 02-9583 1199; www.whalewatchingsydney.net) Humpback and southern right whales habitually shunt up and down the Sydney coastline, sometimes venturing into the harbour. Between mid-May and December, WWS runs three-hour tours (adult/child \$94/59) beyond the heads. For a faster, more thrilling ride, they also offer two-hour jet-boat expeditions (\$60/40). Boats depart from Jetty 6, Circular Quay or from Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour.

**Captain Cook Cruises**

CRUISE

(Map p72; ☎02-9206 1111; www.captaincook.com.au; Wharf 6, Circular Quay; 📍Circular Quay) As well as ritzy lunch and dinner cruises, this crew offers the aquatic version of a hop-on/hop-off bus tour, stopping at Watsons Bay, Taronga Zoo, Garden Island, Circular Quay, Luna Park and Darling Harbour.

**Sydney Showboats**

CRUISE

(Map p84; ☎02-8296 7388; www.sydneyshowboats.com.au; King St Wharf 5; from \$125; 📍Darling Harbour) Settle in for a three-hour, three-course dinner cruise on this paddle steamer; complete with cabaret singers, showgirls flashing their knickers, and a personal magician for your table. Very, very camp.

**Private Tours****Bailey's Sydney**

TOUR

(☎0409 008 767; www.baileys-sydney.com; full day from \$395) Offers highly personalised private tours of Sydney 'for people who don't like tours'.

**Real Sydney Tours**

BUS TOUR

(☎0402 049 426; www.realsydneytours.com.au; 1-3 passengers from \$465, additional passengers from \$135) Private minibus tours around Sydney or to further-flung locations such as the Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley.

**Scenic Flights****Blue Sky Helicopters**

SCENIC FLIGHTS

(☎02-9700 7888; www.blueskyhelicopters.com) Departing from the airport, this experienced crew offers scenic flights, ranging from a 15-minute Bridge & Back trip (\$330) to a five-hour Blue Mountains Helitour (from \$2500).

**Sydney by Seaplane**

SCENIC FLIGHTS

(Map p68; ☎1300 720 995; www.sydneybyseaplane.com; Rose Bay Marina, 594 New South Head Rd, Rose Bay; 15min/30min/45min/1hr flights per person \$190/260/445/525; 📍Rose Bay) Scenic flights over Sydney Harbour and the Northern Beaches. Fly-and-dine packages are available for picnics in obscure places. Departs from Rose Bay and Palm Beach.

**Sydney Seaplanes**

SCENIC FLIGHTS

(Map p68; ☎1300 732 752; www.seaplanes.com.au; Seaplane Base, Lyne Park, Rose Bay; 15min/30min flights per person \$200/265; 📍Rose Bay) Aerial excitement meets epicurean delight when you take a seaplane flight from Rose Bay to remote Berowra Waters Inn (p135) on the Hawkesbury (per person \$585) or **Jonah's** (☎02-9974 5599; www.jonahs.com.au; 69 Bynya Rd, Whale Beach; breakfast \$50, mains \$49;

☎730-9am, noon-2.30pm & 6.30-11pm; 📍L90) at Whale Beach (\$535). Also offers scenic flights around Sydney Harbour.

**Walking Tours****I'm Free**

WALKING TOUR

(Map p82; ☎0405 515 654; www.imfree.com.au; 483 George St; ☎10.30am, 2.30pm & 6pm; 📍Town Hall) **FREE** Departing thrice daily from the square off George St between the Town Hall and St Andrew's Cathedral (no bookings taken - just show up), these highly rated three-hour tours are nominally free but are run by enthusiastic young guides for tips. The route takes in the Rocks, Circular Quay, Martin Place, Pitt St and Hyde Park.

**Peek Tours**

WALKING TOUR

(☎0420 244 756; www.peaktours.com.au; 📍Circular Quay) If you find that a cool beverage makes local history easier to digest, this crew will lead you on a two-hour tour of the Rocks, stopping in historic pubs (\$60, including a drink at each). They also offer a 90-minute walking tour of Bondi Beach (\$40) and other guided walks on request.

**Sydney Architecture Walks**

WALKING TOUR

(☎0403 888 390; www.sydneyarchitecture.org; adult/student walk \$49/35, cycle incl bike \$120/110) These bright young archi-buffs run two 3½-hour cycling tours and five themed two-hour walking tours (The City; Utzon and the Sydney Opera House; Harbours; Art, Place and Landscape; and Modern Sydney).

**The Rocks Walking Tours**

WALKING TOUR

(Map p72; ☎02-9247 6678; www.rockswalkingtours.com.au; cnr Argyle & Harrington Sts; adult/child/family \$25/12/62; ☎10.30am & 1.30pm; 📍Circular Quay) Regular 90-minute tours through the historic Rocks, with plenty of not-so-tall tales and interesting minutiae.

**Other Tours****BridgeClimb**

WALKING TOUR

(Map p72; ☎02-8274 7777; www.bridgeclimb.com; 3 Cumberland St; adult \$218-348, child \$148-228; 📍Circular Quay) Don a headset, a safety cord and a dandy grey jumpsuit and you'll be ready to embark on an exhilarating climb to the top of Sydney's famous harbour bridge. The priciest climbs are at dawn and sunset. A cheaper, 90-minute 'sampler' climb (heading only halfway up) is also available.

**EcoTreasures**

CULTURAL TOUR

(☎0415 121 648; www.ecotreasures.com.au) 🍃 Small group tours include Manly Snorkel Walk & Talk (90 minutes, adult/child

\$65/40) and longer excursions to the Northern Beaches and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, including Aboriginal Heritage Tours led by Indigenous guides.

### SCG Tour Experience

TOUR

(Map p92; ☎1300 724 737; www.sydneycricketground.com.au; Venue Services Office, Allianz Stadium, Driver Ave; adult/child/family \$30/20/78; ☀11am & 2pm Mon-Fri, 11am Sat; ☎373-377) Run up the players' race from the dressing rooms in your own sporting fantasy during this behind-the-scenes guided tour of the facilities at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

## 🌟 Festivals & Events

### Field Day

MUSIC

(www.fielddaynyc.com.au) Groove New Year's Day in the Domain with well-known international and local acts (2015 headliners: SBTRKT, Alt-J, Danny Brown, Jamie XX, Salt-n-Pepa).

### Sydney Festival

CULTURAL

(www.sydneyfestival.org.au) Sydney's premier arts and culture festival showcases three weeks of music, theatre and visual art every January.

### Flickerfest

FILM

(☎02-9365 6888; www.flickerfest.com.au; Bondi Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth Dr; ☎380) Bondi's international short-film festival stages shorts, docos, animation and workshops over 10 days in mid-January.

### Australia Day

NATIONAL DAY

(www.australiaday.gov.au) On 26 January, Sydneysiders celebrate with picnics, barbecues, fireworks, ferry races and, increasingly, much flag-waving and drunkenness.

### Chinese New Year

CULTURAL

(www.sydneychinesenewyear.com) Seventeen-day, Chinatown-based festival featuring food, fireworks, dragon dancers and dragon-boat races to see in the lunar new year. Actual dates vary, but it's always in January or February.

### St Jerome's Laneway Festival

MUSIC

(www.lanewayfestival.com.au) A one-day music festival held in early February at the Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle, which reliably and presciently schedules the world's hippest new indie acts, just as they're breaking (past headliners have included Florence + The Machine, Lorde and St Vincent).

### Sydney Gay & Lesbian

#### Mardi Gras

GAY &amp; LESBIAN

(www.mardigras.org.au) A two-week festival culminating in the world-famous massive parade and party on the first Saturday in March.

### Sydney Royal Easter Show

FAIR

(www.eastershow.com.au) Ostensibly an agricultural show, this wonderful Sydney tradition is a two-week fiesta of carnival rides, kiddie-centric show bags and sugary horrors. Crowds are massive.

### Biennale of Sydney

CULTURAL

(www.biennaleofsydney.com.au) High-profile festival of art and ideas held between March and June in even-numbered years.

### Fashion Week

FASHION

(www.mbffsydney.com.au) Each April, local designer duds are on display on the catwalk in Carriageworks. Expect plenty of skin, gossip...oh, and some beautiful clothes.

### Vivid Sydney

CULTURAL

(www.vividsydney.com) Immersive light installations and projections in the city, performances from local and international musicians, and public talks and debates with leading global creative thinkers; held over 18 days from late May.

### State of Origin Series

SPORTS

(www.nrl.com) Rugby league fanatics consider this series of three matches between Queensland and New South Wales (held in May, June and July) to be the pinnacle of the game.

### City2Surf

SPORT

(www.city2surf.com.au) Over 80,000 people run the 14km from Hyde Park to Bondi Beach on the second Sunday in August.

### Festival of the Winds

CARNIVAL

(www.waverley.nsw.gov.au) Held on the second Sunday in September, this festival brings spectacular kites shaped like animals and aliens to Bondi Beach. The kids will love it, and with the wind doing all the work it's very ecofriendly.

### National Rugby League

#### Grand Final

SPORTS

(www.nrl.com.au) The two teams left standing at the end of the National Rugby League (NRL) season head to Sydney Olympic Park to decide who's the best. On the Sunday of the October long weekend.





not to mention designer good looks that wander from Japanese-style rooms to muted, tranquil abodes both with massive bathrooms stocked with Bulgari toiletries.

## Haymarket

**Railway Square YHA** HOSTEL \$  
(Map p86; ☎ 02-9281 9666; www.yha.com.au; 8-10 Lee St; dm from \$39, d with/without bathroom from \$130/116; 📶📶📶; 🚺 Central) This hostel's not just central, it's actually *in* Central station. A nouveau-industrial renovation has turned a former parcel shed (complete with platform) into a hip hostel. You can even sleep in dorms in converted train carriages. The kids will love it (but bring earplugs). Private en suite rooms also available.

**Wake Up!** HOSTEL \$  
(Map p86; ☎ 02-9288 7888; www.wakeup.com.au; 509 Pitt St; dm \$38-44, s \$98, d with/without bathroom \$148/118; 📶📶📶; 🚺 Central) Flash-packers sleep soundly in this converted 1900 department store on top of Sydney's busiest intersection. It's a convivial, colourful, professionally run hostel with 520 beds, lots of activities, a tour desk, 24-hour check-in, a sunny cafe, a bar and no excuse for neglecting your inner party animal.

**Sydney Central YHA** HOSTEL \$  
(Map p86; ☎ 02-9218 9000; www.yha.com.au; 11 Rawson Pl; dm from \$39, d with/without bathroom from \$125/115; 📶📶📶; 🚺 Central) 🍃 Near Central station, this 1913 heritage-listed monolith is the mother of all Sydney YHA properties. The renovated hostel includes everything from a travel agency to an in-house cinema. The rooms are brightly painted and the kitchens are great but the highlight is sweating it out in the sauna, then cooling off in the rooftop pool.

## Darling Harbour & Pyrmont

**1888 Hotel** BOUQUETTE HOTEL \$\$  
(Map p84; ☎ 02-8586 1888; www.1888hotel.com.au; 139 Murray St; d from \$169, ste from \$249; 📶📶📶; 🚺 Town Hall) In a heritage-listed wool store, this stylish gem combines stark industrial minimalism with the warmth of ironbark wood beams and luxury appointments. Rooms range from the aptly named shoebox to the airy lofts and attic suites with harbour views. The cool but casual staff point out the hip hotel must-haves: lobby space set up for Instagram selfies, bikes for hire and an iPad in every room.

## The Darling

CASINO HOTEL \$\$\$  
(Map p84; ☎ 02-9777 9000; www.thedarling.com.au; 80 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont; r from \$430; 📶📶📶; 🚺 Pyrmont Bay) Beyond the bling of Star City Casino lies the sumptuous Darling. Sink into beds laid with 400-thread-count Egyptian cotton sheets and choose from a menu of 12 pillows. Hard to get up? No problem. Guests can adjust the lighting, air temperature and select a time for the blinds to open in the morning via remote control. The sweets and alcoholic treats in the well-stocked mini bar make for a great midnight feast.

## Ultimo, Glebe & Chippendale

**Glebe Point YHA** HOSTEL \$  
(Map p68; ☎ 02-9692 8418; www.yha.com.au; 262-264 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe; dm \$28-45, s without bathroom \$70, d without bathroom \$84-105; 📶📶; 🚺 431) A great choice for working travellers, this chilled-out hostel has decent facilities, plenty of organised activities and simple rooms with sinks. Less uptight than some YHAs, there's a convivial vibe particularly on the rooftop terrace which is popular on barbecue nights. A real plus are the surrounding cafes and easy access to public transport into town.

**Forsyth Bed & Breakfast** B&B \$\$  
(Map p68; ☎ 02-9552 2110; www.forsythbnb.com; 3 Forsyth St, Glebe; d \$195-225; 📶📶; 🚺 431) Count yourself lucky if you nab one of the two guest rooms at this bijou escape in Glebe's leafy back streets. Forsyth B&B has light, art-filled rooms, one with a balcony overlooking the city. The accommodating owners provide personalised itineraries, airport transfers and help with public transport. Breakfast is served in the Japanese-inspired garden. Minimum three-night stay.

## Surry Hills

**Bounce** HOSTEL \$  
(Map p86; ☎ 02-9281 2222; www.bouncehotel.com.au; 28 Chalmers St, Surry Hills; dm/r from \$40/149; 📶📶📶; 🚺 Central) 🍃 This popular hostel has scooped up a pile of awards for its boutique take on budget accommodation. Beyond the standard dorms there are double rooms with sleek en suites, luxury hotel quality beds and TVs. Soak up those skyline views on the rooftop terrace. Guests are provided with extra-large lockers with a power supply to safely charge electronics.

## CITY CAMPING

**Cockatoo Island** (Map p68; ☎ 02-8898 9774; www.cockatooisland.gov.au; camp sites from \$45, 2-bed tents from \$150, apt from \$225, houses from \$595; 📍 Cockatoo Island) Waking up on an island in the middle of the harbour is an extraordinary Sydney experience. Bring your own tent or 'glamp' in a two-person tent complete with a double bed on the water's edge. Noncampers will enjoy the elegant garden apartments. For self-caterers, there's a well-equipped camp kitchen; for everyone else, there are three cafes and bars.

**Lane Cove River Tourist Park** (☎ 02-9888 9133; www.lcrtp.com.au; Plassey Rd, Macquarie Park; unpowered/powerd camp sites per 2 people \$37/39, cabins from \$135, luxury tents \$200; 📍 @ 📍 📍; 📍 North Ryde) Have a back-to-nature experience in the heart of suburbia, staying in this national park camp site 14km northwest of the CBD. There are caravan and camping sites, cabins and a pool to cool off in when the city swelters. For a romantic bush getaway, the Tandara luxury glamping option is worth the price. Park admission is included in the rates.

**Big Hostel**

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9281 6030; www.bighostel.com; 212 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills; dm \$32-36, s/d \$89/110; 📍 @ 📍; 📍 Central) A great, no-frills hostel experience with a cool rooftop terrace and a snazzy communal area. A definite plus is the free breakfast and free wi-fi on the ground floor.

HOSTEL \$

**Medusa**

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9331 1000; www.medusa.com.au; 267 Darlinghurst Rd, Darlinghurst; r from \$310; 📍 @ 📍 📍; 📍 Kings Cross) Medusa's shocking pink exterior and witty, luscious decor was once the height of hotel hipsterdom. Today the small colour-saturated suites with large beds and regal furnishings (the best face the courtyard) are looking less decadent. Thankfully the staff are as energetic as ever and small touches like the Aesop toiletries go a long way. So does the tremendous location.

BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$\$

**Darlinghurst****Cambridge Hotel**

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9212 1111; www.cambridgehotel.com.au; 212 Riley St, Surry Hills; r from \$170; 📍 @ 📍 @ 📍; 📍 380) You couldn't wish for a more conveniently situated hotel than this urban bolt-hole. Most of the spacious, contemporary rooms have private balconies with city skyline vistas. Downstairs the happening Baccommatto Osteria serves brilliant Italian food, including the hotel breakfast.

HOTEL \$\$

**Woolloomooloo****Mariners Court**

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9320 3888; www.marinerscourt.com.au; 44-50 McElhorne St, Woolloomooloo; r \$110-160; 📍 @ 📍; 📍 Kings Cross) This won't be the flashiest place you'll stay in Sydney (the vibe is kinda 1994), but it offers that rare combination of location, price and a bit of elbow room. Not to mention a complimentary hot breakfast buffet. All rooms have courtyards or balconies, some with leafy outlooks. Good wheelchair access.

HOTEL \$\$

**★ ADGE Boutique Apartment Hotel**

(Map p88; ☎ 02-8093 9888; www.adgehotel.com.au; 222 Riley St, Surry Hills; apt from \$374; 📍 @ 📍 @ 📍; 📍 380) As soon as you spot the bold wall murals, it's clear the ADGE is all about putting a clever twist on the ubiquitous serviced apartment experience. The 12 idiosyncratic but extremely comfortable two-bedroom apartments are bedecked with garishly striped carpets, smart TVs and colourful retro fridges. Free wi-fi, a welcome drink and a nightly turn-down service make this hotel one of Sydney's best boutique options.

APARTMENTS \$\$\$

**BLUE Sydney**

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9331 9000; www.bluehotel.com.au; 6 Cowper Wharf Rdwy, Woolloomooloo; r from \$250; 📍 @ 📍 @ 📍 @ 📍; 📍 311) Carved out of the historic Woolloomooloo finger wharf, now home to some top restaurants, much of the industrial machinery has been left exposed, to be admired over cocktails in the Water Bar. Rooms are mostly split-level, with king-size beds perched above living areas. Standard rooms are lit by skylight, giving the feel of staying on a luxury liner.

HOTEL \$\$\$



## Kings Cross & Potts Point

### Blue Parrot

HOSTEL \$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9356 4888; www.blueparrot.com.au; 87 Macleay St, Potts Point; dm \$35-42; 📶 🚰 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) If Polly wanted a cracker of a hostel she might head to this well-maintained, secure little place which feels more like a share house (albeit a rather clean one!) run by sisters Effie and Sasha, rather than a backpackers. The courtyard is strung with hammocks. There are no private rooms, just dorms – and as a ‘genuine’ youth hostel, Blue Parrot only accepts 18- to 35-year-olds.

### Eva's Backpackers

HOSTEL \$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9358 2185; www.evasbackpackers.com.au; 6-8 Orwell St, Kings Cross; dm from \$34-36, r from \$89; 📶 🚰 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) Far enough from the Kings Cross fray, Eva's is a longtime favourite offering free breakfast and wi-fi, plus an ace rooftop barbecue area and a sociable kitchen-dining room. Clean and secure.

### Jackaroo

HOSTEL \$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9332 2244; www.jackaroohostel.com; 107-109 Darlinghurst Rd, Kings Cross; dm \$34-36, r with/without bathroom \$90/80; 📶 🚰 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) There's no accommodation positioned closer to the heart of the action than this hostel directly above Kings Cross station. Ordinarily that wouldn't be a good thing, but Jackaroo passes muster. While communal spaces are lacklustre and rooms cramped, they are very clean. Try to nab a rear-facing one but pack earplugs regardless. The vibe is bustling and (extremely) youthful. A no-frills breakfast is included.

