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SYDNEY





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CLASSIC SYDNEY HIGHLIGHTS

ABOUT SYDNEY

For the vast majority of visitors, Sydney is the gateway to Australia.

The most famous and recognized of Australia's cities - with its iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House - it is an incredibly popular destination, though unlike in many other nations, is not the country's capital.

Boasting over 100 beaches and the largest natural harbor in the world, there is much to see, and the oldest and largest of Australia's cities is culturally, historically and commercially fascinating.

From the bustling George Street in the city center, you can board a bus and be on the golden sands of Bondi Beach within 20 minutes, while the ferries of Circular Quay in the shadow of the Harbour Bridge can whisk you away to the quieter suburbs of the Northern Beaches at any time of day or night.

Within two hours, you can escape the metropolis and find yourself in the untouched wilderness of the Blue Mountains, and Sydney's domestic airport connects to all major destinations nationwide.

When exploring Australia, it pays to spend at least a few days in this wonderful, vibrant and entertaining city.

QUICK FACTS:

- Sydney has a thriving film production industry & you may recognize some locations from movies such as The Matrix, The Great Gatsby & Independence Day
- It is more than double the size of New York, covering 610 square miles (1,580km²)
- It is home to Australia's oldest house - Cadman's Cottage - built in 1816
- Sydney Opera House is home to the third busiest opera company in the world, but hosts a wide range of musical & stage performances
- Sydney has been home to many celebrities, including Crocodile Dundee himself, Paul Hogan, who began his working life as a rigger on the Harbour Bridge
- Sydney ranks in the top ten most livable cities in the world, & you will soon see why

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CLASSIC HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

THE ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Home to artwork by some of Australia’s most renowned artists and international exhibitions, the Art Gallery of NSW, founded in 1874, also houses a fascinating collection of historical and contemporary indigenous artworks. Sharing a broad spectrum of art, the gallery also showcases works from and inspired by the early colonial days of Australia, giving you a wonderful insight into the lives of the first settlers and First Nations. Guided tours uncover a wealth of additional information and workshops allow you to indulge your creative bent.

THE ROCKS, SYDNEY HARBOUR

The Rocks is one of Sydney’s most preserved historical quarters, featuring the country’s oldest home and a superb array of early architecture dating back over two centuries. A collection of cafés and restaurants cater to all levels of dining experience, and walking excursions provide insight into the key landmarks and history of the location, which nestles beneath the southern foothold of the Harbour Bridge. The Rocks also hosts an artisan market every Saturday.

HYDE PARK BARRACKS

Hyde Park Barracks is a stark reminder that Sydney, and indeed Australia itself, was founded as a penal colony. An expertly-curated tour uncovers the darker side of Sydney’s history, displaying over 4,000 historical artefacts and the impact colonization had upon Australia’s First Nations people.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The gallery hosts international traveling exhibitions as well as award-winning Australian works
- It is one of the best collections of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artworks in the world
- The Rocks is a short stroll from Sydney’s main harbor & home to the Museum of Contemporary Art
- On arrival in 1788, it was here that many of the convicts established themselves
- The Barracks is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site & a window to Australia’s controversial past



CLASSIC CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Arguably one of the most recognized contemporary buildings in the world, the Sydney Opera House is an essential destination on any city tour. A disparate array of guests have walked the boards of the opera house, including Prince, Sting, Bob Dylan, numerous international comedians and even theoretical physicist, Stephen Hawking. However, it is more often recognized as the home of the world-renowned Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Architecturally, it is as fascinating as it is unique, and though this is evident from the outside, it cannot be truly appreciated without a private behind-the-scenes tour. Whether visiting for a show or to marvel at this UNESCO World Heritage-listed masterpiece, the Sydney Opera House is unmissable.

QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING

In the heart of Sydney's shimmering skyscrapers, the Queen Victoria Building (QVB) remains as a bastion of the city's history and classic colonial architecture. For over 130 years it has stood, welcoming shoppers to its almost 200 prestigious stores and eateries across five floors. Calvin Klein, Longchamp, Jimmy Choo, Ralph Lauren and many more premium brands share the exquisite Victorian-era interior of this wonderful building with boutique stores, small art galleries and numerous delectable restaurants and cafés.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Construction was estimated at AU\$7 million - it finally cost AU\$102 million to build
- Likewise, the four-year project ran a whole decade over schedule
- Displaying its diversity, Arnold Schwarzenegger won his final Mr. Olympia here in 1980
- The architect of the QVB was just 28 years old; it opened in 1898
- It covers an entire city block & its elaborate design was planned to employ as many craftsmen as possible during the city's recession
- The QVB has been restored numerous times to retain its original features & charm



