

BLUELIST¹ (blu,list) v.
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NEIGHBOURHOODS

top picks

- **Sydney Opera House** (p57)
Sydney's emblem and an architectural triumph.
- **Royal Botanic Gardens** (p57)
A magnificent harbourside park with picture-postcard views.
- **Sydney Harbour Bridge** (p52)
It's 75 years on and Sydney still loves the old coat hanger.
- **Bondi Beach** (p93)
Australia's most famous beach lives up to its reputation.
- **Taronga Zoo** (p106)
Captivity seems a small price to pay for digs this good.
- **Art Gallery of NSW** (p66)
A rich introduction to Australia's artistic heritage.
- **Powerhouse Museum** (p74)
A fascinating museum with plenty of buttons to push.
- **Sydney Aquarium** (p71)
The thrills of Australia's marine life, spectacularly displayed.
- **Queen Victoria Building** (p68)
Enchanting Victorian grandeur.
- **South Head** (p116)
Beaches, harbour views and ocean-battered ramparts.

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Modern Sydney is a large, sprawling metropolis covering 1800 sq km bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the east, the wall of the Blue Mountains to the west and two large waterways to the north and south – the Hawkesbury River/Broken Bay and Botany Bay. Cutting through its centre is the great jagged tentacle of Port Jackson, better known by its sexier name Sydney Harbour.

It's hard to believe that only 220 years ago the Sydney penal colony was a ramshackle collection of tents around Sydney Cove (present-day Circular Quay). This remains the heart of the city, although geographical and demographical pedants are quick to point out that Parramatta is a more accurate contender.

The class divide of the First Fleet saw the convicts and marines pitch their tents to the west of Sydney Cove and the officers and gentlemen to the east. This socioeconomic pattern is echoed in the layout of the city today; the west is a vast expanse of working to middle-class suburbia, while Sydney's richest inhabitants clamour for a harbour view in the leafy Eastern Suburbs.

Sydney was not a planned city. The first streets were essentially Aboriginal paths and bullock trails, and its layout is complicated by hills and the numerous inlets of the harbour. The harbour divides the city into northern and southern halves, connected by the prominent Sydney Harbour Bridge and the not-so-prominent Harbour Tunnel. The south side holds most places of interest to visitors.

Dozens of suburbs, some with more spice and charm than others, unite to form the multifaceted personality of the city. We've broken down the most interesting into nine neighbourhoods.

Central Sydney is split into The Rocks and Circular Quay (effectively the Sydney of the First Fleet), the City Centre and the entertainment precinct of Darling Harbour and Chinatown. Most of the city's traditional tourist attractions are here, including a wealth of museums, parks and historic buildings.

Unsurprisingly, the ring of densely populated inner-city residential suburbs is the liveliest and the best place to take the pulse of the city. The first belt of suburbs to the east, from Darlinghurst to Potts Point (including Kings Cross), is where Sydney comes to indulge itself. The next set, from Paddington to Double Bay, is rather more genteel – focusing on fashion and the finer things in life. Heading south from Surry Hills to Alexandria is a groovier, grittier prospect with a distinct gourmet streak.

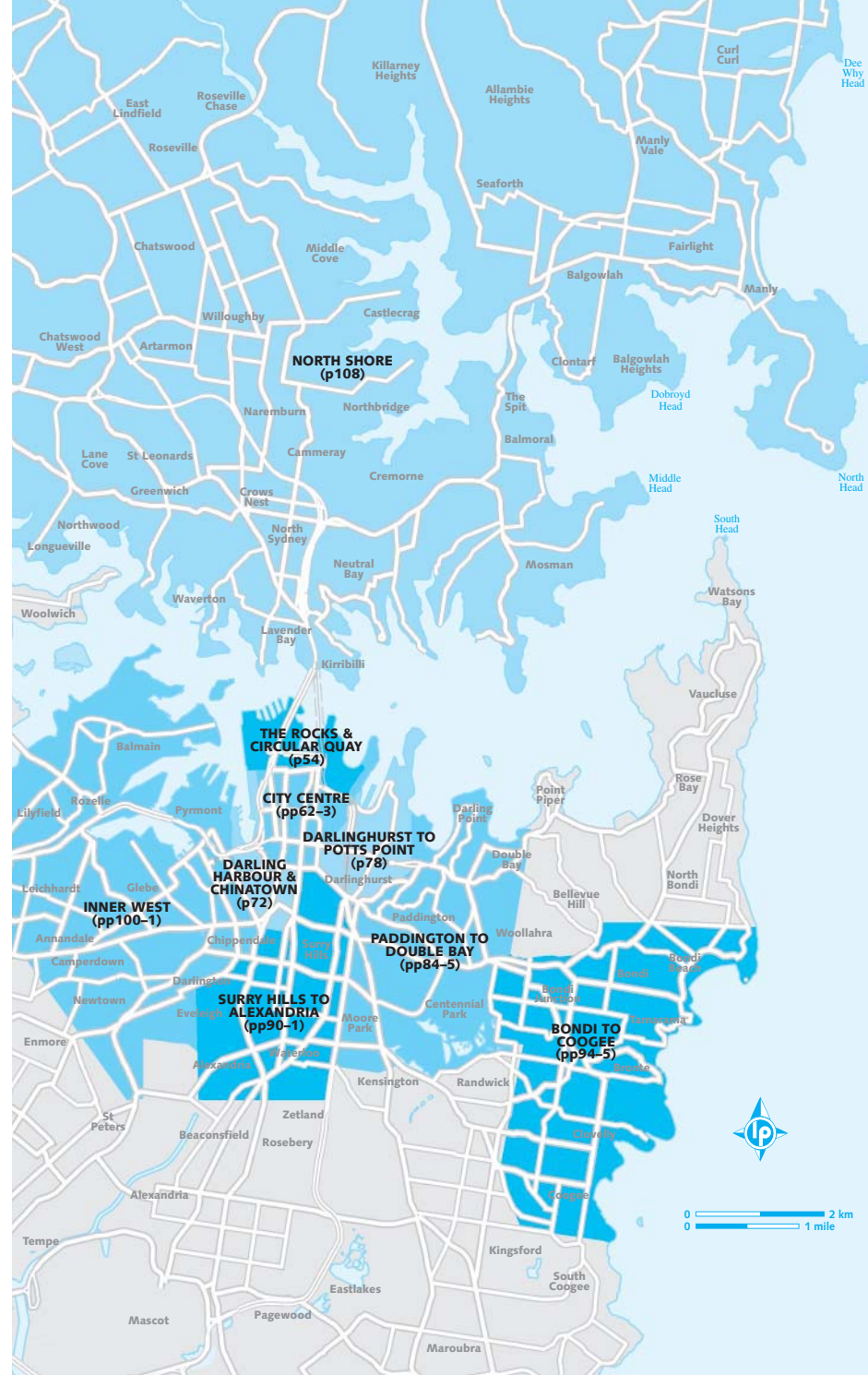
The inner city casts off its suit and relaxes at the Eastern Beaches, from Bondi to Coogee. The Inner West never wore a suit in the first place, outdoing the Eastern Suburbs with reserves of cool and plenty of chutzpah. The student-saturated neighbourhoods of Newtown and Glebe offer an invigorating alternative to Sydney's stereotypical glitziness.

Across the harbour the mostly staid North Shore is a world apart. Of most interest to travellers are the upmarket neighbourhoods of the Lower North Shore and the laid-back beach resort of Manly. A sparkling band of golden-sand bays is collectively known as the Northern Beaches. These stretch to Broken Bay and the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park on Sydney's northern fringe.

Of course there are sights dotted around other parts of Sydney as well. You'll find a wealth of colonial history out west in Parramatta and some noteworthy parks, beaches and historic buildings in the wealthy harbourside suburbs heading east from Rose Bay to Watsons Bay. The city's suburbs now stretch south to incorporate Botany Bay, Captain Cook's landing point and the British government's planned location for Sydney. Cronulla, to the south, is one of Sydney's finest beaches. You'll find the highlights covered in the catch-all Other Neighbourhoods section of this chapter (p116).

Not one for modesty, most of Sydney's sights are openly exposed to anyone content to wander her streets, parks and beaches.

'Dozens of suburbs, some with more spice and charm than others, unite to form the multifaceted personality of the city.'