### Hotel 59

B&amp;B \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9360 5900; www.hotel59.com.au; 59 Bayswater Rd, Rushcutters Bay; s \$99, d \$130-140; 📶 🚰 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) In the style of a simple European pensione, Hotel 59 offers good bang for your buck on the quiet part of Bayswater Road close to Rushcutters Bay Park. The cafe downstairs does whopping cooked breakfasts (included in the price) for those barbarous Kings Cross hangovers. Two-night minimum.

### Diamant

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9295 8888; www.diamant.com.au; 14 Kings Cross Rd, Kings Cross; r \$159-375, ste \$315-425, apt \$500-3200; 📶 🚰 🚿 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) Presiding over William St this swish high-

rise bridges the junction between Kings Cross and Darlinghurst. Space-age corridors open onto slick, spacious black-and-white rooms – all have king-size beds, quality linen, huge plasma screens and iPads. Courtyard suites offer roomy private balconies equipped with stylish outdoor furniture. Guests have free 24-hour access to a large public gym in the building.

### Victoria Court Hotel

B&amp;B \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9357 3200; www.victoriacourt.com.au; 122 Victoria St; r from \$169; 📶 🚰 🚿 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) Chintzy charm reigns supreme at this faded but well-run B&B, which has 25 rooms in a pair of three-storey 1881 terrace houses. The larger more expensive rooms have balconies. The continental breakfast is served in the courtyard.

### Macleay Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9357 7755; www.themacleay.com; 28 Macleay St, Elizabeth Bay; r from \$165; 📶 🚰 🚿 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) At the posh end of Potts Point, surrounded by fabulous restaurants, is this understated hotel. The studios are a little faded but all have small kitchenettes and there's a laundry on each floor. An added plus is the rooftop pool and gym. Ask for a room on a higher floor for city and harbour views.

### Bayswater

BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-8070 0100; www.sydneylodges.com; 17 Bayswater Rd, Kings Cross; r from \$120; 📶 🚰 🚿 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) This smart hotel tries for the boutique experience but unfortunately misses the mark when it comes to the small details. What it does offer is attractive and affordable lodgings with a great address. Cheaper rooms are compact so upsize to a King Deluxe for more space and larger windows. Given the location, it can get noisy on weekend nights.

### Simpsons of Potts Point

BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9356 2199; www.simpsons-hotel.com; 8 Challis Ave; r from \$255; 📶 🚰 🚿 🚿; 🏠 Kings Cross) At the quiet end of a busy cafe strip this 1892 villa has been affectionately restored with decorative flourishes of yesteryear. The perennially popular Simpsons is widely loved for its charming service and the cosy luxury of the 12 guest rooms. The downstairs lounge is perfect for a game of chess and a complimentary sherry.



and eats, this brand-new hotel in a former RSL Club offers industrial-sleek studio accommodation. The Urban stands out from the crowd with a slew of extras like free wi-fi, free landline calls Australia-wide and relaxed check-in/-out options. Kitchens include mini bars stocked with local craft beers.

## Manly

### Manly Bunkhouse

HOSTEL \$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9976 0472; www.bunkhouse.com.au; 35 Pine St; dm \$38, tw & d \$90; @☎; 📺 Manly) Backpackers (mainly Dutch) mix it up with international students and holiday workers at this laid-back hostel minutes from Manly Beach. The bright and clean four-person dorms with en suite are the way to go, as the overpriced private rooms are in need of sprucing up.

### Cecil Street B&B

B&amp;B \$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9977 8036; www.cecilstreetbb.com.au; 18 Cecil St, Manly; s/d \$110/\$130; 📺; 📺 Manly) This low-key bed and breakfast is in a handsome Federation-style home on a hill above Manly. The two simple but tastefully decorated rooms make the most of high ceilings, lead-light windows and polished timber floors. The only downside is the steep hike back from the beach.

### 101 Addison Road

B&amp;B \$\$

(Map p98; ☎ 02-9977 6216; www.bb-manly.com; 101 Addison Rd; s/d \$165/185; 📺; 📺 Manly) This sumptuously decorated 1880s cottage is perched on a quiet street close to the beach and ferry wharf. Two rooms are available but the delightful host only takes single bookings (from one to four people) – meaning you'll have free rein of the antique-strewn accommodation, including a private lounge with a grand piano and open fire.

### Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific

HOTEL \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9977 7666; www.novotelmanlypacific.com.au; 55 North Steyne; r from \$279; 📺; 📺; 📺 Manly) Right on Manly's ocean beach, this midriser has a dated corporate vibe but is a million miles from the city's business hustle. Check the surf from ocean-front balconies, or hit the rooftop pool if you don't want sand in your laptop.

## Eating

Sydney's cuisine celebrates the city's place on the Pacific Rim, marrying the freshest local ingredients with the flavours of Asia, the Americas and, of course, the colonial past.

The top restaurants are properly pricey, but eating out needn't be expensive. There's a top-notch cafe scene and plenty of reasonably priced ethnic eateries where you can grab a cheap and tasty pizza or bowl of noodles.

## The Rocks & Circular Quay

### Sailors Thai Canteen

THAI \$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9251 2466; www.sailorsthai.com.au; 106 George St; mains \$24-29; ☺ noon-3pm Mon-Fri & 5-10pm daily; 📺 Circular Quay) Wedge yourself into a gap between arts-community operators, politicians and media manoeuvrers at Sailors' long communal table and order from the fragrant menu of Thai street-food classics. The balcony tables fill up fast, but fortune might be smiling on you. Downstairs the vibe's more formal and the prices higher.

### ★ Quay

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9251 5600; www.quay.com.au; L3, Overseas Passenger Terminal; 3/4 courses \$130/150; ☺ noon-2.30pm Tue-Fri, 6-10pm daily; 📺 Circular Quay) Quay is shamelessly guilty of breaking the rule that good views make for bad food. Chef Peter Gilmore never rests on his laurels, consistently delivering the exquisitely crafted, adventurous cuisine which has landed Quay on the prestigious World's Best Restaurants list. And the view? Like dining in a postcard.

### Saké

JAPANESE \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9259 5656; www.sakerestaurant.com.au; 12 Argyle St; mains \$25-45; ☺ noon-3pm & 5.30-10.30pm; 📺 Circular Quay) Colourful sake barrels and lots of dark wood contribute to the louche Oriental glamour of this large, buzzy restaurant. Solo travellers can prop themselves around the open kitchen and snack on delectable Wagyu dumplings and maki rolls, while couples tuck into multi-course banquets of contemporary Japanese cuisine (from \$88).

## City Centre

### Central Baking Depot

BAKERY \$

(Map p72; www.centralbakingdepot.com.au; 37-39 Erskine St; items \$5-13; ☺ 7am-4pm Mon-Sat; 📺 Wynyard) CBD produces quality baked goods right in the heart of the CBD (Central Business District). Drop by for a savoury snack (pies, sausage rolls, croissants, pizza slices, sandwiches), or a sweet treat with coffee. Seating is limited to a modest scattering of tables and a window bench.

## THE CULT OF THE CELEBRITY CHEF

Many Sydneysiders consider a sprinkling of celebrity to be an essential ingredient when it comes to dining out. There is a veritable constellation of chefs cooking around town who have attained local and international stardom courtesy of television cooking programs or cookbooks. These include the following:

**Colin Fassnidge** (**Four In Hand**, p119; **4Fourteen**, p117) Irish-born chef famous for his nose-to-tail cooking and withering assessments of *My Kitchen Rules* contestants.

**Bill Granger** (**bills**, p118) Lifestyle chef and author of 10 cookbooks whose food and style are thought by many to be quintessentially Sydney.

**Luke Nguyen** (**Red Lantern on Riley**, p118) Presents his own television programs (*Luke Nguyen's Vietnam*, *The Songs of Sapa*, *Luke Nguyen's Greater Mekong*) and has written several cookbooks.

**Matt Moran** (**Aria**, Map p72; ☎ 02-9240 2255; www.ariarestaurant.com; 1 Macquarie St; lunch & pretheatre mains \$46, 2-/3-/4-course dinner \$105/130/155; ☀ noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri, 5.30-11pm daily; 📍 Circular Quay; **Chiswick Restaurant**, p119; **Opera Bar**, p122) Matt's portrait is on show at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra and he is known to millions of Australians through regular TV appearances.

**Neil Perry** (**Rockpool**, p115; **Rockpool Bar & Grill**, p115; **Spice Temple**) The city's original rock-star chef (with ponytail to match) has a long list of cookbooks and appearances on television cooking programs to his credit.

### Sydney Madang

(Map p82; 371a Pitt St; mains \$13-20; ☀ 11.30am-midnight; 📍 Museum) Down a teensy Little Korea lane is this backdoor gem – an authentic barbecue joint that's low on interior charisma but high on quality and quantity. Noisy, cramped and chaotic, yes, but the chilli seafood soup will have you coming back tomorrow.

KOREAN \$

### Spice Temple

(Map p72; ☎ 02-8078 1888; www.rockpool.com; 10 Bligh St; dishes \$14-45; ☀ noon-3pm Mon-Fri, 6-10.30pm Mon-Sat; 📍; 📍 Martin Place) Tucked away in the basement of his Rockpool Bar & Grill is Neil Perry's darkly atmospheric temple to the cuisine of China's western provinces, especially Sichuan, Yunnan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Guangxi and Xingjiang. Expect plenty of heat and lots of thrills.

CHINESE \$\$

### Le Grand Café

(Map p72; www.afsydney.com.au/about/le-grand-cafe; 257 Clarence St; mains \$10-15; ☀ 8am-6.15pm Mon-Thu, to 4.30pm Fri, to 2pm Sat; 📍 Town Hall) All we can say about this cafe in the foyer of the Harry Seidler-designed Alliance Française building is *ooh la la*. The classic French snacks (think pastries, baguettes and croque-monsieur) are delicious, and the surrounds are extremely smart.

FRENCH, CAFE \$

### Ippudo Sydney

(Map p72; ☎ 02-8078 7020; www.ippudo.com.au; L5 Westfield Sydney, 188 Pitt St; mains \$15-25; ☀ 11am-10pm; 📍 St James) An exuberant chorus of welcome greets guests on arrival at this wonderful ramen house, tucked away near the Westfield food court. Founded in Fukuoka in 1985 and now in 11 countries, the Sydney branch serves all the soupy, noodle favourites.

JAPANESE \$\$

### ★ Mr Wong

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9240 3000; www.merivale.com.au/mrwong; 3 Bridge Lane; mains \$25-38; ☀ noon-3pm & 5.30-11pm; 📍 Wynyard) Dumping junkies shuffle down a dirty lane and into the bowels of an old warehouse for a taste of Mr Wong's deliciously addictive Cantonese fare. There's a dark-edged glamour to the cavernous basement dining room. Despite seating 240, there are often queues out the door.

CHINESE \$\$

### Alpha

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9098 1111; www.alpharestaurant.com.au; 238 Castlereagh St; mains \$19-35; ☀ noon-3pm & 6-10pm; 📍 Museum) Located directly across from the Greek consulate in the grand dining room of the Hellenic Club, this wonderful restaurant brings all the zing and drama of the Mediterranean to the heart of the city. Chef Peter Conistis' menu covers the classics, with his own unique tweaks.

GREEK \$\$

**Din Tai Fung**

CHINESE \$\$\$

(Map p82; [www.dintaifung.com.au](http://www.dintaifung.com.au); L1, World Sq, 644 George St; dishes \$11-19; ☎ 11.30am-2.30pm & 5.30-9pm; ☑ Museum) The noodles and buns are great, but it's the dumplings that made this Taiwanese chain famous, delivering an explosion of fabulously flavoursome broth as you bite into their delicate casings. Come early, come hungry, come prepared to share your table. They also have stalls in The Star (p115) and Westfield Sydney (p130) food courts.

**Ash St Cellar**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9240 3000; [www.merivale.com.au/ashstcellar](http://www.merivale.com.au/ashstcellar); 1 Ash St; large plates \$18-26; ☎ 8.30am-11pm Mon-Fri; ☑ Wynyard) Part of the so-hot-right-now Ivy complex, Ash St Cellar is an urbane lane-side wine bar that does excellent cheese, charcuterie and shared plates. Sit outside if it's not too gusty and agonise over the 200-plus wines on the list. Despite the suits sweeping through, the vibe is relaxed and unhurried.

**★Tetsuya's**

FRENCH, JAPANESE \$\$\$

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9267 2900; [www.tetsuyas.com](http://www.tetsuyas.com); 529 Kent St; degustation \$220; ☎ noon-3pm Sat, 6-10pm Tue-Sat; ☑ Town Hall) Down a clandestine security driveway, this extraordinary restaurant is for those seeking a culinary journey rather than a simple stuffed belly. Settle in for 10-plus courses of French- and Japanese-inflected food from the creative genius of Japanese-born Tetsuya Wakuda. Book way ahead.

**Rockpool**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9252 1888; [www.rockpool.com](http://www.rockpool.com); 11 Bridge St; lunch mains \$35-55, 9-/10-course dinner \$145/165; ☎ noon-3pm Mon-Fri, 6-11pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Circular Quay) The Neil Perry empire now stretches to eight acclaimed restaurants in three cities, and this grand dining room is the mothership. After 25 years, Rockpool's creations still manage to wow diners. Expect craft, contemporary cuisine with Asian influences, faultless service and an alluring wine list.

**Est.**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9240 3000; [www.merivale.com.au/est](http://www.merivale.com.au/est); L1, 252 George St; 4-course lunch/dinner \$118/155, degustation \$180; ☎ noon-2.30pm Fri, 6-10pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Wynyard) Pressed-tin ceilings, huge columns, oversized windows and modern furniture make the interior design almost as interesting as the food. This is Sydney fine dining at its best; thick wallet and fancy threads a must. Seafood fills around half of the slots on the menu.

**Sepia**

JAPANESE, FUSION \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9283 1990; [www.sepiarestaurant.com.au](http://www.sepiarestaurant.com.au); 201 Sussex St; 4 courses/degustation \$160/190; ☎ noon-3pm Fri & Sat, 6-10pm Tue-Sat; ☑ Town Hall) There's nothing washed out or brown-tinged about Sepia's food: Martin Benn's picture-perfect creations are presented in glorious technicolour, with each taste worth a thousand words. A Japanese sensibility permeates the boundary-pushing menu, earning Sepia the city's top dining gong.

**Rockpool Bar & Grill**

STEAK \$\$\$

(Map p72; ☎ 02-8078 1900; [www.rockpool.com](http://www.rockpool.com); 66 Hunter St; mains \$26-115; ☎ noon-3pm Mon-Fri, 6-11pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Martin Place) You'll feel like a 1930s Manhattan stockbroker when you dine at this sleek operation in the art deco City Mutual Building. The bar is famous for its dry-aged, full-blood Wagyu burger (make sure you order a side of the hand-cut fat chips), but carnivores will be equally enamoured with the succulent steaks, stews and fish dishes served in the grill.

**✂ Haymarket****Mamak**

MALAYSIAN \$

(Map p82; [www.mamak.com.au](http://www.mamak.com.au); 15 Goulburn St; mains \$6-17; ☎ 11.30am-2.30pm & 5.30-10pm Mon-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat; ☑ Town Hall) Get here early (from 5.30pm) if you want to score a table without queuing, because this eat-and-run Malaysian joint is one of the most popular cheapies in the city. The satays are cooked over charcoal and are particularly delicious when accompanied by a flaky golden roti.

**Chat Thai**

THAI \$\$\$

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9211 1808; [www.chatthai.com.au](http://www.chatthai.com.au); 20 Campbell St; mains \$10-20; ☎ 10am-2am; ☑ Central) Cooler than your average Thai joint, this Thaitown linchpin is so popular that a list is posted outside for you to affix your name to should you want a table. Ex-pat Thais flock here for the dishes that don't make it onto your average suburban Thai restaurant menu - particularly the more unusual sweets.

**✂ Darling Harbour & Pyrmont****Café Court**

FOOD COURT \$

(Map p84; [www.star.com.au](http://www.star.com.au); ground fl, The Star; mains \$10-18; ☎ 11am-9pm Sun & Mon, to 11pm Tue-Sat; ☑ The Star) The Star has done a great job of filling its ground-floor food court with some of the best operators of their kind, such as Din Tai Fung for dumplings,

Messina (p118) for gelato and Adriano Zumbo for sweet delights.

### Adriano Zumbo

BAKERY \$

(Map p84; [www.adrianozumbo.com](http://www.adrianozumbo.com); Café Court, The Star, 80 Pyrmont St; sweets \$2.50-10; ☺ 11am-9pm Sun, to 11pm Mon-Sat; ☑ The Star) The man who introduced Sydney to the macaron has indulged his Willy Wonka fantasies in this concept shop, where baked treats are artfully displayed amid pink neon. The macarons (or zumbarons, as they're known here), tarts, pastries and cakes are as astonishing to look at as they are to eat.

### Sokyo

JAPANESE \$\$\$

(Map p84; ☎ 02-9657 9161; [www.star.com.au/sokyo](http://www.star.com.au/sokyo); The Star, 80 Pyrmont St; breakfast \$23-38, set lunch \$45, mains \$30-58; ☺ 7-10.30am & 5.30-11pm daily, noon-3pm Thu-Sat; ☑ The Star) Bringing an injection of Toyko glam to the edge of the casino complex, Sokyo serves well-crafted sushi and sashimi, delicate tempura, tasty robata grills and sophisticated mains. It also dishes up Sydney's best Japanese-style breakfast. Solo travellers should grab a counter seat by the sushi kitchen to watch all the action unfurl.

### Flying Fish

SEAFOOD \$\$\$

(Map p84; ☎ 02-9518 6677; [www.flyingfish.com.au](http://www.flyingfish.com.au); Jones Bay Wharf; mains \$47-49; ☺ noon-2.30pm daily, 6-10.30pm Mon-Sat; ☑ The Star) Beyond the architects and investment groups along Jones Bay Wharf is this romantic seafood restaurant. The city lights work their magic all too easily here, aided by excellent food and an indulgent cocktail list. Aside from all that romance stuff, it has the coolest toilets in town – the clear-glass stalls frost over when you close the door.

## Ultimo, Glebe & Chippendale

### ★ Ester

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(Map p121; ☎ 02-8068 8279; [www.ester-restaurant.com.au](http://www.ester-restaurant.com.au); 46 Meagher St; mains \$26-36; ☺ noon-5pm Sun, noon-3pm Fri, 6pm-late Tue-Sat; ☑ Redfern) Ester breaks the trend for hip new eateries by accepting bookings, but in other respects it exemplifies Sydney's contemporary dining scene: informal but not sloppy; innovative without being overly gimmicky; hip, but never try-hard. Influences straddle continents and dishes are made to be shared. If humanly possible, make room for dessert.

### Glebe Point Diner

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9660 2646; [www.glebeptdiner.com.au](http://www.glebeptdiner.com.au); 407 Glebe Point Rd; mains \$29-39; ☺ noon-3pm Thu-Sun, 6-11pm Mon-Sat; ☑ Jubilee Park) A sensational neighbourhood diner, where only the best local produce is used and everything – from the home-baked bread and hand-churned butter to the nougat finale – is made from scratch. The food is creative and comforting at the same time; a rare combination.