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CLASSIC CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Sydney is a wonderfully natural city, surrounded on two sides by water and with numerous large parks within its borders. 300 feet (100m) from the steps of the Opera House lies the city's Royal Botanic Garden, a tranquil escape from Sydney's central business district. Here you will find a living encyclopedia of Australian flora and a wealth of wildlife, including several bat and possum species, black cockatoos, pelicans, sea eagles and Australia's most iconic bird, the kookaburra. The park hosts diverse regions, theatrical events and indigenous 'bush tucker' tours, on which you can sample much of the country's edible plantlife.

BONDI COASTAL WALK

Bondi Beach is world-renowned as the epitome of the Aussie beach lifestyle. Surfers traverse the waves, tanned bathers throng the beaches and lifeguards patrol in their distinctive yellow and red attire. But step away from the alluring sand to the coastal path and you will be enchanted. Skirting the coastline southwards from Bondi to Coogee (pronounced 'Cood-jee'), the trail winds its way along clifftops and bays for four miles (6 km) to some of Sydney's smaller though most charming beaches. Tamarama and Bronte beaches are some of the city's wealthiest suburbs, and it's easy to see why. Between March and October, you may be lucky enough to spot whales from the coastal path, and dolphins frequently frolic in the waves. Cafés can be found the length of the trail, so you're never far from refreshments or a relaxing pit stop.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore various themed gardens filled with endemic flora & fauna
- Enjoy a play, musical performance or guided tour
- Established in 1816, it is Australia's oldest scientific institution
- Step out of the city on a breathtaking coastal walk
- Spot whales & dolphins in the water, and sea eagles & Brahminy kites in the skies
- Take a refreshing dip in the clear, blue ocean
- Enjoy a coffee or lunch at one of the many cafés along the way

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CLASSIC CITY & SURROUNDS — HIGHLIGHTS —

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EXPLORING SYDNEY

From beach to bush, there is so much to explore in and around Sydney. The central city itself has innumerable sights to keep visitors entertained for days, while the eastern coastline and spectacular Northern Beaches provide tranquil respite from the metropolis.

We can handcraft the perfect Sydney itinerary for you, specifically tailored to your personal preferences. Key areas of interest include:

POTTS POINT

This chic harborside neighborhood is a melting pot of boutique shopping, colonial architecture & world-class fine dining. Nearby you will find the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, host of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

THE HARBOR

There's no better way to view Sydney than by taking to the water. The Sydney to Manly ferries regularly traverse the waterway, filled with tourists & commuters, but a private yachting day is our favorite choice.

AVALON & PALM BEACH

Some of Sydney's most northerly suburbs, neighboring Avalon & Palm Beach are idyllic beachside communities filled with celebrities, surfers & spectacular scenery.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

A dramatic protected wilderness, the Blue Mountains lie just 90 minutes' drive from Sydney, though helicopter tours & transfers can also be arranged. Breathtaking escarpments & rural country towns add to the appeal of this spectacular region.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore Sydney's retail hubs of Pitt & George Streets
- Visit Darling Harbour, filled with museums, galleries, cafés & culture
- Unwind on one of Sydney's exquisite 100+ beaches
- Commute from central Sydney to the lively bayside town of Manly
- Take a picnic to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park & discover boardwalks, historical lighthouses & breathtaking scenery
- Enjoy rural communities & artisan produce in the Blue Mountains
- For an adrenalin rush, scale 'the coathanger', better known as Sydney Harbour Bridge

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CLASSIC CITY & SURROUNDS — HIGHLIGHTS —

TARONGA ZOO

Home to a global array of wildlife and much Australiana, Taronga Zoo is a touch of safari with stunning views of the city. Open to the public, it is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon, but even better experienced on a private tour. The Wild Australia private tour pairs guests with an expert zoo keeper for a two-hour excursion, including behind-the-scenes access and a koala encounter. The keeper will also inform visitors about the exceptional conservation work being undertaken at the zoo, including veterinary care and breeding programs. The Aussie Backyard Adventure is a one-and-a-half walking tour focusing on Australia's native wildlife, incorporating access to native species and spectacular photo opportunities. Though zoos aren't a preferred activity for Rothschild Safaris, the impressive conservation it undertakes globally makes Taronga a worthy destination.