ITINERARY BUILDER

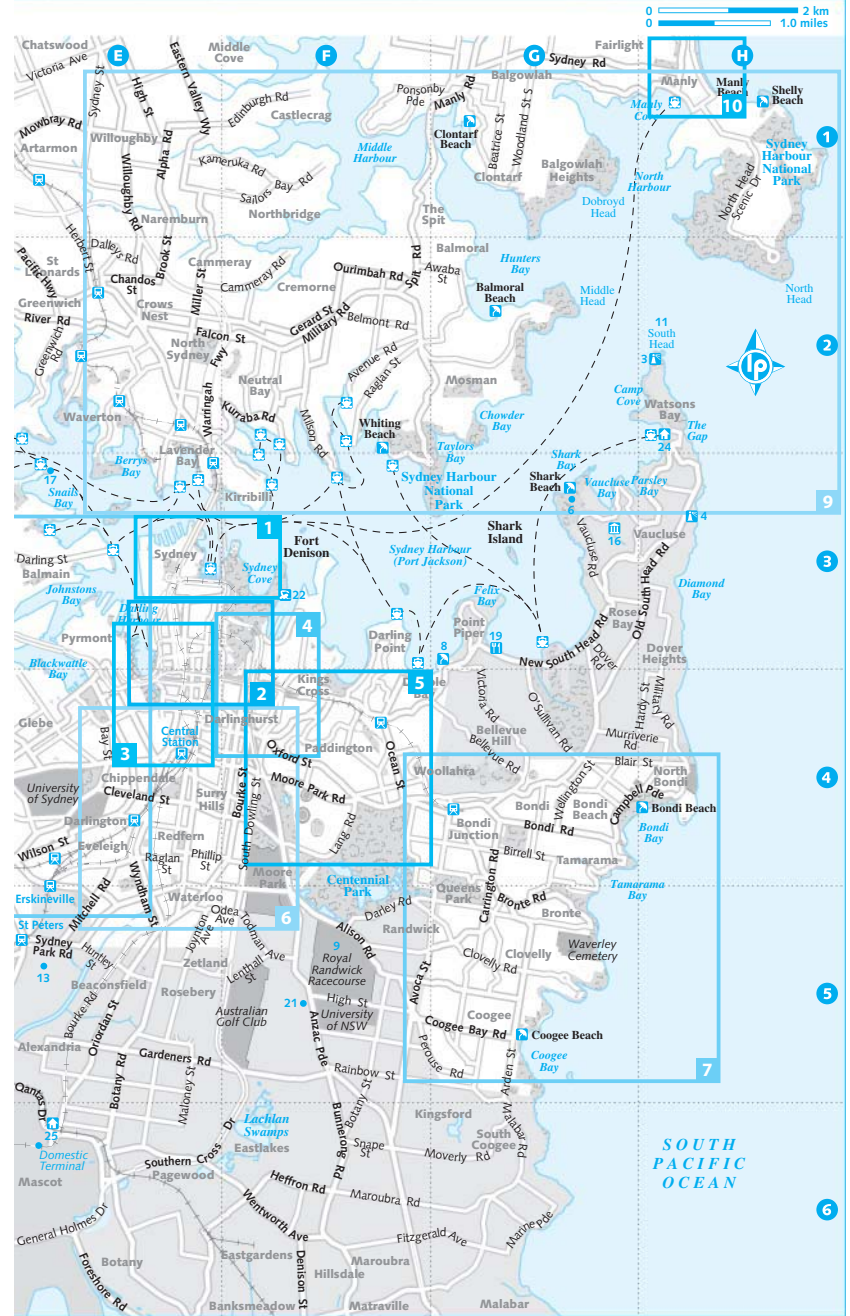
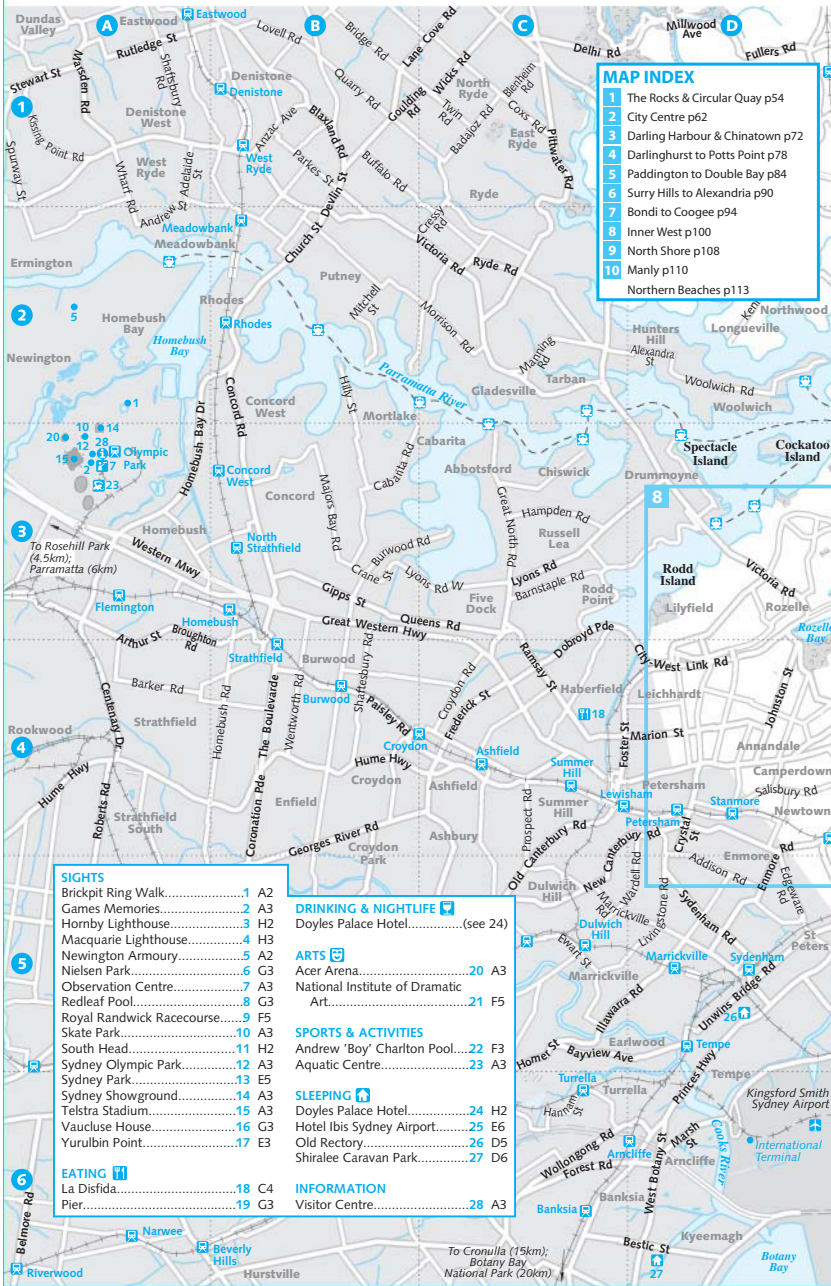
Sydney's not a hard city to explore, but to really get under its skin you'll want to look beyond the obvious. Some suburbs are famous for a particular thing – such as eating in Surry Hills, shopping in Paddington or partying in Kings Cross – but this tool should help you find a range of treats in all of the featured neighbourhoods.

HOW TO USE THIS TABLE

The table below allows you to plan a day's worth of activities in any area of the city. Simply select which area you wish to explore, and then mix and match from the corresponding listings to build your day. The first item in each cell represents a well-known highlight of the area while the other items are more off-the-beaten track gems.

AREA	ACTIVITIES	Sightseeing	Museums & Galleries	Outdoors	Shopping	Eating	Drinking & Nightlife
AREA	The Rocks & Circular Quay	Sydney Opera House (p57) Sydney Observatory (p53) Customs House (p58)	Museum of Contemporary Art (p53) The Rocks Discovery Museum (p56) Susannah Place Museum (p55)	Royal Botanic Gardens (p57) Oz Jet Boating (p225) Walsh Bay Walk (p56)	Australian Wine Centre (p123) The Rocks Market (p124) Puppet Shop at The Rocks (p123)	Guillaume at Bennelong (p140) Café Sydney (p140) The Gumnut Teagarden (p140)	Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel (p155) Hero of Waterloo (p156) Blu Horizon Bar (p155)
	City Centre	St Mary's Cathedral (p67) St James' Church (p67) Martin Place (p65 & p65)	Art Gallery of NSW (p66) Hyde Park Barracks Museum (p67) Museum of Sydney (p66)	Hyde Park (p66) The Domain (p66) Andrew 'Boy' Charlton Pool (p175)	Queen Victoria Building (p125) David Jones (p124) Strand Arcade (p125)	Tetsuya's (p141) Casa Asturiana (p141) Bar Quattro (p141)	Marble Bar (p158) Orbit (p156) Arthouse Hotel (p157)
	Darling Harbour & Chinatown	Sydney Aquarium (p71) Sydney Wildlife World (p73) Dixon St (p75)	Australian National Maritime Museum (p71) Powerhouse Museum (p74) Australia's Outback Gallery (p125)	Chinese Garden of Friendship (p74) Sydney By Sail (p178) Tumbalong Park (p73)	Paddy's Markets (p124) Market City (p126) Gavala Aboriginal Art Centre (p125)	Zaaffran (p141) Marigold Restaurant (p142) Xic Lo (p142)	Home (p158) The Loft (p158) Cargo Bar (p158)
	Darlinghurst to Potts Point	Elizabeth Bay House (p80) St John's Church (p80) Finger Wharf (p80)	Sydney Jewish Museum (p77) Australian Museum (p77) National Art School Gallery (p77)	Fitzroy Gardens (p80) Green Park (p79) Embarkation Park (p82)	Central Station (p127) The Bookshop Darlinghurst (p183) House of Priscilla (p126)	Fratelli Paradiso (p143) Don Don (p142) La Buvette (p143)	Gazebo Wine Garden (p160) Green Park Hotel (p159) Beauchamp Hotel (p159)
	Eastern Suburbs	Bondi Beach (p93) South Head (p116) Bronte Beach (p96)	Vaucluse House (p116) Australian Centre for Photography (p85) Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (p86)	Centennial Park (p83) Coogee Ocean Pools (p96) Nielsen Park (p116)	Westfield Bondi Junction (p132) Paddington Markets (p86) Queen St, Woollahra (p87)	Bistro Moncur (p144) Jed's Foodstore (p148) Caffe Salina (p148)	Doyles Palace Hotel (p166) Light Brigade Hotel (p161) Fringe Bar (p161)
	Inner West & South Sydney	Sydney Fish Market (p103) University of Sydney (p99) Anzac Bridge (p103)	Nicholson Museum (p102) 2 Danks St (p91) Object Gallery (p89)	Camperdown Cemetery (p99) Victoria Park (p102) Sydney Park (p99)	Better Read Than Dead (p132) Glebe Markets (p124) Wheels & Doll Baby (p130)	Spice I Am (p145) Bistrode (p145) Chu Bay (p145)	Bank Hotel (p164) The Dolphin (p162) A.B. Hotel (p165)
	North Shore	Taronga Zoo (p106) Luna Park (p107) Sydney Harbour Bridge (p52)	Manly Quarantine Station (p111) Mary MacKillop Place (p107) Nutcote (p107)	Sydney Harbour National Park (p106) Manly Scenic Walkway (p110) Northern Beaches (p112)	Kirribilli Markets (p124) The Corso, Manly (p106) Pure Wholefoods (p151)	Bathers' Pavilion (p150) Ripples (p150) Bottom Of The Harbour (p151)	Greenwood Hotel (p166) Manly Wharf Hotel (p166) Steyne Hotel (p166)

GREATER SYDNEY



THE ROCKS & CIRCULAR QUAY

Drinking & Nightlife [p155](#); Eating [p139](#); Shopping [p123](#); Sleeping [p188](#)

When the First Fleet sailed into the harbour in 1788, this is where they pitched their tents, making it the birthplace of modern Australia. Governor Phillip christened this bay Sydney Cove, after the British home secretary who planned the convict colony. The convicts were allocated the rocky spur of land to the west (The Rocks), while the governor and other officials claimed the east.