## ✂ Surry Hills

### ★ Bourke Street Bakery

BAKERY \$

(Map p86; [www.bourkestreetbakery.com.au](http://www.bourkestreetbakery.com.au); 633 Bourke St; items \$5-14; ☺ 8am-5pm; ☑ Central) Queuing outside this teensy bakery is an essential Surry Hills experience. It sells a tempting selection of pastries, cakes, bread and sandwiches, along with sausage rolls which are near legendary in these parts. There are a few tables inside but on a fine day you're better off on the street.

### Reuben Hills

CAFE \$

(Map p86; [www.reubenhills.com.au](http://www.reubenhills.com.au); 61 Albion St; mains \$12-18; ☺ 7am-4pm; ☑ Central) An industrial fitout and Latin American menu await here at Reuben Hills (aka hipster central). Fantastic single-origin coffee and fried chicken, but the eggs, tacos and *baleadas* (Honduran tortillas) are no slouches, either.

### Sample Coffee

CAFE \$

(Map p86; [www.samplecoffee.com.au](http://www.samplecoffee.com.au); 118 Devonshire St; items \$3-5; ☺ 6.30am-4pm Mon-Fri; ☑ Central) If the alpine scene on the wall induces the urge to yodel, quickly shove one of Sample's deliciously moist muffins in your mouth. The food is limited to some lovely sweet things to go with coffee, which is the real star of the show here. Enter from Holt St.

### Le Monde

CAFE \$

(Map p86; [www.lemondecafe.com.au](http://www.lemondecafe.com.au); 83 Foveaux St; mains \$9-18; ☺ 6.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 7.30am-2pm Sat; ☑ Central) Some of Sydney's best breakfasts are served between the demure dark wooden walls of this small streetside cafe. Top-notch coffee and a terrific selection of tea will gear you up to face the world.

### Spice I Am

THAI \$

(Map p82; [www.spiceiam.com](http://www.spiceiam.com); 90 Wentworth Ave; mains \$12-19; ☺ 11.30am-3.30pm & 5.45-10pm Tue-Sun; ☎; ☑ Central) Once the preserve of expat Thais, this little red-hot chilli pepper

now has queues out the door. No wonder, as everything we've tried from the 70-plus dishes on the menu is superfragrant and super-spicy. It's been so successful that they've opened an upmarket version in **Darlinghurst** (Map p88; ☎ 02-9332 2445; 296-300 Victoria St; mains \$18-30; ☺ 11.30am-3.30pm Thu-Sun, 5.45-10.30pm daily; ☑; ☒ Kings Cross).

### Devon

CAFE \$\$

(Map p86; www.devoncafe.com.au; 76 Devonshire St; mains \$14-21; ☺ 7am-4.30pm daily, 6-10pm Thu-Sat) If it's boring old bacon and eggs you're after, look elsewhere. Devon shamelessly plunders the cuisines of 'multicultural Australia' to deliver an extremely creative menu, with plenty of twists on old favourites. There's even an 'Ogre's Happy Meal' (ox-tongue, apparently – we weren't tempted).

### Porteño

ARGENTINE \$\$

(Map p86; ☎ 02-8399 1440; www.porteno.com.au; 358 Cleveland St; sharing plates \$15-48; ☺ 6pm-midnight Tue-Sat; ☒ Central) Lamb and suckling pig are spit-roasted for eight hours before the doors even open at this acclaimed and extremely hip restaurant, devoted to the robust meatiness of Argentinian cuisine. Arrive early to avoid a lengthy wait, although there's no hardship in hanging out upstairs at the very cool Gardel's Bar until a table comes free.

### Longrain

THAI \$\$

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9280 2888; www.longrain.com; 85 Commonwealth St; mains \$18-38; ☺ noon-2.30pm Fri, 6-11pm daily; ☒ Central) Devotees flock to this century-old, wedge-shaped printing-press building to feast on fragrant modern Thai dishes, and to sip delicately flavoured and utterly delicious cocktails. Sit at shared tables or at the bar.

### Bodega

TAPAS \$\$

(Map p86; ☎ 02-9212 7766; www.bodegatapas.com; 216 Commonwealth St; tapas \$12-28; ☺ noon-2pm Fri, 6-10pm Tue-Sat; ☒ Central) The coolest progeny of Sydney's tapas explosion, Bodega has a casual vibe, good-lookin' staff and a funky matador mural. Dishes vary widely in size and price. Wash 'em down with Spanish and South American wine, sherry, port or beer, and plenty of Latin gusto.

### Bar H

ASIAN \$\$

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9280 1980; www.barhsurryhills.com; 80 Campbell St; dishes \$10-34; ☺ 10am-3pm Sun, 6-10.30pm Mon-Sat; ☒ Museum) Marrying Chinese and Japanese dishes with native Australian bush ingredients, this sexy, shiny,

black-walled corner eatery is completely unique and extremely impressive. Dishes range considerably in size and are designed to be shared; confer with your waiter about quantities.

### MoVida

SPANISH \$\$

(Map p86; ☎ 02-8964 7642; www.movida.com.au; 50 Holt St; tapas \$5-13, raciones \$17-26, mains \$29; ☺ noon-late Mon-Sat; ☒ Central) A Sydney incarnation of a Melbourne legend, MoVida serves top-notch tapas and *raciones* (larger shared plates), and a great selection of Spanish wines. Book well ahead for a table or get in early for a seat by the bar.

### Single Origin Roasters

CAFE \$\$

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9211 0665; www.singleorigin.com.au; 60-64 Reservoir St; mains \$13-17; ☺ 6.30am-4pm Mon-Fri; ☒ Central) Unshaven graphic artists roll cigarettes at little outdoor tables in the brickly hollows of deepest Surry Hills, while inside impassioned, bouncing-off-the-walls caffeine fiends prepare their beloved brews, along with a tasty selection of cafe fare.

### El Loco

MEXICAN \$\$

(Map p86; www.merivale.com.au/elloco; 64 Foveaux St; mains \$10-18; ☺ noon-midnight Mon-Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat, to 10pm Sun; ☒ Central) As much as we lament the passing of live rock at the Excelsior Hotel, we have to admit that the hip Mexican cantina that's taken over the band room is pretty darn cool. The food's tasty, inventive and, at \$5 per taco, fantastic value.

### Devonshire

MODERN EUROPEAN \$\$\$

(Map p86; ☎ 02-9698 9427; www.thedevonshire.com.au; 204 Devonshire St; mains \$37; ☺ noon-2.30pm Fri, 6-10pm Tue-Sat; ☒ Central) It's a long way from a two-Michelin-starred Mayfair restaurant to grungy old Devonshire St for chef Jeremy Bentley, although cuisinewise, perhaps not as far as you'd think. His food is simply extraordinary – complex, precisely presented and full of flavour. And while there's white linen on the tables, the atmosphere isn't the least bit starchy.

### 4Fourteen

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p86; ☎ 02-9331 5399; www.4fourteen.com.au; 414 Bourke St; mains \$30-42; ☺ noon-3pm Tue-Sun, 6-11pm Tue-Sat; ☒ Central) When he's not busy terrorising contestants on TV cooking shows, Irish-born chef Colin Fassnidge can be found cranking out hearty, meaty dishes at one of his Sydney eateries, the newest

of which is this big, fun buzzy place. Solo diners should grab a seat by the kitchen for dinner with a show.

## Darlinghurst

### Messina

ICE CREAM \$

(Map p88; www.gelatomessina.com; 241 Victoria St; 2 scoops \$6; ☀ noon-11pm; ☑ Kings Cross) Join the queues of people who look like they never eat ice cream at the counter of Sydney's most popular gelato shop. Clearly even the beautiful people can't resist quirky flavours such as figs in Marsala and salted caramel. The attached dessert bar serves sundaes.

### bills

CAFE \$\$

(Map p88; www.bills.com.au; 433 Liverpool St; mains \$14-25; ☀ 7.30am-2.30pm; ☑ Kings Cross) Bill Granger almost single-handedly started the Sydney craze for stylish brunching. This sunny corner cafe with its newspaper-strewn communal table was the original; there are other branches in Surry Hills and Bondi Beach.

## Red Lantern on Riley

VIETNAMESE \$\$\$

(Map p88; ☑ 02-9698 4355; www.redlantern.com.au; 60 Riley St; mains \$36-39; ☀ noon-3pm Thu & Fri, 6-10pm daily; ☑ Museum) ☑ This atmospheric eatery is run by television presenters Luke Nguyen (*Luke Nguyen's Vietnam*), Mark Jensen (*Ready Steady Cook*) and Pauline Nguyen (author of the excellent *Secrets of the Red Lantern* cookbook-cum-autobiography). It serves modern takes on classic Vietnamese dishes.

## Woolloomooloo

### Toby's Estate

CAFE \$

(Map p88; ☑ 02-9358 1196; www.tobysestate.com.au; 129 Cathedral St; meals \$10-15; ☀ 7am-4pm; ☑; ☑ St James) Coffee is undoubtedly the main event at this cool little charcoal-coloured roastery, but Toby's is also a great place for a quick sandwich, a veggie wrap or a fat muffin. And the caffeine? Strong, perfectly brewed and usually fair trade.

### Aki's

INDIAN \$\$

(Map p88; ☑ 02-9332 4600; www.akisindian.com.au; 1/6 Cowper Wharf Rdwy; mains \$22-36; ☀ noon-10pm Sun-Fri, 6-10.30pm Sat; ☑; ☑ Kings Cross) The first cab off the rank as you walk onto Woolloomooloo's wharf is Aki's. And you need walk no further: this is beautifully presented, intuitively constructed high-

Indian cuisine, supplemented by a six-page wine list showcasing local and international drops.

## Otto Ristorante

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p88; ☑ 02-9368 7488; www.ottoristorante.com.au; 8/6 Cowper Wharf Rdwy; mains \$41-59; ☀ noon-3pm & 6-11pm; ☑ Kings Cross) Forget the glamorous waterfront location and the A-list crowd - Otto will be remembered for single-handedly dragging Sydney's Italian cooking into the new century with dishes such as *strozzapreti con gamberi* (artisan pasta with fresh Yamba prawns, tomato, chilli and black olives). Bookings essential.

## China Doll

ASIAN \$\$\$

(Map p88; ☑ 02-9380 6744; www.chinadoll.com.au; 4/6 Cowper Wharf Rdwy; mains \$34-46; ☀ noon-2.30pm & 6pm-late; ☑ Kings Cross) Gaze over the Woolloomooloo marina and city skyline as you tuck into deliciously inventive dishes drawing inspiration from all over Asia. Plates are designed to be shared, although waiters can arrange half serves for solo diners.

## Kings Cross & Potts Point

### Room 10

CAFE \$

(Map p88; 10 Lankelly Pt; mains \$9-14; ☀ 7am-4pm; ☑ Kings Cross) If you're wearing a flat cap, sprouting a beard and obsessed by coffee, chances are you'll recognise this tiny room as your spiritual home in the Cross. The food's limited to sandwiches, salads and such - tasty and uncomplicated.

## Harry's Cafe de Wheels

FAST FOOD \$

(Map p88; www.harryscafedewheels.com.au; Cowper Wharf Rdwy; pies \$5-7; ☀ 9am-1am Sun, 8.30am-3am Mon-Sat; ☑ Kings Cross) Open since 1938 (except for a few years when founder Harry 'Tiger' Edwards was on active service), Harry's served meat pies to everyone from Pamela Anderson to Frank Sinatra and Colonel Sanders. You can't leave without trying a Tiger: a hot meat pie with sloppy peas, mashed potato, gravy and tomato sauce.

## Piccolo Bar

CAFE \$

(Map p88; www.piccolobar.com.au; 6 Roslyn St; mains \$6-16; ☀ 8am-4pm; ☑; ☑ Kings Cross) A surviving slice of the old bohemian Cross, this tiny cafe hasn't changed much in over 60 years. The walls are covered in movie-star memorabilia, and Vittorio Bianchi still serves up strong coffee, omelettes and abra-cha charm, as he's done for over 40 years.



**Ms G's**

ASIAN \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9240 3000; www.merivale.com/msg; 155 Victoria St; mains \$25-38; ☀ 1-9pm Sun, noon-3pm Fri, 6-11pm Mon-Sat; 📍 Kings Cross) Offering a cheeky, irreverent take on Asian cooking (hence the name - geddit?), Ms G's is nothing if not an experience. It can be loud, frantic and painfully hip, but the adventurous combinations of pan-Asian and European flavours have certainly got Sydney talking.

**Cho Cho San**

JAPANESE \$\$

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9331 6601; www.chochosan.com.au; 73 Macleay St; mains \$14-36; ☀ noon-3pm Fri-Sun, 6-11pm daily; 📍 Kings Cross) Glide through the shiny brass sliding door and take a seat at the polished concrete communal table which runs the length of this stylish Japanese restaurant. The food is just as artful as the surrounds, with tasty *izakaya*-style bites emanating from both the raw bar and the *hibachi* grill.

**Fratelli Paradiso**

ITALIAN \$\$

(Map p88; www.fratelliparadiso.com; 12-16 Challis Ave; breakfast \$12-14, mains \$22-31; ☀ 7am-11pm; 📍 Kings Cross) This underlit trattoria has them queuing at the door (especially on weekends). The intimate room showcases seasonal Italian dishes cooked with Mediterranean zing. Lots of busy black-clad waiters, lots of Italian chatter, lots of oversized sunglasses. No bookings.

**Wilbur's Place**

CAFE, BISTRO \$\$

(Map p88; www.wilbursplace.com; 36 Llanckelly Pl; brunch \$9-19, dinner \$28; ☀ 8am-3pm Sat, 5-9.30pm Tue-Sat; 📍 Kings Cross) With limited bench seating inside and a few tables on the lane, tiny Wilbur's is an informal spot for a quick bite on what's become the Cross' coolest cafe strip. Expect simple, straightforward food that is expertly assembled.

**Paddington & Woollahra****Vincent**

FRENCH \$\$

(Map p92; ☎ 02-8039 1500; www.vincentfrench.com.au; 14 Queen St; mains \$26-36; ☀ noon-3pm Fri-Sun, 6-11pm Tue-Sun; 📍 380) The glassed-in terrace of the Hughenden Hotel is the charmingly informal setting for this zippy bistro. The menu is excellent, revelling in classics such as cheesy souffles, rich terrines, steak *frites* topped with butter, and fall-apart slow-roasted lamb shoulder.

**Four in Hand**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9362 1999; www.fourinhand.com.au; 105 Sutherland St; mains \$34-42; ☀ noon-2.30pm & 6pm-late Tue-Sun; 📍 Edgecliff) You can't go far in Paddington without tripping over a beautiful old pub with amazing food. This is the best of them, famous for its slow-cooked and nose-to-tail meat dishes, although it also offers fabulously fresh seafood dishes and a delectable array of desserts. The bar menu (mains \$19 to \$29) is a more affordable option.

**Chiswick Restaurant**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p92; ☎ 02-8388 8633; www.chiswickrestaurant.com.au; 65 Ocean St; mains \$31-38; ☀ noon-2.30pm & 6-10pm; 📍 389) There may be a celebrity at centre stage (TV regular Matt Moran) but the real star of this show is the pretty kitchen garden, which wraps around the dining room and dictates what's on the menu. Meat from the Moran family farm and local seafood feature prominently too.

**Eastern Beaches****Three Blue Ducks**

CAFE \$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9389 0010; www.threeblueducks.com; 141-143 Macpherson St, Bronte; breakfast \$16-25, lunch \$24-31, dinner \$28-32; ☀ 7am-2.30pm Sun-Tue, 7am-2.30pm & 6-11pm Wed-Sat; 📍 378)

☞ These ducks are a fair waddle from the water, but that doesn't stop queues forming outside the graffiti-covered walls for weekend breakfasts. The adventurous chefs have a strong commitment to using local, organic and fair-trade food whenever possible.

**A Tavola**

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p94; ☎ 02-9130 1246; www.atavola.com.au; 75 Hall St, Bondi; mains \$22-38; ☀ noon-3pm Wed-Sun, 5.30-11pm daily) Carrying on the tradition of its Darlinghurst sister, Bondi's A Tavola gathers around a big communal marble table where, before the doors open, the pasta-making action happens. Expect robust flavours, sexy waiters and delicious home-made pasta.

**Lox, Stock & Barrel**

DINER, DELI \$\$

(Map p94; ☎ 02-9300 0368; www.loxstockandbarrel.com.au; 140 Glenayr Ave, Bondi; breakfast & lunch \$11-18, dinner \$29; ☀ 7am-3.30pm daily, 6pm-late Wed-Sun) Stare down the barrel of a smoking hot bagel and ask yourself one question: Wagyu corned beef Reuben, or homemade pastrami and Russian coleslaw? In the evening the menu sets its sights on steak, lamb shoulder and slow-roasted eggplant.

**Bondi Trattoria**

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p94; ☎ 02-9365 4303; www.bonditrattoria.com.au; 34 Campbell Pde, Bondi; breakfast \$9-19, lunch \$17-29, dinner \$19-36; ☺ 8am-late; ☑ 380) For a Bondi brunch, you can't go past the trusty 'Trat', as it's known in these parts. Tables spill out onto Campbell Pde for those hungry for beach views, while inside there's a trad trat feel: wooden tables, and the obligatory Tuscan mural and black-and-white photography. As the day progresses, pizza, pasta and risotto dominate the menu.

**Icebergs Dining Room**

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p94; ☎ 02-9365 9000; www.idrb.com; 1 Notts Ave; mains \$40-48; ☺ noon-3pm & 6.30-11pm Tue-Sun; ☑ 380) ☑ Poised above the famous Icebergs swimming pool, Icebergs' views sweep across the Bondi Beach arc to the sea. Inside, bow-tied waiters deliver fresh, sustainably sourced seafood and steaks cooked with élan. To limit the hip-pocket impact, call in at lunchtime for a pasta and salad.

**Bronte Road Bistro**

FRENCH \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9389 3028; www.bronteroadbistro.com; 282 Bronte Rd, Waverley; mains \$34; ☺ noon-2.30pm Sat & Sun, 5.30-9.30pm Tue-Sat; ☑ 314-317) This friendly neighbourhood bistro offers a crowd-pleasing menu of French favourites.

**Newtown & Around****Mary's**

BURGERS \$

(Map p121; 6 Mary St; mains \$14; ☺ 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun; ☑ Newtown) Not put off by the grungy aesthetics, the ear-splitting heavy metal or the fact that the building was previously a sexual health clinic and a Masonic Temple? Then head up to the mezzanine of this dimly lit hipster bar for some of the best burgers and fried chicken in town.

**Black Star Pastry**

BAKERY \$

(Map p121; www.blackstarpastry.com.au; 277 Australia St; mains \$7-10; ☺ 7am-5pm; ☑ Newtown) Wise folks follow the black star to pay homage to excellent coffee, a large selection of sweet things and a few very good savoury things (gourmet pies and the like). There are only a couple of tables; it's more a snack-and-run or picnic-in-the-park kind of place.