BONDI BEACH SURF LESSONS

Surfing and Australia go hand in hand and that is never more evident than on the golden sands of the iconic Bondi Beach. Learning to surf is no easy task, but with foam beginner's boards and expert coaching, even the least coordinated participant is almost guaranteed to stand and ride the foam to the beach. This is a particularly fun outing for visiting families.

SYDNEY BICYCLE TOUR

Whether renting a bicycle and exploring the abundant network of Sydney's cycle trails independently or participating in a guided bike tour, seeing the city under pedal power allows one to take the time to absorb many of the city's sights, with stops for refreshments along the way. A romantic sunset tour takes cyclists on the Manly ferry to the northern shores, arriving at North Head cliff to view the city on the last light of day.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Venture to the Northern Beaches & some of Sydney's premier suburbs
- Enjoy freshly-shucked local oysters on Circular Quay
- Visit Darling Harbour & attend the numerous galleries surrounding it & the fascinating Sydney Aquarium
- Commute from central Sydney to the lively bayside town of Manly
- See over 35,000 works of art at the Gallery of New South Wales
- See Sydney & the surrounding coastline from the air on a helicopter flight
- Ascend Sydney Tower to the Skywalk for a breathtaking view

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CLASSIC SAILING EXCURSIONS



SYDNEY PRINCESS CRUISES

Sydney takes on a whole new perspective when viewed from the water, and a lunch cruise is the perfect way to combine this with a gourmet meal. The majestic Sydney Princess offers the options of a barbecue lunch discovery cruise or an extended gourmet lunch excursion, passengers enjoying the scenic cityscape and coastline while dining on locally-harvested and inspired dishes. The two-hour barbecue cruise drifts through the harbor and past the iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House, while the 'Long Lunch' cruise reaches further afield, alighting at several of Sydney's finest restaurants to enjoy a selection of courses along the way.

PRIVATE SAILING CRUISE

For those wishing to set sail in the more traditional sense and a more intimate experience, a catamaran excursion is also available for smaller parties. With canapes and a simple barbecue menu available upon request, the sailing boat transports guests through the city harbor and onward to some of Sydney's more secluded coves and beaches. The knowledgeable skipper will eagerly inform his passengers about the history of Sydney's world-renowned harbor and landmarks, and the stories of early settlers and Captain Cook's first ventures on the Australian mainland.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- See Sydney from a completely new perspective
- Dine at several of Australia's leading restaurants
- Sample a wide array of regional produce & wines
- Learn about the early colonial history of the harbor & city
- Enjoy a completely personal tour of the dramatic coastline
- Cool off with a refreshing plunge
- Converse with your captain over a classically Australian lunch



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SYDNEY CRAFT & FOOD — MARKETS —

Australia is a country of backyard innovation, creativity and craftsmanship. Markets abound with unique creations, from furniture to jewelry, clothing to cuisine.

Sydney in particular is a melting pot of cultures, with over 30% of the population being born overseas, and rarely is this more pervasively evident than it the city's numerous markets.

Global influences combine in food and wares, with European, Middle-Eastern and Asian nuances combining with a style that is quintessentially and inimitably Australian.

Many of the markets offer plentiful choice in food and nearby attractions, making them an excellent addition to a day's itinerary.

ROCKS MARKET - The Rocks, Harbor Waterfront

While exploring the fascinating Rocks, it is worth timing your visit to coincide with the Saturday markets. Filled with arts and crafts, you will find a wealth of creativity, intriguing artworks and handcrafted apparel.

GLEBE MARKET - West Central Sydney

Set in verdant parklands, Glebe market is a touch more bohemian than the more tourist-oriented Rocks market, but this much-loved, highly-popular fair is a wonderful way to spend a Saturday, seeing locally-handcrafted wares and sampling plenty of delicious culinary offerings.

PADDY'S MARKET - Haymarket

The long-established Paddy's Market is a melting pot of products, cultures and cuisine. A little on the commercial side, it is still worth wandering into this vast historical building and perusing the many stalls. Open 10am-6pm, Wed-Sun.

BONDI MARKET - Bondi Beach

One of the beauties of this weekly Sunday market is that it is in Bondi. It combines perfectly with a gourmet breakfast overlooking the iconic beach to begin your day and a coastal stroll once you have shopped your fill. Local artisans display a huge variety of products, with food stalls providing tasty treats to keep you nourished as you explore the aisles of stalls.

CHINATOWN NIGHT MARKET - Haymarket

Every Friday night, Asia comes to Australia, with aromas of the East filling the air. Sydney's thriving Asian communities bring the authentic flavours of home to this bustling night market.

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