At some stage you'll end up here – you haven't really been to Sydney if you don't. Sure it's touristy and overpriced, but it remains the vibrant heart of the city, brimming with things to do and see, along with some of the swankiest hotels and restaurants.

Today The Rocks is unrecognisable as the squalid and overcrowded place it was soon after settlement, when the area was packed with convicts, ex-convicts, whalers and sailors – and brothels and inns to entertain them. In the 1820s the nouveau riche started building houses on the upper slopes, their sewage flowing to the slums below. Unsurprisingly, bubonic plague broke out in 1900, leading to the razing of whole streets. The construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge ([below](#)) two decades later resulted in further demolition. Redevelopment in the 1970s turned what remained into a charming but sanitised precinct of narrow cobbled streets and fine colonial buildings.

Circular Quay's promenade serves as a backdrop for buskers and the departure point for harbour ferries. Built with convict labour between 1837 and 1844, it was originally (and more accurately) called Semi Circular Quay and was the main port of Sydney. In the 1850s it was extended further, covering the Tank Stream, which ran through the middle. Its two points are now crowned by the weight of Sydney's iconography – the Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House ([p57](#)). Heading east the Royal Botanic Gardens ([p57](#)) begin the city's green fringe.

The star attraction is undoubtedly Sydney Harbour itself – stretching from the heads 20km until it morphs into the Parramatta River. It has shaped the local psyche for millennia, and today it's both a working port and the city's sparkling playground. Its waters, beaches, islands and shorefront parks offer all the swimming, sailing, picnicking, walking and real estate fantasies you could wish for. The most scenic section is from the city to the heads. If the budget doesn't stretch to a private yacht you'll still see plenty of this egalitarian mistress from the harbour ferries.

The sun doesn't always shine and wet-weather days are a good excuse to delve deeper into Sydney's sophisticated side – there are historic sites to explore, galleries and museums to peruse, and native critters to meet.

THE ROCKS

SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE [Map p54](#)

📍 **Milsons Point or Circular Quay**

Sydney's second-most-famous icon, this massive steel bridge is visible from a surprising number of spots around the city. Nicknamed 'the coat hanger', it crosses the harbour at one of its narrowest points, linking the southern and northern shores. It's the largest and heaviest (but not longest) steel arch in the world. Sydneysiders hold it dear to their hearts – partly because of

top picks

THE ROCKS & CIRCULAR QUAY

- [Sydney Opera House](#) ([p57](#))
- [Royal Botanic Gardens](#) ([p57](#))
- [Sydney Observatory](#) ([opposite](#))
- [Sydney Harbour Bridge](#) ([left](#))
- [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) ([opposite](#))

its sheer size, simplicity and symmetry, and partly because of its function in uniting the city. It's always the centrepiece of Sydney's frequent and spectacular harbour fireworks, and its 75th birthday in 2007 saw 250,000 people join the celebrations by walking across it.

The two halves of the mighty arch were built out simultaneously from each shore. After nine years of work, when the ends of the arches were only centimetres apart and ready to be bolted together, gale force winds of over 100km/h (62mph) set

them swaying. But the bridge survived and the arch was soon completed. It cost \$20 million, a bargain in today's money, and took until 1988 to pay off. Giving it a new coat of paint takes four years and 80,000 litres.

You can climb almost 200 stairs to the top of the southeastern **Pylon Lookout** (📞 9240 1100; [www.pylonlookout.com.au](#); enter Bridge Stairs, Cumberland St, The Rocks; adult/under 13/under 8 \$9/3.50/free; 🕒 10am-5pm); it has awesome views and a good museum with exhibits explaining how the bridge was built. The pylons may look as though they're shouldering the weight but they're largely decorative – right down to their granite facing.

Cars, trains, cyclists, joggers and pedestrians all use the bridge. The cycleway is on the western side, the pedestrian footpath on the eastern. The best way to experience the bridge is on foot; you don't get much of a view when crossing by car. Driving south there's a \$3 toll.

The adventurous and vertigo-free can climb to the apex of the bridge itself on the hugely popular **BridgeClimb** ([p226](#)).

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

[Map p54](#)

📞 9245 2467; [www.mca.com.au](#); 140 George St, The Rocks; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm;

📍 **Circular Quay**

A slice of Gotham City on West Circular Quay, the stately Art Deco MCA has a fine collection of modern art (sculpture, painting, installation and moving image) from Australia and around the world and temporary exhibitions (prices vary) from the art world's superheroes. You'll often find Aboriginal art featured prominently. It's

also home to the excellent MCA Store and a classy café.

SYDNEY OBSERVATORY

[Map p54](#)

📞 9921 3485; [www.sydneyobservatory.com.au](#); Watson Rd, Observatory Hill; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm; 📍 **Circular Quay**

The historically and architecturally interesting Sydney Observatory (1858) occupies a commanding position atop beautiful **Observatory Hill**, overlooking Millers Point and the harbour. Surrounded by huge Moreton Bay figs, this is the most peaceful park in the inner city. It was the site of the colony's first windmill (1796), which was used to grind wheat until its canvas sails were stolen and the structure eventually collapsed.

The observatory-cum-museum features an interesting exhibition about astronomy in Australia, covering Aboriginal sky stories and the technology and science of astronomy. There are interactive displays and videos, and a great variety of vintage apparatus, ranging from chronometers to telescopes large and small.

During the day, the only way to visit the copper dome and its big telescope is with a ticket to the virtual reality **3-D Space Theatre** (adult/child \$7/5; 🕒 2.30pm & 3.30pm daily, extra screenings 11am & noon Sat & Sun). **Night viewings** (adult/child \$15/10, bookings essential) include the exhibition, stargazing through the telescopes and a 3-D screening.

GARRISON CHURCH

[Map p54](#)

📞 9247 1268; [www.thegarrisonchurch.org.au](#); 62 Lower Fort St, Millers Point; admission free;

🕒 9am-5pm; 📍 **Circular Quay**

Also known as Holy Trinity (1843), this lovely sandstone Anglican church at the west end of the Argyle Cut was the colony's

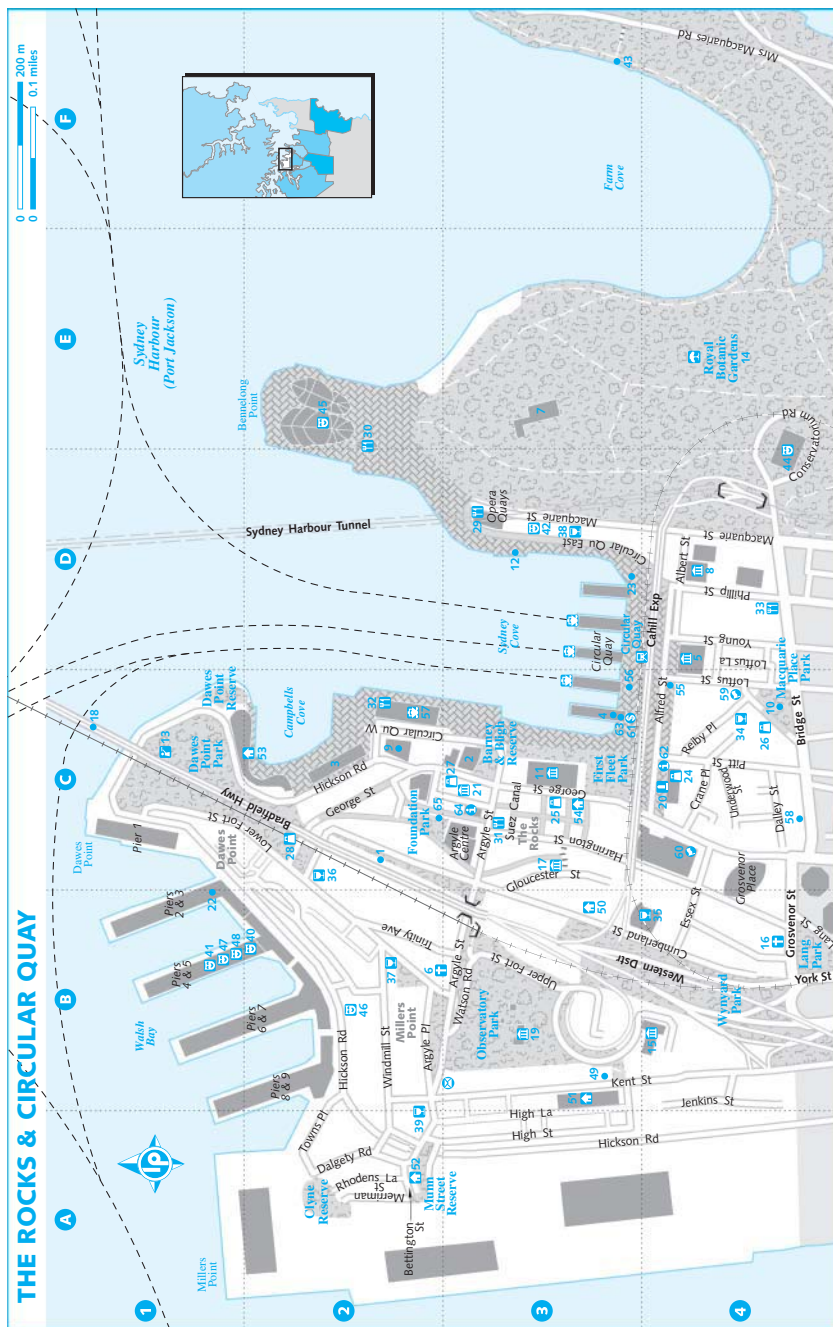
TRANSPORT: THE ROCKS & CIRCULAR QUAY

Train The best option to avoid city traffic. Circular Quay is one of the City Circle stations.