**Fleetwood Macchiato**

CAFE \$

(Map p121; 43 Erskineville Rd; mains \$9-18; ☺ 7am-3pm; ☑ Erskineville) The best name for a cafe ever? We think so. Luckily Fleetwood Macchiato backs it up with excellent coffee, delicious cooked breakfasts, tasty sandwich-

and homemade cakes, preserves, pickles, yoghurt and mayonnaise.

**Luxe**

CAFE \$\$\$

(Map p121; www.luxesydney.com.au; 191 Missenden Rd; breakfast \$8-20, lunch \$11-22; ☺ 8am-4pm; ☑ Macdonaldtown) Campos, next door, might be the pinnacle of Sydney's caffeine culture, but if you want to sit down, read the paper and eat something more substantial, Luxe is the dux. The menu stretches to cooked brekkies, pasta and burgers, and the counter of this industrial-chic bakery-cafe is chocka with chunky sandwiches, moist cakes and delicate tarts.

**Bloodwood**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$

(Map p121; ☎ 02-9557 7699; www.bloodwoodnewtown.com; 416 King St; dishes \$9-30; ☺ 5-11pm Mon-Fri, noon-11pm Sat & Sun; ☑ Newtown) Relax over a few drinks and a progression of small plates (we love those polenta chips!) in the front bar, or make your way to the rear to enjoy soundly conceived and expertly cooked dishes from across the globe. The decor is industrial-chic and the vibe is alternative - very Newtown.

**Balmain****Riverview Hotel & Dining**

MODERN BRITISH \$\$

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9810 1151; www.theriverviewhotel.com.au; 29 Birchgrove Rd, Balmain; pizzas \$20-22, mains \$28-33; ☺ noon-11pm; ☑ Balmain) The Riv's head chef, Brad Sloane, worked under the legendary Marco Pierre White in London. British expats flock here to try his nose-to-tail dishes in the elegant upstairs dining room, while locals are equally keen on the pizzas served in the downstairs bar.

**Manly****Barefoot Coffee Traders**

CAFE \$

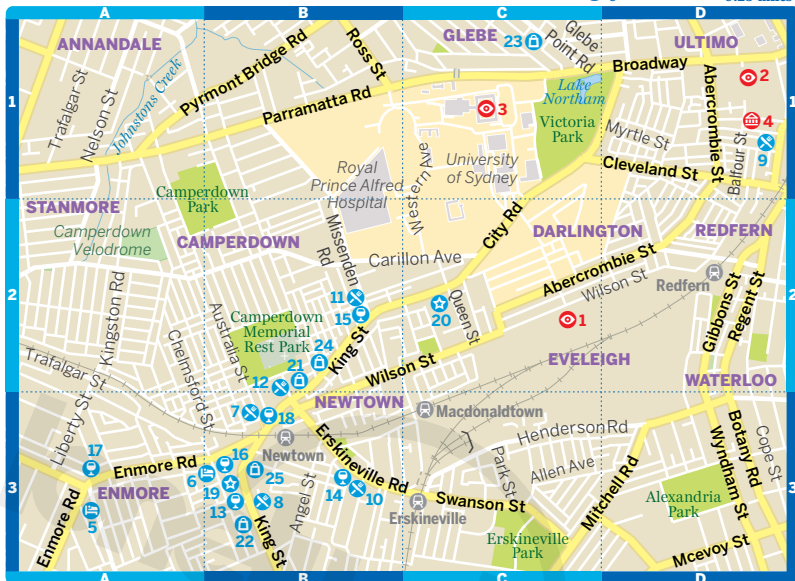
(Map p98; 18 Whistler St; items \$3-6; ☺ 6.30am-5.30pm; ☑ Manly) Run by surfer lads serving fair-trade organic coffee from a bathroom-sized shop, Barefoot heralds a new wave of Manly cool. Food is limited but the Belgian chocolate waffles go magically well with a macchiato.

**Chat Thai**

THAI \$

(Map p98; ☎ 02-9976 2939; www.chatthai.com.au; Manly Wharf; mains \$10-18; ☺ 11am-9.30pm; ☑ Manly) Set inside Manly Wharf, this branch of the Thaitown favourite (p115) misses out on the harbour views but delivers on flavour.

## Newtown



## Newtown

### Sights

- 1 Carriageworks ..... C2
- 2 Central Park ..... D1
- Macleay Museum ..... (see 3)
- Nicholson Museum ..... (see 3)
- University Art Gallery ..... (see 3)
- 3 University of Sydney ..... C1
- 4 White Rabbit ..... D1

### Sleeping

- 5 Tara Guest House ..... A3
- 6 Urban Hotel ..... B3

### Eating

- 7 Black Star Pastry ..... B3
- 8 Bloodwood ..... B3
- 9 Ester ..... D1
- Eveleigh Farmers' Market ..... (see 1)
- 10 Fleetwood Macchiato ..... B3
- 11 Luxe ..... B2
- 12 Mary's ..... B2

### Drinking & Nightlife

- 13 Earl's Juke Joint ..... B3
- 14 Imperial Hotel ..... B3
- 15 Marlborough Hotel ..... B2
- 16 Midnight Special ..... B3
- 17 Sly Fox ..... A3
- 18 Zanzibar ..... B3

### Entertainment

- 19 Newtown Social Club ..... B3
- 20 Vanguard ..... C2

### Shopping

- 21 Better Read Than Dead ..... B2
- 22 Faster Pussycat ..... B3
- 23 Glebe Markets ..... C1
- 24 Quick Brown Fox ..... B2
- 25 Reclaim ..... B3

### Hugos Manly

ITALIAN \$\$  
 (Map p98; ☎ 02-8116 8555; www.hugos.com.au; Manly Wharf; pizzas \$20-28, mains \$32-38; ☺ noon-midnight; ☑ Manly) Occupying an altogether more glamorous location than its Kings Cross parent, Hugos Manly serves the same acclaimed pizzas but tops them with harbour views and an expanded Italian

menu. A dedicated crew concocts cocktails, or you can just slide in for a cold beer.

## Northern Beaches

### Boathouse

CAFE \$\$  
 (www.theboathousepb.com.au; Governor Phillip Park, Palm Beach; mains \$25; ☺ 7.30am-4pm;

☑ L90, 190) Sit on the large timber deck facing Pittwater or grab a table on the lawn out front – either option is alluring at Palm Beach's most popular cafe. The food (try the legendary fish and chips or the vibrant salads) is nearly as impressive as the views, and that's really saying something.

### Pilu at Freshwater

ITALIAN \$\$\$  
(☎ 02-9938 3331; [www.piluatfreshwater.com.au](http://www.piluatfreshwater.com.au); Moore Rd, Freshwater; mains \$45; ☺ noon-2.30pm Tue-Sun, 6-11pm Tue-Sat; ☑ 139) Housed within a heritage-listed beach house overlooking the ocean, this multi-award-winning Sardinian restaurant serves specialities such as oven-roasted suckling pig and traditional flatbread. Your best bet is to plump for the tasting menu (from \$105) and thereby eliminate any possible order envy.



## Drinking & Nightlife

Pubs are an integral part of the Sydney social scene, and you can down a schooner (the NSW term for a large glass of beer) in elaborate 19th-century edifices, cavernous art deco joints, modern and minimalist recesses, and everything in between. Bars are generally more stylish and urbane, sometimes with a dress code.

There's a thriving live-music scene, but good dance clubs are strangely thin on the ground.



## The Rocks & Circular Quay

### Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel

PUB, BREWERY  
(Map p72; ☎ 02-9251 4044; 19 Kent St; ☺ 11am-11pm; ☑ Circular Quay) Built in 1836 and converted into a pub in 1841, this atmospheric sandstone boozier is one of three claiming to be Sydney's oldest (all using slightly different criteria). The on-site brewery cooks up its own natural ales (try the Old Admiral).

### Hero of Waterloo

PUB  
(Map p72; [www.heroofwaterloo.com.au](http://www.heroofwaterloo.com.au); 81 Lower Fort St; ☺ 10am-11pm; ☑ Circular Quay) Enter this rough-hewn 1843 sandstone pub to meet some locals, chat up the Irish bar staff and grab an earful of the swing, folk and Celtic bands (Friday to Sunday). Downstairs is a dungeon where, in days gone by, drinkers would sleep off a heavy night before being shanghaied to the high seas via a tunnel leading straight to the harbour.

### Fortune of War

PUB  
(Map p72; [www.fortuneofwar.com.au](http://www.fortuneofwar.com.au); 137 George St; ☺ 9am-midnight Sun-Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat; ☑ Cir-

cular Quay) This 1828 drinking den retains much of its original charm and, by the looks of things, some of the original punters, too. There's live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and on weekend afternoons.

### Harts Pub

PUB  
(Map p72; [www.hartspub.com](http://www.hartspub.com); cnr Essex & Gloucester Sts; ☺ noon-midnight; ☑ Circular Quay) Pouring a range of craft beers, Harts is frequented by locals drawn by the beer, the rugby tipping competition and some of Sydney's best pub food.

### Opera Bar

BAR, LIVE MUSIC  
(Map p72; [www.operabar.com.au](http://www.operabar.com.au); lower concourse, Sydney Opera House; ☺ 11.30am-midnight Mon-Fri, 9am-midnight Sat & Sun; ☑ Circular Quay) Right on the harbour with the Opera House on one side and the Harbour Bridge on the other, this perfectly positioned terrace manages a very Sydney marriage of the laid-back and the sophisticated. A recent takeover by celebrity chef Matt Moran has shifted the food up a notch. There's live music or DJs most nights.

### Blu Bar on 36

COCKTAIL BAR  
(Map p72; [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com); Level 36, 176 Cumberland St; ☺ 5pm-midnight; ☑ Circular Quay) The drinks may be pricey, but it's well worth heading up to the top of the Shangri-La hotel for the views, which seem to stretch all the way to New Zealand. The dress code is officially 'smart casual', but err on the side of smart if you can't handle rejection.



## City Centre

### Baxter Inn

BAR  
(Map p72; [www.thebaxterinn.com](http://www.thebaxterinn.com); 152-156 Clarence St; ☺ 4pm-1am Mon-Sat; ☑ Town Hall) Yes, it really is down that dark lane and through that unmarked door (it's easier to find if there's a queue; otherwise look for the bouncer lurking nearby). Whisky's the main poison and the friendly bar staff really know their stuff.

### Frankie's Pizza

BAR  
(Map p72; [www.frankiespizzabytheslice.com](http://www.frankiespizzabytheslice.com); 50 Hunter St; ☺ 4pm-3am Sun-Thu, noon-3am Fri & Sat; ☑ Martin Place) Descend the stairs and you'll think you're in a 1970s pizzeria, complete with plastic grapevines, snapshots covering the walls and tasty \$6 pizza slices. But open the nondescript door in the corner and an indie wonderland reveals itself. Bands play here at least four nights a week (join them on Tuesdays for live karaoke) and there's another bar hidden below.

**Establishment**

BAR

(Map p72; [www.merivale.com/establishmentbar](http://www.merivale.com/establishmentbar); 252 George St; ☺ 11am-late Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun; ☒ Wynyard) Establishment's cashed-up crush proves that the art of swilling cocktails after a hard city day is not lost. Sit at the majestic marble bar or in the swish courtyard, or be absorbed by a leather lounge as stockbrokers scribble their phone numbers on the backs of coasters for flirty new acquaintances.

**Marble Bar**

BAR

(Map p72; [www.marblebarsydney.com.au](http://www.marblebarsydney.com.au); basement, 488 George St; ☺ 4pm-midnight Sun-Thu, to 2am Fri & Sat; ☒ Town Hall) Built for a staggering £32,000 in 1893 as part of the Adams Hotel on Pitt St, this ornate underground bar is one of the best places in town for putting on the ritz (even if this is the Hilton). Musos play anything from jazz to funk, Wednesday to Saturday.

When the Adams was demolished in 1968, every marble slab, wood carving and bronze capital was dismantled, restored, then reassembled here.

**Grandma's**

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p72; [www.grandmasbarsydney.com](http://www.grandmasbarsydney.com); basement, 275 Clarence St; ☺ 3pm-midnight Mon-Fri, 5pm-1am Sat; ☒ Town Hall) Billing itself as a 'retrosexual haven of cosmopolitan kitsch and faded granny glamour', Grandma's hits the mark. A stag's head greets you on the stairs and ushers you into a tiny subterranean world of parrot wallpaper and tiki cocktails. Someone's suprisingly cool granny must be very proud.

**O Bar**

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p72; [www.obardining.com.au](http://www.obardining.com.au); Level 47, Australia Sq, 264 George St; ☺ 5pm-late; ☒ Wynyard) At around \$20, the cocktails at this 47th-floor revolving bar aren't cheap, but they're still cheaper than admission to Sydney Tower – and it's considerably more glamorous. The views are truly wonderful.

**Rook**

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p72; [www.therook.com.au](http://www.therook.com.au); L7, 56-58 York St; ☺ noon-midnight Mon-Fri, 4pm-midnight Sat; ☒ St James) Seemingly designed for one-time grungsters turned stockbrokers, this covered rooftop bar has an artfully dishevelled look and serves a mean cocktail. It's not cheap though. Is spending \$50 on lobster thermidor and then following it up with a deep-fried Mars Bar the ultimate ironic statement?

**i LOCKOUTS & LAST DRINKS**

In an effort to cut down on alcohol-fuelled violence, tough new licensing laws have been introduced to a large area of the central city bounded by The Rocks, Circular Quay, Woolloomooloo, Kings Cross, Darlinghurst, Haymarket and the eastern side of Darling Harbour.

Within this zone, licensed venues are not permitted to admit people after 1.30am. However, if you arrive before then, the venue is permitted to continue serving you alcohol until 3am.

This has had a major impact on the city's previous party hub, Kings Cross. Although some clubs remain open serving nonalcoholic drinks after 3am, much of the late-night action has drifted to the surrounding neighbourhoods, such as Newtown and Double Bay.

**Good God Small Club**

BAR, CLUB

(Map p82; [www.goodgodgoodgod.com](http://www.goodgodgoodgod.com); 55 Liverpool St; front bar free, club varies; ☺ 5-11pm Wed, to 1am Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat; ☒ Town Hall) In a defunct underground taverna near Chinatown, Good God's rear danceteria hosts everything from live indie bands to Jamaican reggae, '50s soul, rockabilly and tropical house music. Its success lies in the focus on great music rather than glamorous surrounds.

**Slip Inn & Chinese Laundry**

PUB, CLUB

(Map p84; [www.merivale.com.au/chineselaundry](http://www.merivale.com.au/chineselaundry); 111 Sussex St; club \$20-30; ☺ 11am-late Mon-Fri, 4pm-late Sat; ☒ Wynyard) Slip in to this warren of moody rooms on the edge of Darling Harbour and bump hips with the kids. There are bars, pool tables, a beer garden and Mexican food, courtesy of El Loco. On Friday and Saturday nights the bass cranks up at the attached Chinese Laundry nightclub.

**Spice Cellar**

BAR, CLUB

(Map p72; [www.thespicecellar.com.au](http://www.thespicecellar.com.au); 58 Elizabeth St; ☺ bar 4pm-late Wed-Fri & 7pm-late Sat, club 9pm-late Thu-Sun; ☒ Martin Place) Saunter down to this stylish underground bunker for cocktails in the lounge bar. The attached club has one of Sydney's hottest little dance floors, which despite its size attracts the occasional turntable legend to its decks.

**Ivy**

BAR, CLUB

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9254 8100; [www.merivale.com/ivy](http://www.merivale.com/ivy); L1, 330 George St; ☺ noon-late Mon-Fri, 6.30pm-late Sat; ☒ Wynyard) Hidden down a

## GAY & LESBIAN SYDNEY

Gays and lesbians have migrated to Oz's Emerald City from all over Australia, New Zealand and the world, adding to a community that is visible, vocal and an integral part of the city's social fabric. Locals will assure you that things aren't as exciting as they once were, but Sydney is still indisputably one of the world's great queer cities.

Darlinghurst and Newtown have traditionally been the gayest neighbourhoods, although all of the inner suburbs have a higher than average proportion of gay and lesbian residents. Most of the gay venues are on the Darlinghurst section of Oxford St. However, some of the best events are held at mixed pubs, such as the Wednesday lesbian nights at **Zanzibar** (Map p121; ☎ 02-9519 1511; www.zanzibarnewtown.com.au; 323 King St; ☉ 10am-4am Mon-Sat, 11am-midnight Sun; 📍 Newtown) and the **Sly Fox** (Map p121; www.theslyfoxhotel.com; 199 Enmore Rd; ☉ 10am-3am Mon-Thu, to 6am Fri & Sat; 📍 Newtown), and the legendary Sunday afternoon session at the **Beresford** (Map p88; www.merivale.com.au/theberesfordhotel; 354 Bourke St; ☉ noon-midnight; 📍 Central).

The biggest event on the calendar is the famous **Mardi Gras** (p106), which includes a two-week festival, a parade which attracts up to half a million spectators, and a vast dance party.

Free gay and lesbian media includes LOTL (www.lotl.com), the Star Observer (www.starobserver.com.au) and SX (www.gaynewsnetwork.com.au).

Venues include:

**Imperial Hotel** (Map p121; www.theimperialhotel.com.au; 35 Erskineville Rd; admission free-\$15; ☉ 3pm-midnight Sun-Thu, to 5am Fri & Sat; 📍 Erskineville) The art deco Imperial is legendary as the setting for *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. The front bar is a lively place for pool-shooting and cruising, with the action shifting to the cellar club late on a Saturday night. But it's in the cabaret bar that the legacy of Priscilla is kept alive.

**Arq** (Map p88; www.arqsydney.com.au; 16 Flinders St; ☉ 9pm-5am Thu & Sun, 9pm-noon Fri & Sat; 📍 Museum) If Noah had to fill his Arq with groovy gay clubbers, he'd head here with a big net and some tranquillisers. This flash megaclub has a cocktail bar, a recovery room and two dance floors with high-energy house, drag shows and a hyperactive smoke machine.

**Midnight Shift** (Map p88; ☎ 02-9358 3848; www.themidnightshift.com.au; 85 Oxford St; admission free-\$10; ☉ 4pm-late Thu-Sun; 📍 Museum) The grand dame of the Oxford St gay scene, known for its lavish drag productions, was in the midst of a thorough renovation when we last visited. When the dust has settled expect a much improved downstairs bar to complement the serious tits-to-the-wind club upstairs.

**Palms on Oxford** (Map p88; ☎ 02-9357 4166; 124 Oxford St; ☉ 8pm-1am Thu & Sun, to 3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Museum) No one admits to coming here, but the lengthy queues prove they are lying. In this underground dance bar, the heyday of Stock Aitken Waterman never ended. It may be uncool, but if you don't scream when Kylie hits the turntables, you'll be the only one.