Ferry Circular Quay is the main ferry hub. Useful destinations include Manly, Taronga Zoo, Double Bay, Rose Bay, Watsons Bay, Mosman, Cremorne, Kirribilli, Balmain, Darling Harbour, Sydney Olympic Park and Parramatta.

Bus Circular Quay is the major terminus for routes including: 301-303 to Surry Hills and Waterloo; 309-10 to Redfern and Alexandria; 311 to Railway Square via Woolloomooloo, Potts Point, Kings Cross and Darlinghurst; 324-5 to Watsons Bay via Kings Cross and Double Bay; 373 to Coogee; 380 to Watsons Bay via Bondi; 389 to North Bondi via Woollahra; 422-3 and 426-8 to Newtown; 435-8 and 440 to Leichhardt. Other routes commence from the corner of Argyle and Lower Fort Sts in The Rocks including: 339 to Clovelly; 431 to Glebe Point; and 432-4 to Balmain via Glebe.

Parking Try Wilsons Parking, Sydney Opera House (enter from Macquarie St; one hour \$9).



THE ROCKS & CIRCULAR QUAY

SIGHTS	(pp52–9)	Puppet Shop at The Rocks.....27	C3	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	
BridgeClimb.....	1	The Rocks Market.....	28	C2	Miller's Point Tennis Court.....
Cadman's Cottage.....	2				49
Campbell's Storehouses.....	3				B3
Captain Cook Cruises.....	4				
Customs House.....	5	EATING 🍴	(pp139–40)	SLEEPING 🛏	(pp188–9)
Garrison Church.....	6	Aria.....	29	D3	Bed & Breakfast Sydney
Government House.....	7	Café Sydney.....	(see 5)		Harbour.....
Justice & Police Museum.....	8	Guillaume at Bennelong.....	30	E2	Lord Nelson Brewery
Ken Done Gallery.....	9	Gumnut Teagarden.....	31	C3	Hotel.....
Macquarie Place.....	10	Harbour View Hotel.....	(see 36)		(see 39)
Minus 5.....	(see 38)	Quay.....	32	C2	Observatory Hotel.....
Museum of Contemporary Art.....	11	Tramezzini Espresso.....	33	D4	Palisade Hotel.....
Overseas Passenger Terminal.....	(see 57)				Park Hyatt.....
Oz Jet Boating.....	12	DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE 🍷			Russell.....
Pylon Lookout.....	13	(pp155–6)			
Royal Botanic Gardens.....	14	Basement.....	34	C4	TRANSPORT
SH Ervin Gallery.....	15	Blu Horizon Bar.....	35	B4	Bus TransitShop (Circular
St Patrick's Church.....	16	Harbour View Hotel.....	36	C2	Quay).....
Susannah Place Museum.....	17	Hero of Waterloo.....	37	B2	Ferry Information Office.....
Sydney Conservatorium of		Lenin.....	38	D3	Overseas Passenger Terminal.....
Music.....	(see 44)	Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel.....	39	A2	Qantas.....
Sydney Harbour Bridge.....	18				58
Sydney Observatory.....	19	ARTS 🎨			
Sydney Opera House.....	(see 45)	Australian Theatre for Young People			
Tank Stream Fountain.....	20	(ATYP).....	40	B2	Canadian Consulate
The Rocks Discovery Museum.....	21	Bangarra Dance Theatre.....	41	B1	General.....
Walsh Bay Walk.....	22	Dendy Opera Quays.....	42	D3	Circular Quay Exchange
Writers Walk.....	23	OpenAir Cinema.....	43	F3	Bureau.....
		Sydney Conservatorium of			City Host Information Kiosk
		Music.....	44	D4	(Circular Quay).....
		Sydney Dance Company.....	(see 47)		CountryLink Travel Centre.....
		Sydney Opera House.....	45	E2	Sydney Harbour National Park
		Sydney Theatre.....	46	B2	Information Centre.....
		Sydney Theatre Company.....	47	B1	Sydney Visitor Centre (The
		Wharf Theatre.....	48	B1	Rocks).....
					The Rocks Walking Tours.....
					65
SHOPPING 🛍	(p123)				
Australian Wine Centre.....	24				
Done Art & Design.....	25				
Herringbone.....	26				

first military church. It's a charming place, lined with regimental flags, and it's also wheelchair accessible. The first prime minister of Australia, Edmund Barton, received his primary school education in the school house, which is now the parish hall; the sandstone walls are nearly 80cm thick.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH Map p54

📍 9247 3525; www.stpatrickchurchhill.org;
20 Grosvenor St, The Rocks; admission free;
🕒 9am–5pm; 🚶 Wynyard

This sumptuous sandstone church (1844) was built on land donated by William Davis, an Irishman transported for his role in the uprisings of 1798. His home (on the site of the chapel-turned-café) may have been the first Catholic chapel in Australia; it was used for clandestine devotions and secretly housed a consecrated host left when the colony's only priest was deported in 1818. An elaborate brass altar, spectacular stained glass windows and colourful statues (look for St Patrick, St Joan of Arc and St Michael complete with dragon) stand in colourful contrast to the Protestant churches of the same period.

SUSANNAH PLACE MUSEUM Map p54

📍 9241 1893; www.hht.net.au/museums/sp/;
58–64 Gloucester St, The Rocks; adult/child/family
\$8/4/17; 🕒 10am–5pm Sat & Sun Feb–Dec, 10am–
5pm Jan; 🚶 Circular Quay

Welcome to 19th-century working-class life. Visits to this row of tiny 1844 terrace houses start with a video in the dilapidated parlour of the first home before heading through the neighbouring two. In the backyard, see how generations of Rocks women cooked and laundered their clothes in a wood-fired copper (near the dunny). The curators wear period dress and run the cuter-than-cute corner shop that sells wares from the period.

SH ERVIN GALLERY Map p54

📍 9258 0173; www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/properties/gallery/default.asp; Watson Rd, Observatory Hill; adult/child/under 12 \$6/4/free;
🕒 11am–5pm Tue–Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay

This small gallery is located in the old Fort St School (1856), close to the Sydney Observatory. It houses temporary exhibitions of Australian art, and every year it hosts the

top picks

FOR FREE

- Any of Sydney's beautiful beaches and parks
- Art Gallery of NSW (p66)
- State Library of NSW (p61)
- Museum of Contemporary Art (p53)
- Victoria Barracks (p83)
- Australian National Maritime Museum (p71)
- Customs House (p58)
- Camperdown Cemetery (p99)
- Sydney Observatory (p53)
- Nicholson Museum (p102)

extremely popular Salon des Refusés show, for rejected Archibald and Wynne Prize contenders. Disabled access is good.

WALSH BAY Map p54

Hickson Rd; Circular Quay

This waterfront between Millers Point and Dawes Point was Sydney's busiest before container shipping and the construction of new port facilities at Botany Bay. The last decade has seen these attractive Federation-era wharves, no longer the preserve of crusty seadogs, gentrified beyond belief into luxury hotels, apartments and restaurants. The self-guided [Walsh Bay Walk](#) starts at Pier 2 and leads you through 11 well-labelled stops, with fascinating plaques and clear directions to point you on your way.

Pier 4 houses the [Wharf Theatre](#) (p169), home to the renowned [Sydney Theatre Company](#) (p172), [Sydney Dance Company](#) (p171) and [Bangarra Dance Theatre](#) (p171).

CADMAN'S COTTAGE Map p54

9247 5033; 110 George St, The Rocks; 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4.30pm Sat & Sun; Circular Quay

The oldest surviving house in the inner city, this cottage was built in 1816 as the coxswains' barracks. When it was built it was actually on the shoreline; the arches on its south side housed longboats. The cottage is now the home of the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre, which organises tours of the harbour islands (see p107). There's a glassed-off area on the lower level revealing a mass of old drain

work exposed in an archaeological dig, as well as a small museum with a few exhibits.

THE ROCKS DISCOVERY MUSEUM Map p54

9251 8804; [www.rocksdiscoverymuseum.com.au](#); Kendall Lane, The Rocks; admission free; 10am-5pm; Circular Quay

Housed in a restored 1850s sandstone warehouse, this interesting little museum has a curious collection of knick-knacks and exhibits tracing the inhabitation of the area from Cadigal times to today.

TANK STREAM FOUNTAIN Map p54

Alfred St, Circular Quay; Circular Quay

This elaborate, four-part bronze fountain (1981) in Herald Sq near Circular Quay incorporates dozens of sculptures of native Australian animals. The fountain was designed by Stephen Walker and dedicated to 'all the children who have played around the Tank Stream'. Try spotting the echidna.

CAMPBELL'S STOREHOUSES Map p54

7 West Circular Quay, The Rocks; Circular Quay
In 1839, Scottish merchant Robert Campbell commenced construction of these storehouses and a private wharf in order to hold supplies of tea, alcohol, sugar and fabric. Construction eventually finished in 1861, and a brick storey was added in 1890. Such storehouses were a common feature of the area into the early 20th century. These 11 surviving storehouses are now given over to restaurants.

OVERSEAS PASSENGER TERMINAL Map p54

West Circular Quay, The Rocks; Circular Quay
Passengers from luxury cruise ships such as the *QEII* disembark here, so what better place to site ultra-fancy drinking and dining establishments? [Quay](#) (p140) is among the occupants of the architecturally dynamic modern terminal. For a great harbour view, head up to the observation deck housed in the turret at the north end.

KEN DONE GALLERY Map p54

9247 2740; [www.kendone.com.au](#); 1 Hickson Rd, The Rocks; admission free; 10am-5.30pm; Circular Quay

The cheerful, almost childlike work of Sydney artist Ken Done is displayed in a gallery in the wonderfully restored

Australian Steam Navigation Building. Expect plenty of vividly coloured, uniquely Australian landscapes and seascapes, plus lots of works that depict the daily minutiae of Done's rather charmed existence.

EAST CIRCULAR QUAY

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE Map p54

9250 7111; [www.sydneyoperahouse.com](#); Bennelong Point; Circular Quay

Gazing upon the Sydney Opera House with virgin eyes is a sure way to send a tingle down your spine. Gloriously white and brilliantly sharp, Australia's most recognisable icon sits dramatically at the tip of Bennelong Point. On a sunny day the Opera House is postcard-perfect, its startling curves and points a pinnacle of architectural genius. These most distinguishing features are seen in many ways – sails, shells and even nuns in a rugby scrum. It's not until you get close that you realise that the seemingly solid expanse of white is actually composed of 1,056,000 self-cleaning cream-coloured Swedish tiles.

The Opera House's construction was itself truly operatic (see p36) – it was even dramatised as *The Eighth Wonder*, performed here by Opera Australia in 1995. The interiors don't live up to the promise of the dazzling exterior, but if you're curious to see inside there's an informative, hour-long [tour](#) (9250 7250; Guided Tours Office, Lower Concourse; adult/concession \$26/18; 9am-5pm); not all tours can visit all theatres because of rehearsals, but you're more likely to see everything if you go early. A highlight is the Utzon Room, the only part of the house to

have an interior designed by the great man himself. Tours run every half hour and you'll save a few bucks if you book online. For a more in-depth nosy around, the two-hour [backstage tour](#) (tickets \$140; 7am) includes the stars' dressing rooms.

The Opera House has five regular performance spaces, and hosts concerts, dance, theatre, cabaret and film, as well as opera. Over 2000 events are staged every year (for information on shows, see p169). *Kids at the House* is the Opera House's pint-size entertainment programme, with music, dance and drama on offer, including the delightful *Babies' Proms* series.

On Sunday there's a market near the front entrance selling Australian-made arts and crafts.

Disabled access is good for the most part, although some areas of the building require staff assistance. Subtitles are a feature of opera performances and guide dogs are welcome throughout the building and at performances.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS Map p54

9231 8111; [www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](#); Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney; admission free; 7am-sunset; Circular Quay

These expansive gardens are the city's favourite picnic spot, jogging route and strolling venue. Bordering Farm Cove, east of the Sydney Opera House, the enchanting gardens were established in 1816 and feature plant life from the South Pacific 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

FLYING FOXINESS

'Release the bats', vampiric Australian rocker Nick Cave once screamed, and every night at sunset it seems like someone does just that. Although you'll find them throughout the city, it's the great black cloud that passes from the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) to Centennial Park that is the most impressive.

There's no need to cower under a crucifix: the grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus ploiocephalus*) is a committed vegetarian, preferring to feast on Moreton Bay figs and nectar. These bats are an important part of the region's ecology, spreading seeds and pollinating flowers as they feed. The only damage they are likely to inflict is on the paintwork of your car; as any Sydney motorist will tell you, their droppings are incredibly corrosive.

By day they hang around (literally) in their thousands in the trees behind the RBG café, chittering madly and wrestling for the best roost. Unlike other bats, flying foxes don't live in caves, don't use echolocation and can't see in complete darkness. Also, they don't fly in a jerky manner like their smaller cousins, but rather use their metre-wide wingspan to glide around gracefully, much like birds do.

For more information on these amazing creatures, stop by the RBG visitors centre or check out [www.sydneymbats.org.au](#).

this was an initiation ground for the Cadigal people.

The fabulous **Sydney Tropical Centre** (adult/child \$4.40/2.20; ☎ 10am-4pm) is housed in the interconnecting Arc and Pyramid glasshouses. It's a great place to visit on a cool, grey day, with the added advantage of always being warm. The multistorey Arc has a collection of rampant climbers and trailers from the world's rainforests, while the Pyramid houses the Australian collection, including monsoonal, woodland and tropical rainforest plants.

Other attractions in the gardens include the Fernery, Succulent Garden, a sustainable Rose Garden and a rare Wollemi Pine – an ancient tree only discovered in 1994 in the Blue Mountains. As far as wildlife goes, you can't fail to notice the gardens' resident colony of grey-headed flying foxes (see p57), or the large flocks of sulphur-crested cockatoos, whose raucous squawks can be heard for blocks.

Free guided **walks** (☎ 10.30am) depart from the information booth at the Gardens Shop, and last an hour and a half. You'll need to book ahead for the **Aboriginal Heritage Tour** (☎ 9231 8134; tours \$20; ☎ 2pm Fri), which includes traditional music, dance and bush-food tastings. Self-guided tours can be downloaded from the website.

The park's paths are for the most part wheelchair accessible, although there are some flights of stairs scattered about. Attractions are well signposted throughout, although the estimated walking times are best described as pessimistic. If a sign says something is five minutes away, bank on only about two minutes.

CUSTOMS HOUSE Map p54

☎ 9242 8595; www.sydneycustomshouse.com.au; 31 Alfred St, Circular Quay; admission free; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay

In June of 2005, 120 years after its construction, Customs House reopened following a major renovation that turned the first three floors into a **library** (☎ 9242 8555). The grand old building offers attractions for visitors and locals alike. There's a great selection of international newspapers and magazines to read and free internet upstairs (it's not meant to be used for email and the main providers are blocked, but you might get lucky if you use a more obscure mail-server), as well as

temporary exhibitions. In the lobby, look for the swastikas in the tiling (and the plaque explaining their symbolism) and walk over a large scale model of the city sunk beneath a glass floor. On the top floor is the wonderful **Café Sydney** (p140).

GOVERNMENT HOUSE Map p54

☎ 9931 5222; www.hht.net.au/museums/gh; Macquarie St; admission free; ☎ grounds 10am-4pm, tours 10.30am-3pm Fri-Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay Government House (1845) is the third of five structures that have served as the official residence of the governor of New South Wales. It dominates the western headland of Farm Cove and plays host to visiting dignitaries, including heads of state and royalty. The governor, who now resides in **Admiralty House** (p109), still uses it for weekly meetings. It's a marvellous example of the Gothic Revival style. Tours of the house (departing every half-hour) are the only way to see the opulent interior, and can be extremely entertaining and informative. Disabled access is OK, but it's best to call in advance.

JUSTICE & POLICE MUSEUM Map p54

☎ 9252 1144; www.hht.net.au/museums/jp; cnr Albert & Phillip Sts; adult/child/family \$8/4/17; ☎ 10am-5pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 Circular Quay Based in the old Water Police Station (1858), this museum focuses on crime, policing and the Australian legal and penal system. Like the **Hyde Park Barracks Museum** (p67) it's at once fascinating and depressing. Is it comforting to learn that Sydney's last hanging for carnal knowledge occurred in 1901, or horrifying? Displays include forensic evidence from famous crimes of the past, some nasty-looking weapons, lots of mug shots and at least two stuffed dogs. The museum has wheelchair access to the ground floor only, but Braille and audio guides are available.

MACQUARIE PLACE Map p54

cnr Loftus & Bridge Sts; 🚶 Circular Quay Under the shady Moreton Bay figs is this historic little area. Look for the **cannon and anchor** from the First Fleet flagship (HMS *Sirius*), an ornate drinking fountain (1857), a National Trust-classified gentlemen's convenience (not open), and an **obelisk** erected in 1818 'to record that all the public roads leading to the interior of the colony are measured from it'. The park is overlooked

by the imposing 19th-century **Lands Department Building**. Nip round to the south façade, which bears statues of Blaxland, Wentworth, Lawson and other notables from the history of Australia's exploration.

SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM

OF MUSIC Map p54

☎ 9351 1222; www.music.usyd.edu.au; Macquarie St; 🚶 Circular Quay 'The Con' was built by convict architect Francis Greenway as the stables and servants' quarters of Macquarie's planned new government house. Partly because of the project's extravagance (of which this crenulated castle for horses is evidence), Macquarie was replaced as governor before the house could be completed. In 1915 it was converted into a music conservatorium, which amalgamated with the University of Sydney in 1990. Recent renovations (at a cost of \$145 million) have created world-class facilities for study and performance (see p169).

WRITERS WALK Map p54

Circular Quay promenade; 🚶 Circular Quay

A series of round metal plaques set into the promenade alongside the wharves hold ruminations from prominent Australian writers (and the odd literary visitor). The likes of Robert Hughes, Germaine Greer, Peter Carey, James Michener and Clive James wax lyrical on subjects ranging from indigenous rights to the paradoxical nature of glass. Genres vary from eloquent poems addressing the human condition to an irreverent ditty about a meat pie by Barry Humphries.