**Stonewall Hotel** (Map p88; ☎ 02-9360 1963; www.stonewallhotel.com; 175 Oxford St; ☉ noon-3am; 📍 Museum) Nicknamed 'Stonehenge' by those who think it's archaic, Stonewall has three levels of bars and dance floors, and attracts a younger crowd. Cabaret, karaoke and quiz nights spice things up; Wednesday's Malebox is an inventive way to bag yourself a boy.

lane off George St, Ivy is a scarily fashionable complex of bars, restaurants, discreet lounges...even a swimming pool. It's also Sydney's most hyped venue; expect lengthy queues of suburban kids teetering on unfeasibly high heels, waiting to shed up to \$40 on a Saturday for entry to Sydney's hottest club night, Pacha.

## Surry Hills

### Wild Rover

BAR

(Map p82; www.thewildrover.com.au; 75 Campbell St; ☉ 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat, to 10pm Sun; 📍 Central) Look for the old sign on the window reading 'Gestetner's Surry Hills Shirt Warehouse' and enter this supremely cool brick-

lined speakeasy, where a big range of craft beer is served in chrome steins. Live bands play upstairs a couple of nights a week.

### 121BC

WINE BAR

(Map p86; [www.121bc.com.au](http://www.121bc.com.au); 4/50 Holt St; ☎5pm-midnight Tue-Sat; 📍Central) The first challenge is finding it (enter from Gladstone St) and the second is scoring a table. After that, it's easy – seat yourself at the communal table under the bubbly light fixture and ask the waitstaff to suggest delicious drops and snacks to suit your inclinations. Everything's good, so you can't really go wrong.

### Vasco

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p86; [www.vascobar.com](http://www.vascobar.com); 421 Cleveland St; ☎5pm-midnight Tue-Sat; 📍372) Like the much, much hipper and better-looking Italian cousin of a Hard Rock Cafe, Vasco serves beer, wine and rock-themed cocktails in a room lined with band photos and guitars. Order a plate of *salumi* or pasta to snack on as you sip your Monkey Gone to Heaven, while Jagger sneers on the screen.



## Darlinghurst

### Green Park Hotel

PUB

(Map p88; [www.greenparkhotel.com.au](http://www.greenparkhotel.com.au); 360 Victoria St; ☎11am-midnight Sun-Wed, to 2am Thu-Sat; 📍Kings Cross) The ever-rockin' Green Park has pool tables, rolled-arm leather couches, a beer garden with funky Dr Seuss-inspired lighting, and a huge tiled central bar teeming with travellers, gay guys and pierced locals.

### Hinky Dinks

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p88; [www.hinkydinks.com.au](http://www.hinkydinks.com.au); 185 Darlinghurst Rd; ☎1-10pm Sun, 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat; 📍Kings Cross) Everything's just hunky dory in this little cocktail bar styled after a 1950s milkshake parlour. Try the Hinky Fizz, an alcohol-soaked strawberry sorbet served in a waxed paper sundae cup.

### Eau-de-Vie

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p88; [www.eaudevie.com.au](http://www.eaudevie.com.au); 229 Darlinghurst Rd; ☎6pm-1am; 📍Kings Cross) Take the door marked 'restrooms' at the back of the Kirke-ton Hotel's main bar and enter this sophisticated black-walled speakeasy, where a team of dedicated shirt-and-tie-wearing mixologists concoct the sort of beverages that win best-cocktail gongs.

### Cliff Dive

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p88; [www.thecliffdive.com.au](http://www.thecliffdive.com.au); basement, 16 Oxford Sq; ☎6pm-3am Thu-Sat; 📍Museum)

Head down the stairs and throw yourself into a world of rough-hewn stone walls, glowing tropical fish lanterns, Polynesian knick-knacks and cocktails served in tiki glasses. There are plenty of nooks to hunker down in after you've worked up a tropical sweat on the dance floor.

### Hello Sailor

COCKTAIL BAR

(Map p88; [www.hellosailor.com.au](http://www.hellosailor.com.au); 96 Oxford St; ☎5pm-3am Tue-Sun; 📍📍Museum) Entered from lanelike Foley St, this 'seafood shack and cocktail bar' gets filled to the gills on the weekends. A diverse but hip crowd drops anchor until the wee hours, partying under maritime flags, navigation maps and sepia pictures of tall ships.

### Shady Pines Saloon

BAR

(Map p88; [www.shadypinesaloon.com](http://www.shadypinesaloon.com); shop 4, 256 Crown St; ☎4pm-midnight; 📍Museum) With no sign or street number on the door and entry via a shady back lane (look for the white door before Bikram Yoga on Foley St), this subterranean honky-tonk bar caters to the urban boho. Sip whisky and rye with the good ole hipster boys amid Western memorabilia and taxidermy.

### Kinselas

BAR

(Map p88; ☎02-9331 3100; [www.kinselas.com.au](http://www.kinselas.com.au); 383 Bourke St; ☎10am-4am; 📍Museum) A Taylor Sq institution, this converted funeral parlour has come back from the dead more times than we care to recall. The downstairs is all art deco stylings (spot the chapel), while Lo-Fi upstairs is a chic cocktail bar with the best balcony for posing and people-watching. Continue up to The Standard Bowl for 'Bands! Booze! Bowling!'



## Kings Cross & Potts Point

### World Bar

BAR, CLUB

(Map p88; ☎02-9357 7700; [www.theworldbar.com](http://www.theworldbar.com); 24 Bayswater Rd; ☎3pm-3am; 📍Kings Cross) World Bar (a reformed bordello) is an unpretentious grungy club with three floors to lure in the backpackers and cheap drinks to loosen things up. DJs play indie, hip hop, power pop and house nightly. There are live bands on Fridays, but Wednesday (The Wall) and Saturday (Cakes) are the big nights.

### Kings Cross Hotel

PUB, CLUB

(Map p88; [www.kingscrosshotel.com.au](http://www.kingscrosshotel.com.au); 244-248 William St; ☎noon-1am Sun-Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat; 📍Kings Cross) With five floors above ground and one below, this grand old pub is a hive

of boozey entertainment which positively swarms on weekends. Head up to the roof bar for awesome city views, or drop by the 2nd-floor band room for a blast of live music.

### Sugarmill

BAR

(Map p88; [www.sugarmill.com.au](http://www.sugarmill.com.au); 33 Darlinghurst Rd; ☺ 10am-5am; ☑ Kings Cross) For a bloated, late-night, Kings Cross bar, Sugarmill is actually pretty cool. Columns and high pressed-tin ceilings hint at its banking past, while the band posters plastered everywhere do their best to dispel any lingering capitalist vibes. Ten-dollar meals and drag queen-hosted bingo nights pull in the locals. For barbecue with a view, head to Sweethearts ([www.sweetheartsbbq.com.au](http://www.sweetheartsbbq.com.au)) on the rooftop.

## Paddington & Woollahra

### Wine Library

WINE BAR

(Map p92; [www.wine-library.com.au](http://www.wine-library.com.au); 18 Oxford St; ☺ noon-11.30pm Mon-Sat, to 10pm Sun; ☑ 380) An impressive range of wines by the glass, a smart-casual ambience and a Mediterranean-inclined menu make this the most desirable library in town.

## Double Bay

### Golden Sheaf Hotel

PUB

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9327 5877; [www.goldensheaf.com.au](http://www.goldensheaf.com.au); 429 New South Head Rd, Double Bay; ☺ 10am-1am; ☑ Double Bay) This noble, rambling old brick pub has a shady beer garden, a sports bar with pool tables, a bistro, a cocktail bar, a rooftop terrace and a dance floor. The musical mandate includes lots of live music and DJs. An impressive memorabilia wall includes autographed photos and albums from the likes of the Beatles and Bowie.

## Eastern Beaches

### Anchor

BAR

(Map p94; [www.anchorbarbondi.com](http://www.anchorbarbondi.com); 8 Campbell Pde; ☺ 4.30pm-midnight Tue-Fri, 12.30pm-midnight Sat & Sun; ☑ 380-382) Surfers, backpackers and the local cool kids slurp down icy margaritas at this bustling bar at the south end of the strip. It's also a great spot for a late snack.

### Neighbourhood

BAR

(Map p94; [www.neighbourhoodbondi.com.au](http://www.neighbourhoodbondi.com.au); 143 Curlew St; ☺ 5.30-11pm Mon-Thu, noon-11pm Fri, 9am-11pm Sat & Sun; ☑ 380-382) The natural habitat for the curious species known

as the Bondi Hipster, this smart food and wine bar has a brick-lined interior giving way to a wood-lined courtyard. Bondi Radio broadcasts live from a booth near the kitchen.

## Newtown & Around

### Earl's Juke Joint

BAR

(Map p121; 407 King St; ☺ 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat, to 10pm Sun; ☑ Newtown) The current it-bar of the minute, swinging Earl's serves craft beers and killer cocktails to the Newtown hipsterati.

### Midnight Special

BAR

(Map p121; [www.themidnightspecial.com.au](http://www.themidnightspecial.com.au); 44 Enmore Rd; ☺ 5pm-midnight Tue-Sat, to 10pm Sun; ☑ Newtown) Band posters and paper lanterns decorate the black walls of this groovy little bar. Musicians take to the tiny stage a couple of nights a week.

### Marlborough Hotel

PUB, CLUB

(Map p121; ☎ 02-9519 1222; [www.marlboroughhotel.com.au](http://www.marlboroughhotel.com.au); 145 King St; ☺ 10am-4am Mon-Sat, noon-midnight Sun; ☑ Macdonaldtown) One of many great old art deco pubs in Newtown, the Marly has a front sports bar with live bands on weekends and a shady beer garden. Head upstairs for soul food and rockabilly bands at Miss Peaches, or downstairs for all sorts of kooky happenings at the Tokyo Sing Song nightclub.

## Balmain

### Welcome Hotel

PUB

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9810 1323; [www.thewelcomehotel.com.au](http://www.thewelcomehotel.com.au); 91 Evans St, Rozelle; ☺ 11.30am-11.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun; ☑ 441-445) If you get lost in the back streets of Rozelle, you might find yourself chowing down in the Welcome Hotel's acclaimed Italian restaurant, or working your way through the craft beer selection in the palm-shaded courtyard. You might even get to commune with Winston, the resident foxhound ghost.

### London Hotel

PUB

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9555 1377; [www.londonhotel.com.au](http://www.londonhotel.com.au); 234 Darling St, Balmain; ☺ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun; ☑ Balmain) The Harbour Bridge views from the London's long balcony are quintessentially Sydney – about as far from London as you can get. There's a great range of Oz beers on tap, plus a few quality overseas interlopers.



## ★ Entertainment

Sydney has an eclectic and innovative arts, entertainment and music scene. Pick up the *Shortlist* section in Friday's *Sydney Morning Herald* for comprehensive entertainment details. Tickets for most shows can be purchased directly from venues or through the **Moshtix** ([www.moshtix.com.au](http://www.moshtix.com.au)), **Ticketmaster** ([www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au)) or **Ticketek** ([www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)) ticketing agencies.

### Cinema

First-run cinemas abound and most have discounted tickets on a Tuesday. If you're in town over summer, try to attend one of the open-air cinemas – they're great fun.

#### Dendy Opera Quays

CINEMA

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9247 3800; [www.dendy.com.au](http://www.dendy.com.au); 2 Circular Quay East; adult/child \$20/14; ☺ sessions 9.30am-9.30pm; 📍 Circular Quay) When the harbour glare and squawking seagulls get too much, follow the scent of popcorn into the dark folds of this plush cinema. Screening first-run, independent world films, it's augmented by friendly attendants and a cafe/bar.

#### OpenAir Cinema

CINEMA

(Map p68; [www.stgeorgeopenair.com.au](http://www.stgeorgeopenair.com.au); Mrs Macquaries Rd; tickets \$37; ☺ Jan & Feb; 📍 Circular Quay) Right on the harbour, the outdoor three-storey screen here comes with surround sound, sunsets, skyline and swanky food and wine. Most tickets are purchased in advance, but a limited number of tickets go on sale at the door each night at 6.30pm; check the website for details.

#### IMAX

CINEMA

(Map p82; ☎ 02-9281 3300; [www.imax.com.au](http://www.imax.com.au); 31 Wheat Rd; adult/child short \$23/17, feature \$34/24; ☺ sessions 10am-10pm; 📍 Town Hall) It's big bucks for a 45-minute movie, but everything about IMAX is big, and this is reputedly the biggest IMAX in the world. The eight-storey screen shimmers with kid-friendly documentaries (sharks, interstellar etc) as well as blockbuster features, many in 3D.

#### Palace Verona

CINEMA

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9360 6099; [www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au); 17 Oxford St; adult/child \$19/14; ☺ sessions 10am-9pm; 📍 380) This urbane four-screen cinema has a cool cafe and bar, useful for discussing the merits of the arty flick you've just seen.

#### Moonlight Cinema

CINEMA

(Map p92; [www.moonlight.com.au](http://www.moonlight.com.au); Belvedere Amphitheatre, cnr Loch & Broome Aves; adult/child \$19/15; ☺ sunset Dec-Mar; 📍 Bondi Junction) Take a picnic and join the bats under the stars in magnificent Centennial Park; enter via the Woollahra Gate on Oxford St. A mix of new-release blockbuster, art-house and classic films is screened.

#### Bondi Openair Cinema

CINEMA

(Map p94; [www.openaircinemas.com.au](http://www.openaircinemas.com.au); Dolphin Lawn, next to Bondi Pavilion; tickets \$15-45; ☺ Jan & Feb) Enjoy open-air screenings by the sea, with live bands providing prescreening entertainment. Online bookings recommended.

#### Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace

CINEMA

(Map p68; ☎ 02-9908 4344; [www.orpheum.com.au](http://www.orpheum.com.au); 380 Military Rd, Cremorne; adult/child \$20/15; ☺ sessions 10.30am-8.50pm; 📍 244) Return to cinema's golden age at this fab art deco gem (1935). It still has its original Wurlitzer organ, which gets a workout at special events.

### Classical Music

#### ★ Sydney Opera House

PERFORMING ARTS

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9250 7777; [www.sydneyopera.com.au](http://www.sydneyopera.com.au); Bennelong Point; 📍 Circular Quay) The glamorous jewel at the heart of Australian performance, Sydney's famous opera house has five main stages. Opera may have star billing, but theatre, comedy, music and dance are all performed here.

#### City Recital Hall

CLASSICAL MUSIC

(Map p72; ☎ 02-8256 2222; [www.cityrecitalhall.com](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com); 2 Angel Pl; ☺ box office 9am-5pm Mon-Fri; 📍 Martin Place) Based on the classic configuration of the 19th-century European concert hall, this custom-built 1200-seat venue boasts near-perfect acoustics. Catch top-flight companies such as Musica Viva, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra here.

#### Sydney Conservatorium of Music

CLASSICAL MUSIC

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9351 1222; [www.music.usyd.edu.au](http://www.music.usyd.edu.au); Conservatorium Rd; 📍 Circular Quay) This historic venue showcases the talents of its students and their teachers. Choral, jazz, operatic and chamber concerts happen from March to November, along with free lunchtime recitals on Wednesday at 1.10pm.

### Dance

#### Sydney Dance Company

DANCE

(SDC; Map p72; ☎ 02-9221 4811; [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com); Pier 4/5, 15 Hickson Rd;

📍 Wynyard) Australia's number-one contemporary-dance company has been staging wildly modern, sexy, sometimes shocking works for nearly 40 years. Performances are usually held across the street at the Roslyn Packer Theatre, or at Carriageworks.

**Bangarra Dance Theatre** DANCE  
(Map p72; 📞 02-9251 5333; www.bangarra.com.au; Pier 4/5, 15 Hickson Rd; tickets \$30-93; 📍 Wynyard) Bangarra is hailed as Australia's finest Aboriginal performance company. Artistic director Stephen Page conjures a fusion of contemporary themes, Indigenous traditions and Western technique. When not touring internationally, the company performs at the Opera House or at their own small theatre in Walsh Bay.

**Live Music, Cabaret & Comedy**  
**Oxford Art Factory** LIVE MUSIC  
(Map p88; www.oxfordartfactory.com; 38-46 Oxford St; 📍 Museum) Indie kids party against an arty backdrop at this two-room multipurpose venue modelled on Andy Warhol's NYC creative base. There's a gallery, a bar and a performance space that often hosts international acts and DJs. Check the website for what's on.

**Newtown Social Club** LIVE MUSIC  
(Map p121; 📞 1300 724 867; www.newtownsocialclub.com; 387 King St; 🕒 7pm-midnight Tue-Thu, noon-2am Fri & Sat, noon-10pm Sun; 📍 Newtown) The legendary Sandringham Hotel (aka the 'Sando', where God used to drink, according to local band The Whitlams) may have changed names but if anything it has heightened its commitment to live music. Gigs range from local bands on the make to indie luminaries such as Gruff Rhys and Stephen Malkmus.

**Vanguard** LIVE MUSIC  
(Map p121; 📞 02-9557 7992; www.thevanguard.com.au; 42 King St; 📍 Macdonaldtown) Intimate 1920s-themed Vanguard stages live music most nights (including some well-known names), as well as burlesque, comedy and classic-movie screenings. Most seats are reserved for dinner-and-show diners.

**Basement** LIVE MUSIC  
(Map p72; 📞 02-9251 2797; www.thebasement.com.au; 7 Macquarie Pl; admission \$8-60; 📍 Circular Quay) Once solely a jazz venue, the Basement now hosts international and local musicians working in many disciplines and genres. Dinner-and-show tickets net you

a table by the stage, guaranteeing a better view than the standing-only area by the bar.

**El Rocco** JAZZ, COMEDY  
(Map p88; www.elrocco.com.au; 154 Brougham St; 🕒 5pm-midnight Mon-Sat, 5-10pm Sun; 📍 Kings Cross) Between 1955 and 1969 this was the city's premier finger-snappin', beret-wearing boho cellar bar, hosting performances by Frank Sinatra and Sarah Vaughan. Those heady days are long gone but live jazz is back on the agenda, along with the Happy Endings Comedy Club (www.happyendingscomedyclub.com.au) on Saturdays.

**Camelot Lounge** LIVE MUSIC  
(Map p68; www.camelotlounge.wordpress.com; 19 Marrickville Rd; 📍 Sydenham) In ever-increasingly hip Marrickville, this eclectic little venue hosts jazz, world music, blues, folk, comedy, cabaret and all manner of other weird stuff.

**Slide** CABARET  
(Map p68; 📞 02-8915 1899; www.slide.com.au; 41 Oxford St; 🕒 7pm-late Wed-Sat; 📍 Museum) Slide inside a gorgeously converted banking chamber for dinner and a sexy show: cabaret, circus, burlesque etc.

**Spectator Sports**  
On any given Sydney weekend there'll be all manner of balls being hurled, kicked and batted around. Sydneysiders are passionate about the **National Rugby League** (www.nrl.com), the season kicking off in March and culminating in the grand final in early October.

Over the same period, hometown favourites the Sydney Swans and Greater Western Sydney Giants play in the **Australian Football League** (www.afl.com.au).