This heady bunch was recently joined by even more illustrious company, namely famous Australian supermodels, several of whom are honoured with plaques in the pavement near the Overseas Terminal.

MINUS 5 Map p54

☎ 9251 0311; www.minus5experience.com; Opera Quays, Circular Quay East; adult/child \$30/15; ☎ noon-10pm Sun-Thu, noon-midnight Fri & Sat; 🚶 Circular Quay

On a hot summer's day stepping into this winter wonderland is a surreal experience, particularly if you look out the window at Circular Quay sweltering below. Everything's made of ice, from the furniture to the intricate sculptures. Adults get a

complementary vodka cocktail (value \$15) served in an ice glass; it's the only option as other alcohol would freeze. Even wearing the big coat and gloves provided, you won't be sorry to be booted out after 30 minutes. Children can only enter before 6pm. It's wheelchair accessible but the lounge itself isn't guide-dog friendly.

A ROCK-QUAY ROAD

Walking Tour

1 Observatory Hill Start by taking the lay of the land from this peaceful park, site of the colony's first windmill and, since 1858, **Sydney Observatory** (p53). When you're ready, follow the path curving down to **Argyle Place**, a quiet, English-style village green lined with attractive terraced houses.

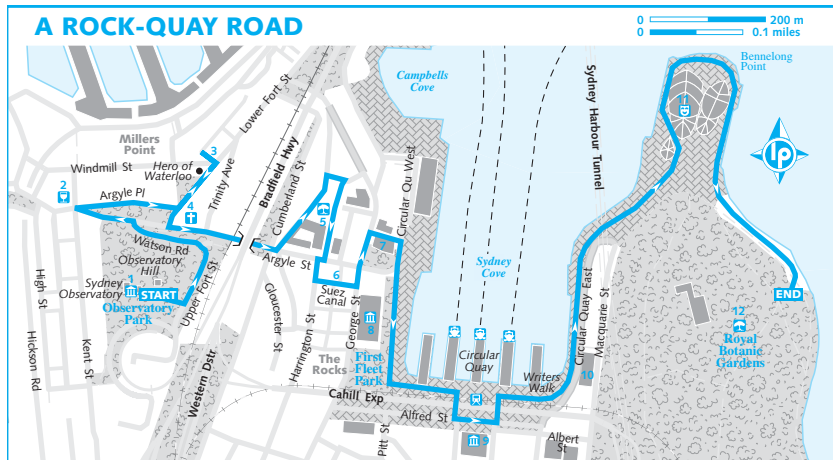
2 Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel Across the road and slightly west, the **Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel** (p155) was built in 1836 as a private residence before being converted into a pub in 1841, making it the oldest continually licensed hotel in Sydney. Head back down Argyle Place and turn left into Lower Fort St.

3 Ferry Lane At the corner of Windmill St you'll pass the **Hero of Waterloo** (see p156), another contender for the 'oldest pub in Sydney' title. Turn left, and cross the road to tiny Ferry Lane. Here you'll find the foundations of Arthur Payne's house; he was the first victim of the 1900 bubonic plague outbreak.

4 Garrison Church Retrace your steps along Lower Fort St to handsome 1843 **Garrison Church** (p53). Turn left into Argyle St and head through the Argyle Cut, excavated by convict labourers. The work began in 1843 with hand tools, and was completed (with the aid of dynamite) in 1867.

5 Foundation Park Just past the Cut take the stairs to the left and head along Gloucester Walk to the thought-provoking Foundation Park – on the right, in the preserved ruins of an old tenement building. The oversized furniture by artist Peter Cole evokes the cramped conditions experienced by the working-class families that lived here.

6 Suez Canal Continue along the lane, turn right and right again, passing Playfair St's



terraced houses. Cross into Harrington and left into Suez Canal. A notorious lurking point for 19th-century push gangs, it tapers as it goes downhill until it's less than a metre wide. Where it intersects Nurses Walk, there's a hoist – once used for hauling goods to the upper floors.

7 Cadman's Cottage Turn left into George St, Sydney's oldest road. Look out for the quirky Harry Potter-ish street numbering. Head down the stairs to the right to **Cadman's Cottage** (p56); dating from 1816 it's the oldest house in the area.

8 Museum of Contemporary Art Follow Circular Quay to the east past the monolithic **Museum of Contemporary Art** (p53). Take advantage of the free entry for a quick art fix.

9 Customs House Cut underneath Circular Quay train station to the fabulously renovated **Customs House** (p58) and re-trace your steps thus far in the scale model of the city set into the floor.

10 Opera Quays Head back to the bustling ferry wharves, and check out the buskers and

WALK FACTS

Start Observatory Hill

End Royal Botanic Gardens

Distance 7km

Duration 2½ hours

Fuel stops Pricey but numerous

Writers Walk plaques (p59) as you follow the quay east then north. Disparagingly referred to as 'the toaster', Opera Quays is a modern set of apartments with a solid strip of bars and restaurants lining East Circular Quay.

11 Sydney Opera House The magnificent white sails of the **Sydney Opera House** (p57) are directly in front of you. Take some time to wander in and around them. From close up they look strangely smaller than you'd expect and the tile colour is actually far from white.

12 Royal Botanic Gardens After circumnavigating Bennelong Point, follow the water's edge to the gates of the **Royal Botanic Gardens** (p57) – find a shady spot to rest before heading in search of the bats.

CITY CENTRE

Drinking & Nightlife p156; Eating p140; Shopping p123; Sleeping p189

Before suburban sprawl started in earnest in the mid-19th century, this (along with The Rocks) was Sydney. The historic city can be traced in its place names: Bridge St once spanned the Tank Stream, the first water supply, which emptied into Sydney Cove (now Circular Quay); crops were planted in Farm Cove to feed the early convicts and marines, the latter of which were housed at the top of Barrack St; Market St was the site of the bustling produce markets, later moved south to Haymarket.

Today this narrow stretch of land has been transformed into a modern city's towering CBD, the economic engine of Australia. Skyscrapers jostle sandstone colonial buildings and prominent places of worship, making the city's central canyons a great place for architecture buffs to explore. Venerable Macquarie St may be the centre of government, but Martin Place represents Sydney's pulsing commercial heart.

George St cuts through the middle of it all, running 3km north–south from The Rocks to Central Station; underneath, trains race around the City Circle, while the monorail glides by above.

There's plenty to keep shopaholics busy, with an unbroken chain of big-name boutiques and department stores stretching from the Queen Victoria Building (p68) to Pitt St Mall. The city's bars and restaurants cater mainly to the business brigade and, with a few extremely notable exceptions, can be rather dull. A tiny Spanish Quarter takes up a block of Liverpool St between George and Sussex Sts.

At lunchtime, Hyde Park (p66) and The Domain (p66), which form the city's eastern fringe, are full of office workers either seeking solace in the greenery or determined to scratch an hour out of the day to work on staying fit and beautiful.

WYNYARD & AROUND

ST PHILIP'S CHURCH Map pp62–3

☎ 9247 1071; www.stphilips-sydney.org.au; 3 York St, Church Hill; ☎ 9am–5pm Tue–Fri; 🏛️ Wynyard Completed in 1856 by architect Edmund Blacket in the High Victorian Gothic style, St Philip's is the successor of a line descending from Sydney's original Anglican parish church (1793). Today it's a peaceful and unobtrusive structure dwarfed by the area's surrounding skyscrapers. It's usually kept locked, but the parish workers at the neighbouring office are happy to open up the doors to visitors. A handy self-guided tour pamphlet is available.

AUSTRALIA SQUARE Map pp62–3

☎ 8247 5200; www.australiasquare.net; 264 George St; 🏪 retail 7am–6pm Mon–Fri; 🏛️ Wynyard

Generally acknowledged as Australia's first major office tower, Australia Square (1968) was designed by local phenomenon Harry

top picks

CITY CENTRE

- Art Gallery of NSW (p66)
- Queen Victoria Building (p68)
- Hyde Park (p66)
- St Mary's Cathedral (p67)
- State Library of NSW (below)

Seidler. His 50-storey design has a distinctive circular form and an airy open plaza at the base with shops below. A colourful Sol LeWitt mural (2004) in the lobby replaces a rare Le Corbusier tapestry that hung here for decades before being auctioned off by the building's owner. Head up to **Orbit** (p156) in the 47th-floor revolving restaurant for breathtaking views that will only cost the price of a drink.

MARTIN PLACE & AROUND

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW Map pp62–3

☎ 9273 1414; www.atmitchell.com; Macquarie St; ☎ 9am–9pm Mon–Thu, 9am–6pm Fri, 11am–5pm Sat & Sun; 🏛️ Martin Place

This library holds over five million tomes, and has one of the best collections of early works on Australia, including Captain Cook's and Joseph Banks' journals and Captain (later Governor) Bligh's log from the *Bounty*. It's also known for the innovative

MUSEUM OF SYDNEY Map pp62-3

☎ 9251 5988; www.hnt.net.au/museums/mos; cnr Phillip & Bridge Sts; adult/child \$10/5; 🕒 9.30am-5pm; 📍 Circular Quay

Built on the site of the first government house (the foundations are still visible), the MOS is a top-notch museum that uses installation and multiple-perspective art to explore Sydney's early history. Exhibits encompass the early natural environment, the culture of the indigenous Eora people and convict life. Sydney's early history comes to life in whisper, argument, gossip and artefacts, displayed in clever and engaging ways. Be sure to open some of the many stainless steel and glass drawers (they close themselves).

GOVERNORS PHILLIP & MACQUARIE TOWERS Map pp62-3

Phillip, Young & Bent Sts; 📍 Circular Quay

With much hullabaloo, plans were drawn up in the 1980s to develop the site of Governor Phillip's first Government House which had been left semi-derelict for 50 years. At the north end of the block the remaining foundations of Government house were converted into [First Government House Plaza](#) and the [Museum of Sydney](#) (above), with these two towers looming large behind them, clad in steel, granite and glass. Governor Phillip Tower (1993) is Sydney's 6th tallest office block with the third-highest roofline; at 227m it's only 3m from the tallest. Its distinctive metallic-bladed top has earned it the nickname 'the milk crate'.

ST JAMES & AROUND

THE DOMAIN Map pp62-3

Prince Albert Rd; 📍 St James

The Domain is a large grassy area east of Macquarie St, set aside by Governor Phillip in 1788 for public recreation. Today, it's used by workers for lunchtime sport and as a place to escape the bustle of the city. It's also the Sunday afternoon venue for impassioned soapbox speakers who do their best to entertain, inspire or enrage. Many large-scale public events are held here, including the [Tropfest film festival](#) (p17).

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

top picks

PARKS

- [Royal Botanic Gardens](#) (p57)
- [Chinese Garden of Friendship](#) (p74)
- [Observatory Hill](#) (p53)
- [Nielsen Park](#) (p116)
- [Hyde Park](#) (below)
- [Centennial Park](#) (p83)

Heading past the Art Gallery alongside the Royal Botanic Gardens is Mrs Macquarie Point, offering great views over Woolloomooloo, the harbour and the city. [Mrs Macquarie's Chair](#) was carved out of the sandstone by convicts in 1816 for the governor's wife's vice-regal bottom.

ART GALLERY OF NSW Map pp62-3

☎ 9225 1744; www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au; Art Gallery Rd, The Domain; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm Thu-Tue, 10am-9pm Wed; 📍 St James

With its elegant classical Greek frontage and modern rear end, the state's main gallery has an outstanding permanent display of Australian art (including a substantial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection), a well-regarded Asian gallery, a Western collection starting from the 16th century, and some inspired temporary exhibits (prices vary). The frequently controversial, much-debated Archibald Prize exhibition is held here every March, with portraits of the famous and not-so-famous bringing out the art critic in every Sydney-sider. There are free guided tours on the hour from 11am to 2pm (Tuesday to Sunday), and wheelchair access is good. Look out for Lin Onus' *Fruit Bats* (1991), a cheeky bunch of critters painted in Aboriginal cross-hatching hanging from a clothes line.

HYDE PARK Map pp62-3

📍 St James & Museum

Hyde Park is the city's lungs. More formal than [The Domain](#) (left), it offers a green respite from the surrounding traffic and crowds, and a home to many small creatures. The tree-formed tunnel running down the middle is particularly lovely at night, when it's illuminated by fairy lights. The northern end is crowned by the richly

symbolic Art Deco [Archibald Memorial Fountain](#), featuring figures from Greek mythology. At the southern end the shallow [Pool of Reflection](#) leads to the exquisite [Anzac Memorial](#) (below). Cafés above the train stations at either end offer alfresco dining, and there is a popular life-sized chess set near St James.

ANZAC MEMORIAL Map pp62-3

☎ 9267 7668; Hyde Park; admission free; 🕒 9am-5pm; 📍 Museum

This beautiful Art Deco memorial (1934) covered in interesting statues and friezes commemorates the soldiers of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzacs) who served in WWI. The centrepiece is *Sacrifice*, a bronze statue of a naked dead soldier draped over a shield, supported by four women (mother, sister, wife and child) standing on a golden sun. In the marble ceiling are 120,000 tiny stars, one for each person from New South Wales who served. An eternal flame burns nearby, and there's a small military museum attached.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL Map pp62-3

☎ 9220 0400; www.sydney.catholic.org.au/cathedral; College St; admission free; 🕒 6.30am-6.30pm Sun-Fri, 7am-7pm Sat; 📍 St James

Begun in 1868 and consecrated in 1905, St Mary's is the seat of the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney. As you might expect given its importance, the Gothic Revival cathedral is imposingly large (106m long) and has oodles of stained glass (crafted in Birmingham, England); its 75m-high front spires were only completed in 2000. The best time to visit is when the sun streams through the side windows in the early morning and late afternoon. The crypt has an impressive terrazzo mosaic floor depicting *The Creation*, inspired by the *Book of Kells*.

GREAT SYNAGOGUE Map pp62-3

☎ 9267 2477; www.greatsynagogue.org.au; 187A Elizabeth St; adult/child \$5/3; 🕒 tours noon Tue & Thu; 📍 St James

The Great Synagogue (1878) is the spiritual home of Sydney's longest-running Jewish congregation, established in 1831. One of 28 Orthodox synagogues in Sydney, 800 families form its congregation. It's considered the Mother Synagogue of Australia and architecturally the most important in the southern hemisphere. The impressive

ceiling features gold-leaf stars on a night-blue background, supported by ornate white and gold columns forming 12 arches representing the tribes of Israel. An impressive rose window illuminates the eastern wall. It's only open for services and the fascinating tours, which include a presentation on local Jewish history.

ST JAMES' CHURCH Map pp62-3

☎ 8227 1300; www.sjks.org.au; 173 King St; admission free; 🕒 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-4.30 Sat, 7am-4pm Sun; 📍 St James

Another Greenway gem, St James' Church was originally designed to be a courthouse but was consecrated by the Reverend Marsden in 1824 – making it the oldest remaining church in Sydney. Restored in the 1950s, it contains traditional stained glass, but also the striking modern 'creation window' in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, as well as a choir loft of dark wood and a lovely pipe organ. Free concerts are held at 1.15pm Wednesday from March to December and free tours at 2.30pm weekdays.

HYDE PARK BARRACKS

MUSEUM Map pp62-3

☎ 8239 2311; www.hnt.net.au/museums/hpbm; Queens Sq, Macquarie St; adult/child \$10/5; 🕒 9.30am-5pm; 📍 St James

Francis Greenway designed this squarish, decorously Georgian structure (1819) as convict quarters. It later served as an immigration depot, an asylum for women and law courts. Now it's a fascinating if not entirely cheerful museum, focusing on the various phases of the barracks' history and the archaeological efforts that helped uncover it. Read about some of the offences

SPIRING TO GREATNESS

Those who say that size doesn't matter should have a word with Sydney's architects. Sydney currently has 10 buildings over 200m tall, but as most men can tell you, how big something is depends on where you measure it from. A large spire can add 80m to a building and an antenna even more.

By any measure, [Sydney Tower](#) (p68) at 309m is king of all it surveys. [Chifley Tower](#) (1992, p125) is the highest office block, with its spire scraping 244m. However [World Tower](#) (2004, 91 Liverpool St), at 230m and 73 floors, has the highest roof.

that got people transported to Australia, or added to their time and punishment once they arrived; many of them were of an astoundingly petty nature. You can wander the courtyard and look at the foyer display for free.

STATE THEATRE [Map pp62-3](#)

☎ 9373 6852; [www.statetheatre.com.au](#);
49 Market St; tours \$15; 📺 box office 9am-5pm
Mon-Fri; 🏠 St James

The splendidly elaborate State (1929) is the city's most ostentatious theatre. It was originally built as a movie palace during Hollywood's heyday and is now a National Trust-classified building, dripping with gilt and velvet. These days it stages live shows, except during the [Sydney Film Festival](#) (p18) in June. If you're lucky, you might make one of the monthly [guided tours](#) (☎ 9373 6862).

SYDNEY TOWER [Map pp62-3](#)

☎ 9333 9222; [www.sydneytoweroztrek.com.au](#);
Podium Level, 100 Market St; adult/child \$24/14;
📺 9am-10.30pm Sun-Fri, 9am-11.30pm Sat;
🏠 St James

This futuristic tower (built 1970-1981) stands 309m high and on clear days the views from the 250m observation floor take in the Blue Mountains, Botany Bay and the length of Sydney Harbour. The admission price entitles you to a goofy virtual-reality ride through Australian 'kulcha'. If you're planning on heading to [Sydney Aquarium](#) (p71) or [Sydney Wildlife World](#) (p73), check out the discounted combined tickets.

For an added thrill take the 90-minute guided [Sky Walk](#) (adult/child \$89/73), 10m higher up on the exposed roof. At nearly twice the height of [BridgeClimb](#) (p226) there's the added thrill of standing on a glass platform while it extends 2m over the tower's edge.

At the lower four floors is the [Centrepoint](#) shopping complex, which opens onto Pitt St Mall.

TOWN HALL & AROUND

QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING [Map pp62-3](#)

QVB; ☎ 9264 9209; [www.qvb.com.au](#); 455 George St; 📺 bldg 24hr, shops 9am-6pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat, 9am-9pm Thu, 11am-5pm Sun; 🏠 Town Hall
They don't build 'em like this anymore!
The lavish QVB takes up the entire block

and houses some 200 shops (p125), cafés and restaurants. Built in 1898 as the city's markets, the colonnaded façade and multiple copper domes are designed to evoke a Byzantine palace. Unbelievably this building was repeatedly due for demolition before it was restored in the mid-1980s.

Inside, look out for the two large suspended clocks, replicas of the crown jewels and the Queen Victoria ballroom. Outside the QVB is an imposing statue of Queen Victoria herself, and nearby is a wishing well featuring a small bronze statue of her beloved pooch, Islay (which, quite disconcertingly, speaks aloud in the deep baritone voice of former radio shock-jock John Laws). Guided tours (\$10) leave daily from the concierge desk.