**Sydney Cricket Ground** SPECTATOR SPORT  
(SCG; Map p92; 📞 02-9360 6601; www.sydneycricketground.com.au; Driver Ave; 📍 373-377) During the cricket season (October to March), the state's SCG is the venue for sparsely attended interstate cricket matches (featuring the NSW Blues), and sell-out international five-day test, one-day and 20/20 limited-over matches. As the cricket season ends the Australian Rules (AFL) season starts and the stadium becomes a blur of red-and-white-clad Sydney Swans (www.sydneyswans.com.au) fans.

**Sydney Football Stadium** SPECTATOR SPORT  
(Allianz Stadium; Map p92; www.allianzstadium.com.au; Moore Park Rd; 📍 373-377) It's now officially named after an insurance com-

pany, but these naming rights change periodically, so we'll stick with the untainted-by-sponsorship moniker for this elegant 45,500-capacity stadium. It's home to local heroes the Sydney Roosters rugby league team ([www.roosters.com.au](http://www.roosters.com.au)), the NSW Waratahs rugby union team ([www.waratahs.com.au](http://www.waratahs.com.au)) and the Sydney FC A-league football (soccer) team ([www.sydneyfc.com](http://www.sydneyfc.com)).

All of these teams have passionate fans (possibly the most vocal are the crazies in the Roosters' 'chook pen'), so a home game can be a lot of fun. Book through **Ticketek** (☎132 849; [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)).

**Royal Randwick Racecourse** HORSE RACING (Map p68; [www.australianurfclub.com.au](http://www.australianurfclub.com.au); Alison Rd; ☎339) The action at Sydney's most famous racecourse peaks in April with the \$4 million Queen Elizabeth Stakes; check the online calendar for race days.

## Theatre

**Sydney Theatre Company** THEATRE (STC; Mapp72; ☎02-92501777; [www.sydneytheatre.com.au](http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au); Pier 4/5, 15 Hickson Rd; ☎box office 9am-8.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-8.30pm Sat, 2hr before show Sun; ☎Wynyard) Established in 1978, the STC is Sydney theatre's top dog and has played an important part in the careers of many famous Australian actors (especially Cate Blanchett, who was co-artistic director from 2008 to 2013). Tours of the company's Wharf and Roslyn Packer theatres are held at 10.30am every Tuesday (\$10). Performances are also staged at the Opera House.

**Belvoir** THEATRE (Map p86; ☎02-9699 3444; [www.belvoir.com.au](http://www.belvoir.com.au); 25 Belvoir St; ☎Central) In a quiet corner of Surry Hills, this intimate venue is the home of an often-experimental and consistently excellent theatre company. Shows sometimes feature big stars.

**State Theatre** THEATRE (Map p72; ☎02-9373 6655; [www.statetheatre.com.au](http://www.statetheatre.com.au); 49 Market St; ☎St James) The beautiful 2000-seat State Theatre is a lavish, gilt-ridden, chandelier-dangling palace. It hosts the Sydney Film Festival, concerts, comedy, opera, musicals and the odd celebrity chef.

**Capitol Theatre** THEATRE (Map p82; ☎1300 558 878; [www.capitoltheatre.com.au](http://www.capitoltheatre.com.au); 13 Campbell St; ☎Central) Lavishly restored, this large city theatre is home to long-running musicals (*Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *Matilda*) and the occasional ballet or big-name concert.

**Sydney Lyric** THEATRE (Map p84; ☎02-9509 3600; [www.sydneylyric.com.au](http://www.sydneylyric.com.au); The Star, Pirrama Rd; ☎The Star) This 2000-seat theatre within the casino stages big-name musicals and the occasional concert.

**Ensemble Theatre** THEATRE (Map p68; ☎02-9929 0644; [www.ensemble.com.au](http://www.ensemble.com.au); 78 McDougall St, Kirribilli; ☎North Sydney) The long-running Ensemble presents mainstream theatre by overseas and Australian playwrights (think David Williamson and David Hare), generally with well-known Australian actors.

**Monkey Baa Theatre Company** THEATRE (Map p82; ☎02-8624 9340; [www.monkeybaa.com.au](http://www.monkeybaa.com.au); 1 Harbour St; tickets \$25; ☎Town Hall) If you can drag them away from the neighbouring playground, bring your budding culture vultures here to watch Australian children's books come to life. This energetic company devises and stages their own adaptations.

## Shopping

Sydneysiders head cityward – particularly to Pitt St Mall – if they have something special to buy or when serious retail therapy is required. Paddington has traditionally been Sydney's premier fashion enclave, although it's now facing stiff competition from the giant Westfield malls in Pitt St and Bondi Junction. Newtown's King St has come into its own as one of the city's most interesting strips, especially for vintage boutiques and bookshops.

Serious shoppers should consider downloading the suburb-by-suburb shopping guides produced by **Urban Walkabout** ([www.urbanwalkabout.com/sydney](http://www.urbanwalkabout.com/sydney)); free printed versions of the maps are also available at tourist information offices and booths across the city.

## The Rocks & Circular Quay

**Australian Wine Centre** WINE (Map p72; [www.australianwinecentre.com](http://www.australianwinecentre.com); Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St; ☎10am-8pm Mon-Sat, to 6.30pm Sun; ☎Circular Quay) This multilingual basement store is packed with quality Australian wine, beer and spirits. Smaller producers are well represented, along with a staggering range of prestigious Penfolds Grange wines. International shipping can be arranged.

**Opal Minded**

JEWELLERY

(Map p72; [www.opalminded.com](http://www.opalminded.com); 55 George St; ☺ 9am-6.30pm; ☑ Circular Quay) As good a place as any to stock up on that quintessential piece of Aussie bling.

**Gannon House**

ART

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9251 4474; [www.gannonhousegallery.com](http://www.gannonhousegallery.com); 45 Argyle St; ☑ Circular Quay) Specialising in contemporary Australian and Aboriginal art, Gannon House purchases works directly from artists and Aboriginal communities. You'll find the work of prominent artists such as Gloria Petyarre here, alongside lesser-known names.

**City Centre****Westfield Sydney**

MALL

(Map p72; [www.westfield.com.au/sydney](http://www.westfield.com.au/sydney); 188 Pitt St Mall; ☺ 9.30am-6.30pm Fri-Wed, to 9pm Thu; ☑ St James) The city's most glamorous shopping mall is a bafflingly large complex gobbling up Sydney Tower and a fair chunk of Pitt St Mall. The 5th-floor food court is excellent.

**David Jones**

DEPARTMENT STORE

(Map p72; [www.davidjones.com.au](http://www.davidjones.com.au); 86-108 Castlereagh St; ☺ 9.30am-7pm Sat-Wed, to 9pm Thu & Fri; ☑ St James) DJs is Sydney's premier department store, occupying two enormous city buildings. The Castlereagh St store has women's and children's clothing; Market St has menswear, electrical goods and a high-brow food court. David Jones also takes up a sizeable chunk of **Westfield Bondi Junction** (Map p68; ☎ 02-9947 8000; [www.westfield.com.au](http://www.westfield.com.au); 500 Oxford St; ☺ 9.30am-6pm Fri-Wed, to 9pm Thu; ☑ Bondi Junction).

**Strand Arcade**

SHOPPING CENTRE

(Map p72; [www.strandarcade.com.au](http://www.strandarcade.com.au); 412 George St; ☺ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Wed & Fri, to 8pm Thu, 9am-4pm Sat, 11am-4pm Sun; ☑ St James) Constructed in 1891, the Strand rivals the QVB in the ornateness stakes. The three floors of designer fashions, Australian and old-world coffee shops will make your short-cut through here considerably longer.

**Queen Victoria Building**

SHOPPING CENTRE

(QVB; Map p72; [www.qvb.com.au](http://www.qvb.com.au); 455 George St; ☺ 11am-5pm Sun, 9am-6pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat, 9am-9pm Thu; ☑ Town Hall) The magnificent QVB takes up a whole block and boasts nearly 200 shops on five levels. It's a High Victorian masterpiece – without doubt Sydney's most beautiful shopping centre.

**Kinokuniya**

BOOKS

(Map p72; ☎ 02-9262 7996; [www.kinokuniya.com](http://www.kinokuniya.com); L2, The Galleries, 500 George St; ☺ 10am-7pm Fri-Wed, 10am-9pm Thu; ☑ Town Hall) This outpost of the Japanese chain is the largest bookshop in Sydney, with over 300,000 titles. The comics section is a magnet for geeky teens – the imported Chinese, Japanese and European magazine section isn't. There's a cool little cafe here, too.

**Darlinghurst****Artery**

ARTS

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9380 8234; [www.artery.com.au](http://www.artery.com.au); 221 Darlinghurst Rd; ☺ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat & Sun; ☑ Kings Cross) Step into a world of mesmerising dots and swirls at this small gallery devoted to Aboriginal art. Artery's motto is 'ethical, contemporary, affordable', and while large canvases by more established artists cost in the thousands, small, unstretched canvases start at around \$35.

**Blue Spinach**

FASHION

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9331 3904; [www.bluespinach.com.au](http://www.bluespinach.com.au); 348 Liverpool St; ☑ Kings Cross) High-end consignment clothing for penny-pinching label lovers of all genders. If you can make it beyond the shocking blue facade (shocking doesn't really do it justice), you'll find Paul Smith and Gucci at (relatively) bargain prices.

**C's Flashback**

VINTAGE

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9331 7833; [www.csflashback.com.au](http://www.csflashback.com.au); 316 Crown St; ☺ 10am-6pm Fri-Wed, to 8pm Thu; ☑ Museum) Looking for a second-hand Hawaiian shirt, some beat-up cowboy boots or a little sequinned 1940s hat like the Queen wears? We're not sure exactly what C was on, but her flashback men's and women's threads are pretty trippy.

**Paddington & Woollahra****Poepke**

FASHION

(Map p92; [www.poepke.com](http://www.poepke.com); 47 William St; ☺ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun; ☑ 380) One of Paddington's more interesting women's boutiques, stocking a curated range from Australian and international designers.

**Corner Shop**

FASHION

(Map p92; ☎ 02-9380 9828; [www.thecornershop.com.au](http://www.thecornershop.com.au); 43 William St; ☺ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun; ☑ 380) This treasure trove of a boutique is stocked with a healthy mix of casual and high-end women's clothing from Australian and international designers, with some jewellery for good measure.

## SYDNEY'S WEEKEND MARKETS

Sydneysiders enjoy going to local markets nearly as much as going to the beach (and that's really saying something). Many inner-city suburbs host weekend markets in the grounds of local schools and churches, and these sell everything from organic food to original designer clothing. You'll inevitably encounter some tragic hippy paraphernalia, appalling art and overpriced tourist tat, but there are often exciting purchases to be made, too.

**Glebe Markets** (Map p121; [www.glebemarkets.com.au](http://www.glebemarkets.com.au); Glebe Public School, cnr Glebe Point Rd & Derby Pl; ☺ 10am-4pm Sat; ☑ Glebe) The best of the west; Sydney's dreadlocked, shoeless, inner-city contingent beats a course to this crowded hippy-ish market.

**Paddington Markets** (Map p92; [www.paddingtonmarkets.com.au](http://www.paddingtonmarkets.com.au); 395 Oxford St; ☺ 10am-4pm Sat; ☑ 380) Originating in the 1970s, when they were drenched in the scent of patchouli oil, these markets are considerably more mainstream these days. They're still worth exploring for their new and vintage clothing, crafts and jewellery. Expect a crush.

**Bondi Markets** (Map p94; [www.bondimarkets.com.au](http://www.bondimarkets.com.au); Bondi Beach Public School, Campbell Pde; ☺ 9am-1pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun; ☑ 380-382) On Sundays, when the kids are at the beach, their school fills up with Bondi characters rummaging through tie-dyed second-hand clothes, original fashion, books, beads, earrings, aromatherapy oils, candles, old records and more. There's a farmers' market here on Saturdays.

**Eveleigh Farmers' Market** (Map p121; [www.eveleighmarket.com.au](http://www.eveleighmarket.com.au); Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St; ☺ 8am-1pm Sat; ☑ Redfern) Over 70 regular stallholders sell their goodies at Sydney's best farmers' market, held in a heritage-listed railway workshop. Food and coffee stands do a brisk business; celebrity chef Kylie Kwong can often be spotted cooking up a storm.

### Ariel

BOOKS

(Map p88; ☎ 02-9332 4581; [www.arielbooks.com.au](http://www.arielbooks.com.au); 42 Oxford St; ☺ 9am-10.30pm; ☑ 380) Furtive artists, architects and students roam Ariel's aisles late into the evening. 'Underculture' is the thrust here – glossy art, film, fashion and design books, along with kids' books, travel guides and a queer-lit section.

### Reclaim

HOMEWARES, GIFTS

(Map p121; [www.reclaim.net.au](http://www.reclaim.net.au); 356 King St; ☺ 10am-6pm; ☑ Newtown) Absolutely the place to shop for Iggy Pop throw cushions, antique tea sets, quirky homewares and funky gifts. It's all put together by local singer Monica Trapaga (of Monica and the Moochers).

### Faster Pussycat

CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES

(Map p121; ☎ 02-9519 1744; [www.fasterpussycat.com.au](http://www.fasterpussycat.com.au); 431a King St; ☺ 11am-6pm; ☑ Newtown) Inspired by 'trash pop culture, hot rods and rock and roll', this cool cat coughs up clothing and accessories for all genders and ages (including baby punkwear) in several shades of Newtown black.



## Newtown & Around

### Quick Brown Fox

CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES

(Map p121; ☎ 02-9519 6622; [www.quickbrownfox.com.au](http://www.quickbrownfox.com.au); 231 King St; ☺ 10.30am-6.30pm; ☑ Newtown) No lazy dogs here – just plenty of fast-looking, tanned vixens snapping up funky vintage fashions that veer from 'hello, boys!' cuteness to indecent-exposure sexiness. Catchy patterns and fabrics, chic boots and bags.

### Better Read Than Dead

BOOKS

(Map p121; ☎ 02-9557 8700; [www.betterread.com.au](http://www.betterread.com.au); 265 King St; ☺ 9.30am-9pm; ☑ Newtown) This just might be our favourite Sydney bookshop, and not just because of the pithy name and the great selection of Lonely Planet titles. Nobody seems to mind if you waste hours perusing the beautifully presented aisles, stacked with high-, middle- and deliciously low-brow reading materials.

## Information

### EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency, call ☎ 000 to contact the police, ambulance and fire service. For a searchable list of all police stations in NSW, go to [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au).

**Lifeline** (☎ 13 11 14; [www.lifelinesydney.org](http://www.lifelinesydney.org); ☺ 24hr) Round-the-clock phone counselling services, including suicide prevention.

**NSW Rape Crisis** (☎ 1800 424 017; [www.nswrapecrisis.com.au](http://www.nswrapecrisis.com.au); ☺ 24hr) Offers counselling, 24 hours a day.

## INTERNET ACCESS

The vast majority of hotels and hostels offer their guests internet access, although you'll still have to pay for it in many hostels and top hotels. Libraries are a good bet for free wi-fi and bookable terminals.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

**Kings Cross Clinic** (☎ 02-9358 3066; www.kingscrossclinic.com.au; 13 Springfield Ave; ☀ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat; 🏠 Kings Cross) General and travel-related medical services.

**Royal Prince Alfred Hospital** (RPA; ☎ 02-9515 6111; www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/rpa; Missenden Rd, Camperdown; 🏠 Macdonaldtown)

**St Vincent's Hospital** (☎ 02-8382 1111; www.stvincents.com.au; 390 Victoria St; 🏠 Kings Cross)

**Sydney Hospital** (☎ 02-9382 7111; www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/SHSEH; 8 Macquarie St; 🏠 Martin Place)

## MONEY

There are plenty of ATMs throughout Sydney. Foreign-exchange offices are found in Kings Cross and around Chinatown, Circular Quay and Central Station.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**City Host Information Kiosks** (www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) Branches in **Circular Quay** (Map p72; cnr Pitt & Alfred Sts; ☀ 9am-5pm; 🏠 Circular Quay), **Haymarket** (Map p82; Dixon St; ☀ 11am-7pm; 🏠 Town Hall), **Kings Cross** (Map p88; cnr Darlinghurst Rd & Springfield Ave; ☀ 9am-5pm; 🏠 Kings Cross) and **Town Hall** (Map p82; George St; ☀ 9am-5pm; 🏠 Town Hall).

**Hello Manly** (Map p98; ☎ 02-9976 1430; www.hellomanly.com.au; Manly Wharf; ☀ 9am-5pm; 🏠 Manly) This helpful visitors centre, just outside the ferry wharf and alongside the bus interchange, has free pamphlets covering the Manly Scenic Walkway (p99) and other Manly attractions, plus loads of local bus information.

**Sydney Visitor Centres** (www.bestof.com.au) Have a wide range of brochures, and staff can book accommodation, tours and attractions. Branches in **The Rocks** (Map p72; ☎ 02-8273 0000; cnr Argyle & Playfair Sts; 🏠 Circular Quay) and **Darling Harbour** (Map p82; ☎ 02-8273 0000; Palm Grove, behind IMAX; ☀ 9.30am-5.30pm; 🏠 Town Hall).

## 📍 Getting There & Away

### AIR

Also known as Kingsford Smith Airport, Sydney Airport (p1086) has separate international (T1) and domestic (T2 and T3) sections, 4km apart on either side of the runway. Each has

left-luggage services, ATMs, currency exchange bureaux and rental-car counters.

Airlines flying to other Australian destinations include:

**Jetstar** (www.jetstar.com.au) Flies to Ballina Byron Bay, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Hamilton Island, Townsville, Cairns, Melbourne, Hobart, Launceston, Adelaide, Uluru, Darwin and Perth.

**Qantas** (www.qantas.com.au) Flies to Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Dubbo, Tamworth, Moree, Port Macquarie, Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Lord Howe Island, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Fraser Coast, Hamilton Island, Cairns, Darwin, Alice Springs, Broome, Karratha, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Hobart.

**Regional Express** (www.rex.com.au) Flies to Newcastle, Taree, Ballina Byron Bay, Grafton, Lismore, Armidale, Dubbo, Parkes, Orange, Bathurst, Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Merimbula, Broken Hill and Mildura.

**Tigerair** (www.tigerair.com.au/en) Flies to Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Mackay, Whitsunday Coast, Cairns, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne.

**Virgin Australia** (www.virginaustralia.com) Flies to Canberra, Albury, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Ballina Byron Bay, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Hamilton Island, Townsville, Cairns, Darwin, Uluru, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Launceston and Hobart.

## BUS

Long-distance bus services arrive at **Sydney Coach Terminal** (Map p86; ☎ 02-9281 9366; www.sydneycoachterminal.com.au; Eddy Ave; ☀ 6am-6pm; 🏠 Central), underneath Central Station. The major operators are:

**Australia Wide** (☎ 02-9516 1300; www.austwidecoaches.com.au) Services to Orange and Bathurst.

**Firefly** (☎ 1300 730 740; www.fireflyexpress.com.au) Runs Adelaide to Sydney via Melbourne and Canberra.

**Greyhound** (☎ 1300 473 946; www.greyhound.com.au) Has the most extensive nationwide network.

**Murrays** (☎ 13 22 51; www.murrays.com.au) Runs from Canberra and the South Coast to Sydney.

**Port Stephens Coaches** (☎ 02-4982 2940; www.pscscoaches.com.au) Coaches to Newcastle and Nelson Bay.

**Premier Motor Service** (☎ 133 410; www.premierms.com.au) Runs Cairns to Melbourne, via Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sydney.

## TRAIN

**NSW TrainLink** (☎ 13 22 32; www.nswtrainlink.info) connects Sydney's Central station with

destinations including Melbourne (from \$70, 11 hours), Broken Hill (from \$70, 13½ hours), Canberra (from \$40, 4¼ hours), Coffs Harbour (from \$67, nine hours) and Brisbane (from \$70, 14¼ hours).

Sydney's local train network, run by **Sydney Trains** (☎13 15 00; www.sydneytrains.info) includes regular direct services to NSW destinations such as Kiama (2¼ hours), Wollongong (1½ hours), Katoomba (two hours), Gosford (1½ hours) and Newcastle's Hamilton station (1½ hours). For all of these services, peak/off-peak fares are \$8.30/5.81.

The famous **Indian Pacific** (☎1800 703 357; www.greatsouthernrail.com.au) heads clear across the continent from Sydney to Perth.

## **i** Getting Around

### TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

**Bus** Services from the airport are limited but there is a direct bus to Bondi Junction (routes 400 and 410, \$4.50, 1¼ hours) which departs roughly every 20 minutes.

**Shuttle** Airport shuttles head to hotels and hostels in the city centre, and some reach surrounding suburbs and beach destinations. Operators include **Sydney Airporter** (☎02-9666 9988; www.kst.com.au), **Super Shuttle** (☎1300 018 460; www.signatirelimousinesydney.com.au), **Airport Shuttle North** (☎1300 505 100; www.airportshuttlenorth.com) and **Manly Express** (☎02-8068 8473; www.manlyexpress.com.au).

**Taxi** Fares from the airport are approximately \$45 to \$55 to the city centre, \$55 to \$65 to North Sydney and \$90 to \$100 to Manly.

**Train** Trains from both the domestic and international terminals, connecting into the main train network, are run by **Airport Link** (www.airportlink.com.au; adult/child \$18/14; ☎4.30am-12.30am). They're frequent (every 10 minutes), quick (13 minutes to Central) and easy to use, but airport tickets are charged at a hefty premium. If there are a few of you it's cheaper to catch a cab. Another alternative is to catch the bus to Rockdale station (routes 400 & 410, \$3.50, 12 minutes) and then catch the regular train to Central (\$3, 15 minutes).

### CAR & MOTORCYCLE

➔ Avoid driving in central Sydney if you can: there's a confusing one-way street system, parking's elusive and expensive (even at hotels), and parking inspectors, tolls and tow-away zones proliferate. Conversely, a car is handy for accessing Sydney's outer reaches (particularly the beaches) and for day trips.

➔ All of the major international car rental companies have offices at Sydney Airport and other locations. The main city hub for rental cars is William St, Darlinghurst. Reliable local operators in-

clude **Bayswater Car Rental** (☎02-9360 3622; www.bayswatercarrental.com.au), cut-price **Ace Rentals** (☎02-8338 1055; www.acerentalcars.com.au) and, for campervans, **Jucy Rentals** (☎1800 150 850; www.jucy.com.au).

➔ There are hefty **tolls** on most of Sydney's motorways and major links (including the Harbour Bridge, Harbour Tunnel, Cross City Tunnel and Eastern Distributor). The tolling system is electronic, meaning that it's up to you to organise an electronic tag or visitors' pass through any of the following websites: www.roam.com.au, www.roamexpress.com.au or www.myetoll.com.au. Note that some car-hire companies now supply etags.

➔ The Sydney Travellers Car Market (p1090) is based in the Kings Cross Car Park off Ward Ave. This provides useful information about the paperwork needed to buy, sell and register vehicles. Sellers can leave their vehicles in the market for one week for free (after which it's \$60 per week). Vehicles are only permitted to be left overnight between Monday and Thursday at no cost; usual car-park charges apply from Friday to Sunday. Note that you're not permitted to sleep in the vehicle while it is in the car park. It is also illegal to sell vehicles on the street anywhere in central Sydney.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**Transport NSW** (☎13 15 00; www.transportnsw.info) is the body that coordinates all of the state-run bus, ferry, train and light rail services. You'll find a useful journey planner on their website.

Sydneysiders love to complain about their public transport system, but visitors should find it surprisingly easy to navigate. The train system is the linchpin, with lines radiating out from Central station. Ferries head all around the harbour and up the river to Parramatta; light rail is useful for Pyrmont and Glebe; and buses are particularly useful for getting to the beaches.

### Bus

**Sydney Buses** (☎13 15 00; www.sydneybuses.info) has an extensive network, operating from around 5am to midnight when less frequent NightRide services commence. Bus routes starting with an X indicate limited-stop express routes; those with an L have limited stops.

You can buy a ticket from the driver on most services (\$2.40 to \$4.70, depending on the length of the journey), but you'll need an Opal card or prepaid paper ticket (available at newsagents, convenience stores and supermarkets) for prepay-only services. Fares are based on 'sections', which are roughly 1.6km in length. Prepaid tickets need to be dunked into the green ticket machines as you enter the bus. If you'll be catching buses a lot (but not trains or ferries), consider a prepaid 10-ride TravelTen ticket (sections 1-2/3-5/6+ \$20/31/38).

## **i** INTEGRATED TICKETS & PASSES

Although you can still buy individual tickets for most public transport services, a smart-card system called **Opal** ([www.opal.com.au](http://www.opal.com.au)) also operates.

The card can be obtained (for free) and loaded with credit at numerous newsagencies and convenience stores across Sydney. When commencing a journey you'll need to touch the card to an electronic reader, located at train station gates, near the doors of buses and light rail carriages, and at the ferry wharves. You then need to touch a reader when you complete your journey so that the system can deduct the correct fare. Advantages include cheaper single journeys, daily charges capped at \$15 (\$2.50 on Sundays) and free travel after taking any eight journeys in a week (it resets itself every Monday). You can use the Opal card at the airport train stations, but none of the aforementioned bonuses apply.

Paper-based **MyMulti passes** can be purchased at ferry and train ticket offices and many newsagencies and convenience stores, but you're much better off getting an Opal card instead. For instance, the MyMulti Day Pass costs \$24 as opposed to the \$15 Opal cap.

Route 555 is a free service which heads up and down George St, from Circular Quay to Central Station.

### Ferry

➔ Most **Sydney Ferries** (☎ 13 15 00; [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info)) operate between 6am and midnight. The standard single fare for most harbour destinations is \$6.20; boats to Manly, Sydney Olympic Park and Parramatta cost \$7.60. If you're heading to Taronga Zoo by ferry, consider the all-inclusive ZooPass (adult/child \$53/27).

➔ Private companies **Manly Fast Ferry** (☎ 02-9583 1199; [www.manlyfastferry.com.au](http://www.manlyfastferry.com.au); adult/child \$9/6) and **Sydney Fast Ferries** (☎ 02-9818 6000; [www.sydneyfastferries.com.au](http://www.sydneyfastferries.com.au); adult/child \$9.75/7.50; 🚰) both offer boats that blast from Circular Quay to Manly in 18 minutes.

### Light Rail

➔ Trams run between Central Station and Dulwich Hill, stopping in Chinatown, Darling Harbour, The Star casino, Sydney Fish Market and Glebe en route.

➔ Tickets cost \$3.80 for a short journey and \$4.80 for a longer one, and can be purchased from the conductor.

### Train

➔ **Sydney Trains** (☎ 13 15 00; [www.sydneytrains.info](http://www.sydneytrains.info)) has a large suburban railway web with relatively frequent services, although there are no lines to the northern or eastern beaches.

➔ Trains run from around 5am to 1am – check timetables for your line.

➔ A short inner-city one-way trip costs \$4.

➔ If you don't have an Opal card, purchase your ticket in advance from an automated machine or a counter at the bigger stations.

### TAXI

➔ Metered taxis are easy to flag down in the central city and inner suburbs, except for at changeover times (3pm and 3am).

➔ Fares are regulated, so all companies charge the same. Flagfall is \$3.50, with a \$2.50 'night owl surcharge' after 10pm on a Friday and Saturday until 6am the following morning. The fare thereafter is \$2.14 per kilometre, with an additional surcharge of 20% between 10pm and 6am nightly. There's also a \$2.40 fee for bookings.

➔ The **UberX** ride-sharing app operates in Sydney but the state government maintains that it is illegal for drivers to offer the service.

Major taxi companies include:

**Legion Cabs** (☎ 13 14 51; [www.legioncabs.com.au](http://www.legioncabs.com.au))

**Premier Cabs** (☎ 13 10 17; [www.premiercabs.com.au](http://www.premiercabs.com.au))

**RSL Cabs** (☎ 02-9581 1111; [www.rslcabs.com.au](http://www.rslcabs.com.au))

**Taxis Combined** (☎ 13 33 00; [www.taxiscombined.com.au](http://www.taxiscombined.com.au))

### WATER TAXI

Water taxis are a fast way to shunt around the harbour (Circular Quay to Watsons Bay in as little as 15 minutes). Companies will quote on any pick-up point within the harbour and the river, including private jetties, islands and other boats.

**Aussie Water Taxis** (Map p84; ☎ 02-9211 7730; [www.aussiewatertaxis.com](http://www.aussiewatertaxis.com); Cockle Bay Wharf) The smallest seats 16 passengers and can be rented per hour or point to point.

**H2O Maxi Taxis** (☎ 1300 420 829; [www.h2owatertaxis.com.au](http://www.h2owatertaxis.com.au)) Smallest seats 21 people. Harbour Islands a speciality: Fort Denison/Cockatoo Island/Shark Island costs



\$110/125/150 for up to 10 people from Circular Quay. Has a handy quote calculator on its website.

**Water Taxis Combined** (☎ 02-9555 8888; www.watertaxis.com.au) Fares based on up to four passengers: Circular Quay to Watsons Bay \$110; to Rose Bay \$110; to Woolloomooloo \$70. It also offers harbour cruise packages.

**Yellow Water Taxis** (☎ 02-9299 0199; www.yellowwatertaxis.com.au) Set price for up to four passengers, then \$10 per person for additional people. Sample fares from King St Wharf: Circular Quay and Fort Denison \$83; Taronga Zoo \$95; Cockatoo Island and Shark Island \$121; Watsons Bay \$127.

## HAWKESBURY RIVER

Less than an hour from Sydney, the tranquil Hawkesbury River flows past honeycomb-coloured cliffs, historic townships and riverside hamlets into bays and inlets and between a series of national parks, including Ku-ring-gai Chase (p102) and **Brisbane Water**.

Further upstream, a narrow forested waterway diverts from the Hawkesbury and peters down to the chilled-out river town of **Berowra Waters**, where a handful of businesses, boat sheds and residences cluster around the free, 24-hour ferry across Berowra Creek.

The riverside hamlet of **Wisemans Ferry** spills over a bow of the Hawkesbury River where it slides east towards **Brooklyn**. The surrounding area retains remnants of the convict-built **Great North Road**, originally constructed to link Sydney with the Hunter Valley and now part of the Australian Convict Sites listing on Unesco's World Heritage list. To download a self-guided tour brochure, go to www.rms.nsw.gov.au and type 'convict trail' into the search box.



### Activities

**Riverboat Postman** CRUISE  
(☎ 0400 600 111; www.riverboatpostman.com.au; Brooklyn Public Wharf, Dangar Rd; adult/child/senior \$50/15/44; ☀ 10am Mon-Fri; 📦 Hawkesbury River) Departing Brooklyn, the Riverboat Postman is Australia's last operating mail boat and a decidedly old-school way to get a feel for the river. It chugs 40km up the Hawkesbury from Brooklyn to as far as Marlow, returning to Brooklyn at 1.15pm. The fare includes morning tea and a ploughman's lunch.

### Sleeping

The best way to experience the Hawkesbury is on a fully equipped houseboat. Rates skyrocket during summer and school holidays, but most outfits offer affordable low-season, midweek and long-term rental specials. To give a very rough guide, a two-/six-berth boat for three nights costs from \$950/1050 from September to early December, with prices doubling during the Christmas–New Year period and on weekends and holidays throughout the year. Options include **Hawkesbury Afloat** (☎ 02-9985 7722; www.hawkesburyafloat.com.au; 45 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn), **Holidays Afloat** (☎ 02-9985 5555; www.holidaysafloat.com.au; 87 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn) and **Ripples on the Hawkesbury** (☎ 02-9985 5555; www.ripples.com.au; 87 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn).



### Eating

**Berowra Waters Inn** MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$  
(☎ 02-9456 1027; www.berowrawatersinn.com; East or West public wharves; per person \$175; ☀ noon-2pm Fri-Sun, 6-10pm Fri & Sat) Wow! On the riverbank upstream from Berowra Waters township and only accessible by boat or seaplane, this Glenn Murcutt-designed restaurant is a real show-stopper. The restaurant has a sensational Mod Oz degustation menu and brilliant river views – perfect for a special occasion (like your holiday!). Call for bookings and to arrange a ferry.



### Getting There & Away

Trains run from Sydney's Central Station to Berowra and on to Brooklyn's Hawkesbury River station (\$7/3.50, one hour, roughly hourly). Note that the Berowra train station is a solid 6km trudge from Berowra Waters.

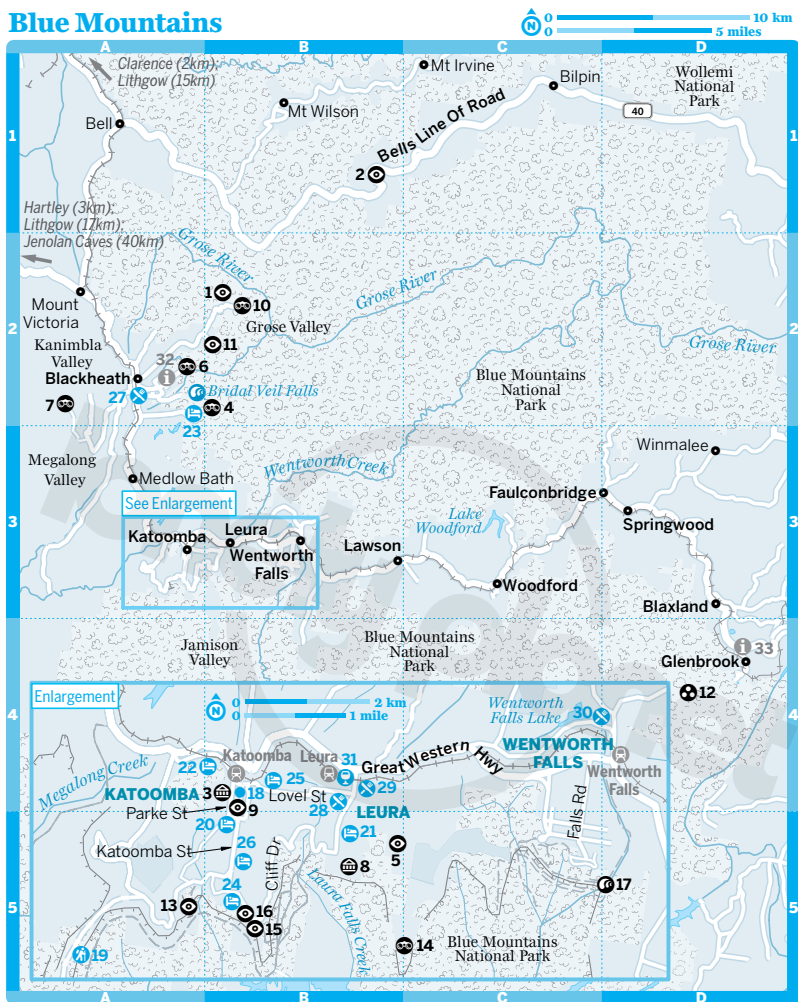
Wisemans Ferry is most easily accessed by river but can be reached by a pretty road which winds along the north bank of the river from the Central Coast, through Dharug National Park. Largely unsealed but photogenic roads run north from Wisemans Ferry to tiny St Albans.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS

POP 78,500

A region with more than its fair share of natural beauty, the Blue Mountains was an obvious choice for Unesco World Heritage status. The slate-coloured haze that gives the mountains their name comes from a fine mist of oil exuded by the huge eucalypts that

## Blue Mountains



form a dense canopy across the landscape of deep, often inaccessible valleys and chiselled sandstone outcrops.

The foothills begin 65km inland from Sydney, rising to an 1100m-high sandstone plateau riddled with valleys eroded into the stone over thousands of years. There are eight connected conservation areas in the region, including the **Blue Mountains National Park** ([www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Blue-Mountains-National-Park](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Blue-Mountains-National-Park)), which has some truly fantastic scenery, excellent bushwalks (hikes), Aboriginal engravings and all the canyons and cliffs you could ask for. **Wolle-**

**mi National Park** ([www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Wollemi-National-Park](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Wollemi-National-Park)), north of the Bells Line of Road, is NSW's largest forested wilderness area, stretching all the way to the Hunter Valley.

Although it's possible to visit on a day trip from Sydney, we strongly recommend that you stay at least one night so that you can explore a few of the towns, do at least one bushwalk and eat at some of the excellent restaurants. The hills can be surprisingly cool throughout the year, so bring warm clothes.

## Blue Mountains

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## Sights

### Glenbrook

Arriving from Sydney, the first of the Blue Mountains towns you will encounter is unassuming Glenbrook. From here, you can drive or walk into the lower reaches of the national park; this is the only part of the park where vehicle entry fees apply (\$7). Six kilometres from the park entrance gate is the Mt Portal Lookout with panoramic views into the Glenbrook Gorge, over the Nepean River and back to Sydney.

#### Red Hands Cave ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Less a cave than an alcove, this Aboriginal shelter is decorated with hand stencils dating from between 500 and 1600 years ago. It's an easy, 7km return walk southwest of the Glenbrook Visitor Centre (p142).

### Wentworth Falls

As you head into the town of Wentworth Falls, you'll get your first real taste of Blue Mountains scenery: views to the south open out across the majestic Jamison Valley.

#### Wentworth Falls Reserve WATERFALL, PARK

(Falls Rd ; ☒ Wentworth Falls) The falls that lend the town its name launch a plume of droplets over a 300m drop. This is the starting point of a network of walking tracks, which delve into the sublime Valley of the Waters, with waterfalls, gorges, woodlands and rainforests. Be sure to stretch your legs along the 1km return to Princes Rock which offers excellent views of Wentworth Falls and the Jamison Valley.


### Leura

Leura is the Blue Mountains' prettiest town, fashioned around undulating streets,

well-tended gardens and sweeping Victorian verandahs. Leura Mall, the tree-lined main street, offers rows of country craft stores and cafes for the daily tourist influx.



### Sublime Point

LOOKOUT

(Sublime Point Rd, Leura; ) South of Leura, this sharp, triangular outcrop narrows to a dramatic lookout with sheer cliffs on each side. We prefer it to Katoomba's more famous Echo Point, mainly because it's much, much quieter. On sunny days cloud shadows dance across the vast blue valley below.

### Everglades Historic House & Gardens



GARDENS

( 02-4784 1938; [www.everglades.org.au](http://www.everglades.org.au); 37 Everglades Ave, Leura; adult/child \$10/4;  10am-5pm) National Trust-owned Everglades was built in the 1930s. While the house is moderately interesting, the magnificent 5 hectares of garden created by Danish 'master gardener' Paul Sorenson are the real drawcard.

### Leuralla NSW Toy & Railway

#### Museum

MUSEUM, GARDENS

( 02-4784 1169; [www.toyandrailwaymuseum.com.au](http://www.toyandrailwaymuseum.com.au); 36 Olympian Pde; adult/child \$14/6, gardens only \$10/5;  10am-5pm) The art deco mansion that was once home to HV 'Doc' Evatt, the first UN president, is jam-packed with an incredible array of collectables – from grumpy Edwardian baby dolls to *Dr Who* figurines, to a rare set of Nazi propaganda toys. Railway memorabilia is scattered throughout the handsome gardens.

## Katoomba

Swirling, otherworldly mists, steep streets lined with art deco buildings, astonishing valley views and a quirky miscellany of restaurants, buskers, artists, homeless people, bawdy pubs and classy hotels – Katoomba, the biggest town in the mountains, manages to be bohemian and bourgeois, embracing and menacing all at once.

### Echo Point

LOOKOUT

(Three Sisters; Echo Point Rd, Katoomba) Echo Point's clifftop viewing platform is the busiest spot in the Blue Mountains thanks to the views it offers of the area's most essential sight: a rocky trio called the **Three Sisters** (Echo Point, Echo Point Rd, Katoomba). The story goes that the sisters were turned to stone by a sorcerer to protect them from the unwanted advances of three young men, but the sor-

cerer died before he could turn them back into humans.

Warning: Echo Point draws vast, serenity-spoiling tourist gaggles, their idling buses farting fumes into the mountain air – arrive early or late to avoid them. The surrounding parking is expensive (\$4.40 per hour), so park a few streets back and walk.



### Waradah Aboriginal Centre

CULTURAL CENTRE

([www.waradahaboriginalcentre.com.au](http://www.waradahaboriginalcentre.com.au); 33-37 Echo Point Rd; show adult/child \$12/7;  9am-5pm) Located in the World Heritage Plaza, this gallery and shop displays some exceptional examples of Aboriginal art alongside tourist tat like painted boomerangs and didgeridoos. However, the main reason to visit is to catch one of the 15-minute shows. Held throughout the day, they provide an interesting and good-humoured introduction to Indigenous culture.

### Scenic World

CABLE CAR

( 02-4780 0200; [www.scenicworld.com.au](http://www.scenicworld.com.au); cnr Violet St & Cliff Dr, Katoomba; adult/child \$35/18;  9am-5pm) Take the glass-floored Skyway gondola across the gorge and then ride what's billed as the steepest railway in the world down the 52-degree incline to the Jamison Valley floor. From here you can wander a 2.5km forest boardwalk (or hike the 12km, six-hour return track to the Ruined Castle rock formation) before catching a cable car back up the slope.


### Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

GALLERY

([www.bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au); 30 Parke St; adult/child \$5/free;  10am-5pm) It's a captivating experience to walk through the World Heritage display, with a satellite image of the Blue Mountains beneath your feet, mountain scenery projected on the walls and ceiling, and bush sounds surrounding you. The neighbouring gallery hosts interesting exhibitions and there's a great view from the roof terrace. Drop into the library for free internet access.

### Paragon

NOTABLE BUILDING

([www.facebook.com/TheParagonCafe](http://www.facebook.com/TheParagonCafe); 65 Katoomba St;  10am-4pm Sun-Fri, to 10.30pm Sat) It's not one of Katoomba's better eateries, but it's well worth dropping into this heritage-listed 1916 cafe for its fabulous period decor. The handmade chocolates are pretty good too. Make sure you wander through to the *Great Gatsby*-esque mirrored cocktail bar at the rear.

## Blackheath

The crowds and commercial frenzy fizzle considerably 10km north of Katoomba in neat, petite Blackheath. The town measures up in the scenery stakes, and it's an excellent base for visiting the Grose and Megalong Valleys. East of town are **Evans Lookout** (Evans Lookout Rd) and **Govetts Leap Lookout** (Govetts Leap Rd), offering views of the highest falls in the Blue Mountains. To the northeast, via Hat Hill Rd, are **Pulpit Rock**, **Perrys Lookdown** and **Anvil Rock**. To the west and southwest lie the Kanimbla and Megalong Valleys, with spectacular views from **Hargraves Lookout** (Shipley Rd).



## Activities

### Bushwalking

For tips on walks to suit your level of experience and fitness call the National Parks' Blue Mountains Heritage Centre in Blackheath, or the information centres in Glenbrook or Katoomba. All three sell a variety of walk pamphlets, maps and books.

Note that the bush here is dense and that it can be easy to become lost – there have been deaths as a consequence. Always leave your name and walk plan with the Katoomba police or at the National Parks centre. The police, National Parks and information centres all offer free personal locator beacons and it's strongly suggested you take one with you, especially for longer hikes. Remember to carry clean drinking water and plenty of food.

The two most popular bushwalking areas are the Jamison Valley, south of Katoomba, and the Grose Valley, northeast of Katoomba and east of Blackheath. The **Golden Stairs Walk** (Glenraphael Dr, Katoomba) is a less-congested route to the Ruined Castle than the track leading from Scenic World (p138). To get there, continue along Cliff Dr from Scenic World for 1km and look for Glenraphael Dr on your left. It quickly becomes rough and unsealed. Watch out for the signs to the Golden Stairs on the left after a couple of kilometres. It is a steep, exhilarating trail down into the valley (about 8km, five hours return).

One of the most rewarding long-distance walks is the 45km, three-day **Six Foot Track** from Katoomba along the Megalong Valley to Cox's River and on to the Jenolan Caves. It has camp sites along the way.

## Cycling

The mountains are also a popular cycling destination, with many people taking their bikes on the train to Woodford and then cycling downhill to Glenbrook, a ride of two to three hours. Cycling maps are available from the visitor centres.

## Adventure Activities & Tours

### Blue Mountains Adventure

#### Company

ADVENTURE SPORTS

(☎ 02-4782 1271; www.bmac.com.au; 84a Bathurst Rd, Katoomba; ☀ 8am-7pm) Abseiling from \$150, abseiling and canyoning combo from \$195, canyoning from \$150, bushwalking from \$30 and rock climbing from \$195.

### High 'n' Wild Australian

#### Adventures

ADVENTURE SPORTS

(☎ 02-4782 6224; www.highandwild.com.au; Blue Mountains YHA, 207 Katoomba St, Katoomba) ☀ Guided abseiling/rock climbing/canyoning from \$135/169/190.

### Australian School of

#### Mountaineering

ADVENTURE SPORTS

(☎ 02-4782 2014; www.asmguides.com; 166 Katoomba St, Katoomba) Abseiling/canyoning/bushcraft/rock climbing from \$165/180/195/195.

### River Deep Mountain High

ADVENTURE SPORTS

(☎ 02-4782 6109; www.rdmh.com.au) ☀ Offers abseiling (from \$150), canyoning (from \$150) and canyoning and abseiling packages (\$195), plus a range of hiking and mountain-biking tours.

### Tread Lightly Eco Tours

ECOTOUR

(☎ 0414 976 752; www.treadlightly.com.au) ☀ Has a wide range of day and night walks (\$65 to \$135) and 4WD tours that emphasise the region's ecology.

### Aboriginal Blue Mountains

#### Walkabout

CULTURAL TOUR

(☎ 0408 443 822; www.bluemountainswalkabout.com; tour \$95) Full-day Indigenous-owned and -guided adventurous trek with a spiritual theme; starts at Faulconbridge train station and ends at Springwood station.



## Festivals & Events

### Yulefest

FESTIVAL

(www.yulefest.com) Out-of-kilter Christmas-style celebrations between June and August.

## WORTH A TRIP

## BELLS LINE OF ROAD

This stretch of road between North Richmond and Lithgow is the most scenic route across the Blue Mountains and is highly recommended if you have your own transport. It's far quieter than the highway and offers bountiful views.

Bilpin, at the base of the mountains, is known for its apple orchards. The Bilpin Markets are held at the district hall every Saturday from 10am to noon.

Midway between Bilpin and Bell, the **Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah** (☎ 02-4567 3000; www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au; ☀ 9.30am-5.30pm) 🆓 is a cool-climate annexe of Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden where native plants cuddle up to exotic species, including some magnificent rhododendrons.

To access Bells Line from central Sydney, head over the Harbour Bridge and take the M2 and then the M7 (both have tolls). Exit at Richmond Rd, which becomes Blacktown Rd, then Lennox Rd, then (after a short dog-leg) Kurrajong Rd and finally Bells Line of Road.

## Winter Magic Festival

FESTIVAL

(www.wintermagic.com.au) This one-day festival, held at the winter solstice in June, sees Katoomba's main street taken over by market stalls, costumed locals and performances.

## Leura Gardens Festival

GARDENS

(www.leuragardensfestival.com; all gardens \$20, single garden \$5) Green-thumbed tourists flock to Leura during October, when 10 private gardens are open to the public.

## Sleeping

There's a good range of accommodation in the Blue Mountains, but you'll need to book ahead during winter and for Friday and Saturday nights (Sydneysiders love coming here for romantic weekends away). Leafy Leura is your best bet for romance, while Blackheath is a good base for hikers; both are better choices than built-up Katoomba, although it does have excellent hostels.

## Leura

## ★ Broomelea

B&amp;B \$\$

(☎ 02-4784 2940; www.broomelea.com.au; 273 Leura Mall; r \$180-200; @ 📶) The consummate romantic Blue Mountains B&B, this Edwardian house offers four-poster beds, manicured gardens, cane furniture on the verandah, an open fire and a snug lounge. There's also a self-contained cottage for families.

## Greens of Leura

B&amp;B \$\$

(☎ 02-4784 3241; www.thegreensleura.com.au; 24-26 Grose St; r \$175-220; @ 📶) On a quiet street parallel to the Mall, this pretty timber house set in a lovely garden offers five rooms named after English writers (Browning, Austen etc). All are individually decorated; some have four-poster beds and spas.

## Katoomba

## ★ Blue Mountains YHA

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 02-4782 1416; www.yha.com.au; 207 Katoomba St; dm \$30, d with/without bathroom \$112/99; @ 📶) Behind the austere brick exterior of this popular 200-bed hostel are dorms and family rooms that are comfortable, light-filled and spotlessly clean. Facilities include a lounge (with an open fire), a pool table, an excellent communal kitchen and an outdoor space with barbecues.

## No 14

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 02-4782 7104; www.no14.com.au; 14 Level St; dm \$28, r with/without bathroom \$89/79; @ 📶) Resembling a cheery share house, this small hostel has a friendly vibe and helpful managers. There's no TV, so guests actually tend to talk to each other. A basic breakfast and internet access is included in the rates.

## Flying Fox

HOSTEL \$

(☎ 02-4782 4226; www.theflyingfox.com.au; 190 Bathurst Rd; camp sites per person \$20, dm \$28-30, r \$80-85; 📶) The owners are travellers at heart and have endowed this unassuming hostel with an endearing home-away-from-home feel. There's no party scene here – just mullied wine and Tim Tams in the lounge, free breakfasts and a weekly pasta night.

## Shelton-Lea

B&amp;B \$\$

(☎ 02-4782 9883; www.sheltonlea.com; 159 Lurline St; r \$130-210; 📶) This homely mountain cottage has been tweaked to create four suites, each with its own sitting area and kitchenette. There's a hint of art deco in the decor and lots of frilly furnishings.

**Lilianfels**

HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎ 02-4780 1200; www.lilianfels.com.au; 5-19 Lilianfels Ave; r from \$229; ♿ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️) Right next to Echo Point and enjoying spectacular views, this luxury resort has 85 guest rooms, the region's top-rated restaurant (Darley's; three courses \$125) and an indulgent array of facilities including spa, heated indoor and outdoor pools, tennis court, billiards/games room, library and gym.

 **Blackheath****Jemby-Rinjah Eco Lodge**

CABINS \$\$\$

(☎ 02-4787 7622; www.jemby.com.au; 336 Evans Lookout Rd; from \$215) 🌿 These eco-cabins are lodged so deeply in the bottlebrush you'll have to bump into one to find it. All of the one- and two-bedroom weatherboard cabins are self-equipped; the deluxe model also has a Japanese hot tub.

 **Eating & Drinking** **Wentworth Falls****Nineteen23**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(☎ 0488 361 923; www.nineteen23.com.au; 1 Lake St; 2/3 courses \$60/75; ☺ noon-3pm Sat & Sun, 6-10pm Thu-Sun) Wearing its 1920s ambience with aplomb, this elegant dining room is a particular favourite with loved-up couples happy to gaze into each other's eyes over a lengthy degustation. While the food isn't particularly experimental, it's beautifully cooked and bursting with flavour.

 **Leura****Leura Gourmet Cafe & Deli**

DELI \$\$\$

(☎ 02-4784 1438; 159 Leura Mall; ☺ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri; 📍 Leura) Perfect picnic prep with gourmet salads, pies and quiches to go. Local food enthusiasts will want to shop up on local jams, olive oils and vinegars. The great gelato selection is brilliant for bribing kids on a bushwalk and the attached cafe has impressive views.

**Leura Garage**

MEDITERRANEAN \$\$

(☎ 02-4784 3391; www.leuragarage.com.au; 84 Railway Pde; lunch \$17-28, shared plates \$13-33; ☺ noon-late Thu-Mon) If you were in any doubt that this hip cafe-bar was once a garage, the suspended mufflers and stacks of old tyres press the point. At dinner the menu shifts gears to rustic shared plates served on wooden slabs, including deli treat-laden pizza.

**Cafe Madeleine**

CAFE \$\$\$

(www.josophans.com.au; 187a Leura Mall; mains \$12-18; ☺ 9am-5pm) The sister to a chocolate shop, Madeleine excels in sweet treats such as chocolate-drenched waffles, cakes and hot chocolates. Mind you, the eggy breakfasts and French-influenced savoury dishes are also excellent.

**Silk's Brasserie**

MODERN AUSTRALIAN \$\$\$

(☎ 02-4784 2534; www.silksleura.com; 128 Leura Mall; mains lunch \$24-39, dinner \$35-39; ☺ noon-3pm & 6-10pm) A warm welcome awaits at Leura's long-standing fine diner. Despite its contemporary approach, it's a brasserie at heart, so the serves are generous and flavour-some. Save room for the decadent desserts.

**Alexandra Hotel**

PUB

(www.alexandrahotel.com.au; 62 Great Western Hwy) The Alex is a gem of an old pub. Join the locals competing at the pool table or listening to DJs and live bands on the weekend.

 **Katoomba****Sanwiye Korean Cafe**

KOREAN \$

(☎ 0405 402 130; www.facebook.com/sanwiyekoreancafe; 177 Katoomba St; mains \$10-16; ☺ 11am-9.30pm Tue-Sun) In the sea of overpriced mediocrity that is the Katoomba dining scene, this tiny place distinguishes itself with fresh and tasty food made with love by the Korean owners.

**True to the Bean**

CAFE \$

(www.facebook.com/truetothebean; 123 Katoomba St; waffles \$3-6; ☺ 7am-5pm Mon-Sat, 8am-2pm Sun; 📍) The Sydney obsession with single-estate coffee has made its way to Katoomba's main drag in the form of this tiny espresso bar. Food is limited to the likes of bircher muesli and waffles.

**Bistro Niagara**

BISTRO \$\$\$

(☎ 02-4782 9530; www.facebook.com/BistroNiagara; 92 Bathurst Rd; mains \$26; ☺ 5.30pm-9.30pm Wed-Sun, 11am-10.30pm Sat & Sun; 📍 Katoomba) Serving up classics like bubbling double cheese soufflé and banoffee pies this cosy mountain bistro is a hit with locals and travellers who are both given a cheery welcome by the staff. At the heart of the restaurant is the wood-fire oven which might be cooking up a suckling pig or a sticky apple and pear tarte tatin depending on the night. On weekends a casual lunch menu runs all afternoon which is perfect for hungry bushwalkers.

## Blackheath

### Vesta

BISTRO \$\$

(www.vestablackheath.com.au; 33 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath; mains \$30; ☺ 4-10pm Wed & Thu, noon-10pm Fri-Sun) Feeling the sting of a Blue Mountain's cold snap? It's easy to warm up with Vesta's century-old wood-fired bakery oven roaring in the background serving up hearty plates of roasted meats (all free range, grass fed and local) and bottles of Aussie wines to a boisterous crowd of locals.

### Ashcrofts

EUROPEAN \$\$\$

(☎ 02-4787 8297; www.ashcrofts.com; 18 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath; mains \$40; ☺ 6-10pm Thu-Sun, noon-3pm & 6-10pm Sun) This acclaimed restaurant may have new owners but it still retains its excellent reputation as a longtime mountains favourite. The snug dining room is a charming spot to dip into the short, but polished menu which changes seasonally and favours creative pairings such as venison with beetroot, parsnip and dark chocolate.

## Information

**Blue Mountains Heritage Centre** (☎ 02-4787 8877; www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Blue-Mountains-National-Park; end of Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath; ☺ 9am-4.30pm) The extremely helpful, official NPWS visitor centre.

**Echo Point Visitors Centre** (☎ 1300 653 408; www.bluemountainscitytourism.com.au; Echo Point, Katoomba; ☺ 9am-5pm) A sizeable centre with can-do staff.

**Glenbrook Information Centre** (☎ 1300 653 408; www.bluemountainscitytourism.com.au; Great Western Hwy; ☺ 8.30am-4pm; 📶)

## Getting There & Around

To reach the Blue Mountains by road, leave Sydney via Parramatta Rd. At Strathfield detour onto the toll-free M4, which becomes the Great Western Hwy west of Penrith and takes you to all of the Blue Mountains towns. It takes approximately 1½ hours to drive from central Sydney to Katoomba. A scenic alternative is the Bells Line of Road (p140).

**Blue Mountains Bus** (☎ 02-4751 1077; www.bmbc.com.au; fares \$2.40-4.70) Connects the main towns.

**Blue Mountains Explorer Bus** (☎ 1300 300 915; www.explorerbus.com.au; 283 Bathurst Rd, Katoomba; adult/child \$40/20; ☺ 9.45am-5pm) Offers hop-on, hop-off service on a Katoomba-Leura loop. Leaves from Katoomba station every 30 to 60 minutes.

**Sydney Trains** (☎ 13 15 00; www.sydneytrains.info) Trains on the Blue Mountains line depart Sydney's Central Station approximately hourly for Glenbrook, Springwood, Faulconbridge, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba and Blackheath; allow two hours for Katoomba (adult/child \$8.80/4.40).

**Trolley Tours** (☎ 1800 801 577; www.trolleytours.com.au; 76 Bathurst St, Katoomba; adult/child \$25/15; ☺ 9.45am-4.45pm) Runs a hop-on, hop-off bus barely disguised as a trolley, looping around 29 stops in Katoomba and Leura.





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