TOWN HALL [Map pp62-3](#)

☎ 9265 9189; [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](#); 483
George St; 📺 8am-6pm Mon-Fri; 🏠 Town Hall

The High Victorian sandstone wedding-cake exterior of the Town Hall (built 1869-1889) is matched by the elaborate chamber room and wood-lined concert hall inside. The stupendous [concert hall](#) (☎ 9265 9007) houses an impressive 8000-pipe organ and is a venue for free, monthly lunchtime concerts. Functions sometimes see Town Hall closed to the casual visitor, but otherwise feel free to poke around the first few halls off the entrance.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL [Map pp62-3](#)

☎ 9265 1661; [www.cathedral.sydney.anglican.asn.au](#); cnr George & Bathurst Sts; admission free;
📺 10am-4pm Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat, 8am-8pm Wed,
10am-6.30pm Thu, 7.30am-8pm Sun; 🏠 Town Hall
Sporting beautiful stained glass and twin spires inspired by England's York Minster, Anglican St Andrew's is the oldest cathedral in Australia (1868). There are some ugly modifications around the front door but disabled access is good. Organ recitals are held on Friday at 1.10pm and a concert band performs most Wednesdays at 12.30pm. During term time, free 'Young Music' concerts are held at 1pm on Monday and 1.10pm on Thursday.

MARBLE BAR [Map pp62-3](#)

☎ 9265 6026; [www.marblebarsydney.com.au](#); Hilton Sydney, 488 George St; 📺 5pm-1am
Mon-Thu, noon-3am Fri & Sat, 6pm-midnight Sun;
🏠 Town Hall

George Adams must have been having a Medici moment when he built this dazzling bar in 1893 at a staggering cost of £32,000. An explosion of opulence coats every inch – from the intricately carved wooden bar to the bronze capitals of the Corinthian columns. When the Adams Hotel was demolished, every slab of marble was carefully dismantled, restored and then reassembled in its present location, under the Hilton Hotel.

ARTHOUSE HOTEL [Map pp62-3](#)

☎ 9284 1200; [www.thearthousehotel.com.au](#);
275 Pitt St; 📺 11am-midnight Mon & Tue, 11am-1am
Wed & Thu, 11am-3am Fri, 5pm-6am Sat;
🏠 Town Hall

Once the School of Arts (1836), this beautifully restored, heritage-listed building houses a creative combination of the artistic and the alcoholic. There are regular exhibitions by emerging Australian artists in the Gallery bar, free life-drawing in the Dome restaurant (Monday from 6.30pm; bring your own media) and Dr Sketchy's Anti-Art School 'where cabaret meets art' in the Attic Bar (\$15; Tuesday from 6.30pm). The main bar once housed a chapel (see p157).

A CITY CANYON ADVENTURE

Walking Tour

1 Town Hall Who knows what she'd make of the cheeky city Sydney's become, but Queen Victoria would surely be amused by the High Victorian start to our tour, the elaborate [Town Hall](#) (opposite). Cross Druiit St to her imperious statue (and that of her alarming talking dog) and enter her eponymous building.

2 Queen Victoria Building On the site of the city's first markets, the [Queen Victoria Building](#) (opposite) blends American and Venetian Romanesque grandeur. Have a good look around as you pass through this shopping mecca, but watch your bank balance. Exit at the far end and turn right into Market St.

3 State Theatre On your right you'll find the extraordinarily extravagant [State Theatre](#) (opposite), more like the inside of a cathedral than a thespian venue. Stop to check out the foyer and note the coming shows – something might tempt you to buy tickets to return and see the old girl in action.

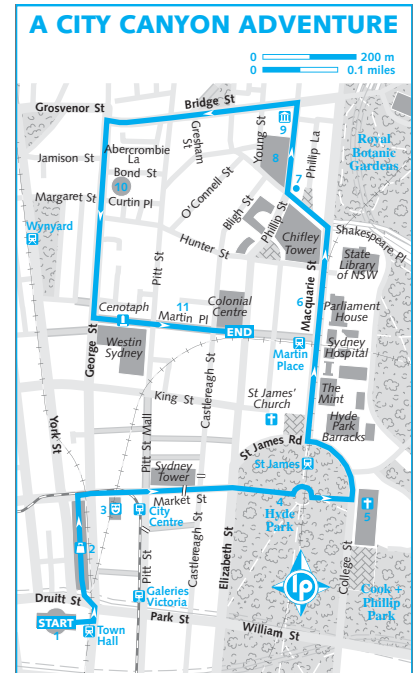
4 Hyde Park Continue past giant [Sydney Tower](#) (opposite) and into [Hyde Park](#) (p66). As you cut across, check out the giant chessboard and the elaborate Archibald Memorial Fountain.

5 St Mary's Cathedral Stop to explore the imposing Gothic Revival sandstone [St Mary's Cathedral](#) (p67). Upon leaving head north and, as the road curves around the top of Hyde Park under the watchful eyes of Prince Albert, turn right into Macquarie St.

6 Macquarie Street Governor Lachlan Macquarie commissioned convicted forger Francis Greenway to design this street in the early 19th century. Greenway's [Hyde Park Barracks](#) (p67) and [St James' Church](#) (p67), guard the south end. Heading north you'll pass on the right, in

WALK FACTS

Start Town Hall
End Martin Place
Distance 6km
Duration 2 hours (not including shop stops)
Fuel stops Plenty



quick succession, [The Mint](#) (p64), [Sydney Hospital](#) (p65), [Parliament House](#) (p64) and the [State Library of NSW](#) (p61).

7 Aurora Place Cross the road to the corner of Bent St where much of the block is taken up by Renzo Piano's [Aurora Place](#) (2001), one of Sydney's most dynamic (and, at \$500 million, most expensive) commercial towers (now branded ABN Amro). The façade's curves are intended to mirror the Opera House's lines.

8 Governors Phillip & Macquarie Towers You're now well and truly in the big end of town. Across Phillip St the 227m-high Governor Phillip Tower (1993) is propped up on zinc-plated transfer beams for a monumental 10 storeys before the tower begins. Neighbouring Governor Macquarie Tower (1994) is a comparative pipsqueak (145m).

9 Museum of Sydney From the cutting edge to the historical: head past the surreal

façades of Phillip St to the [Museum of Sydney](#) (p66). In front of the museum you can see the foundations of the city's earliest significant building, the infamously fetid First Government House.

10 Australia Square Turn left into Bridge St and after five blocks turn left again, back into George St. After two blocks you'll come to Harry Seidler's minimalist/modernist [Australia Square](#) (p61). Zip up to the bar in the revolving 47th-floor restaurant for a drink and stunning views – you're nearly finished.

11 Martin Place Continue up George St and left into Martin Place. Near the bottom is the [Cenotaph](#). Flanked by statues of two impossibly handsome servicemen, it commemorates Australia's war dead. Explore the foyers of the majestic [buildings](#) (p65) lining this grand pedestrian mall. Note the TV screens on the [Colonial Centre](#) windows, to the left past Castlereagh; Channel 7 news is filmed live behind that glass.

DARLING HARBOUR & CHINATOWN

Drinking & Nightlife [p158](#); Eating [p141](#); Shopping [p125](#); Sleeping [p190](#)

Hugging the city's western and southern flanks, this once heavily commercial area is now a lively entertainment district.

Darling Harbour, between the city and Pyrmont, was a thriving dockland lined with factories, warehouses and shipyards. After years of decline it was reinvented and opened in 1988 as a bicentennial gift to Sydney – or rather to her tourists. It's now a bizarre futuristic landscape of glass domes and cones which, with the mono-rail whizzing by, looks like a scene from 1960s cartoon *The Jetsons*. Among the masses of restaurants, bars and tourist shops you'll find custom-built attractions to amuse all ages – from pedal boats to the casino.

Bustling Chinatown has been centred on Dixon St Haymarket since the 1920s and now covers much of the city's southern fringe. No longer just Chinese, the area is truly pan-Asian, with plenty of Korean, Singaporean, Vietnamese, Malaysian and Thai businesses adding to the mix.

Apart from the constant hum of activity, the main drawcards here are the food and the shopping. It's the place to come for anything from Chinese medicinal herbs to mobile-phone covers, dirt-cheap clothes and Hello Kitty accessories. On Chinese New Year ([p17](#)) it seems that half of Sydney squishes into these tiny lanes to enjoy the dragon dancers and street stalls.

Around Central Station you'll find the mega-hostels, with their attendant bars, internet cafés and the buzz of young travellers. It's not the prettiest part of town, but it's certainly central. The city's busiest intersection, Railway Square has been decorated with colourful towerlike sculptures that resemble DNA strands. To the south, Broadway takes over from George St before becoming the main western route to Parramatta. Sydney's ugliest campus, the University of Technology (UTS), sprawls along its western edge.

DARLING HARBOUR

SYDNEY AQUARIUM [Map p72](#)

☎ 8251 7800; [www.sydneyaquarium.com.au](#);
Aquarium Pier; adult/child \$28/14; ✉ 9am-10pm;
🐠 Aquarium

Maybe a cute little guy named Nemo has something to do with it, but this place brings in more paid visitors than any other attraction in Australia – even with its hefty admission charges. Along with Nemo and his homies you'll find alien-like phosphorescent jellyfish, colourful corals and some irresistibly cute fairy penguins and platypuses. Underwater tunnels get you up close to seals, immense rays and an intimidating array of sharks. The finale at the Great Barrier Reef 'theatre' is absolutely breathtaking. Needless to say, kids love it. Disabled access is good. Discounted combined tickets are available with [Sydney Tower](#) (p68) and/or [Sydney Wildlife World](#) (p73).

top picks

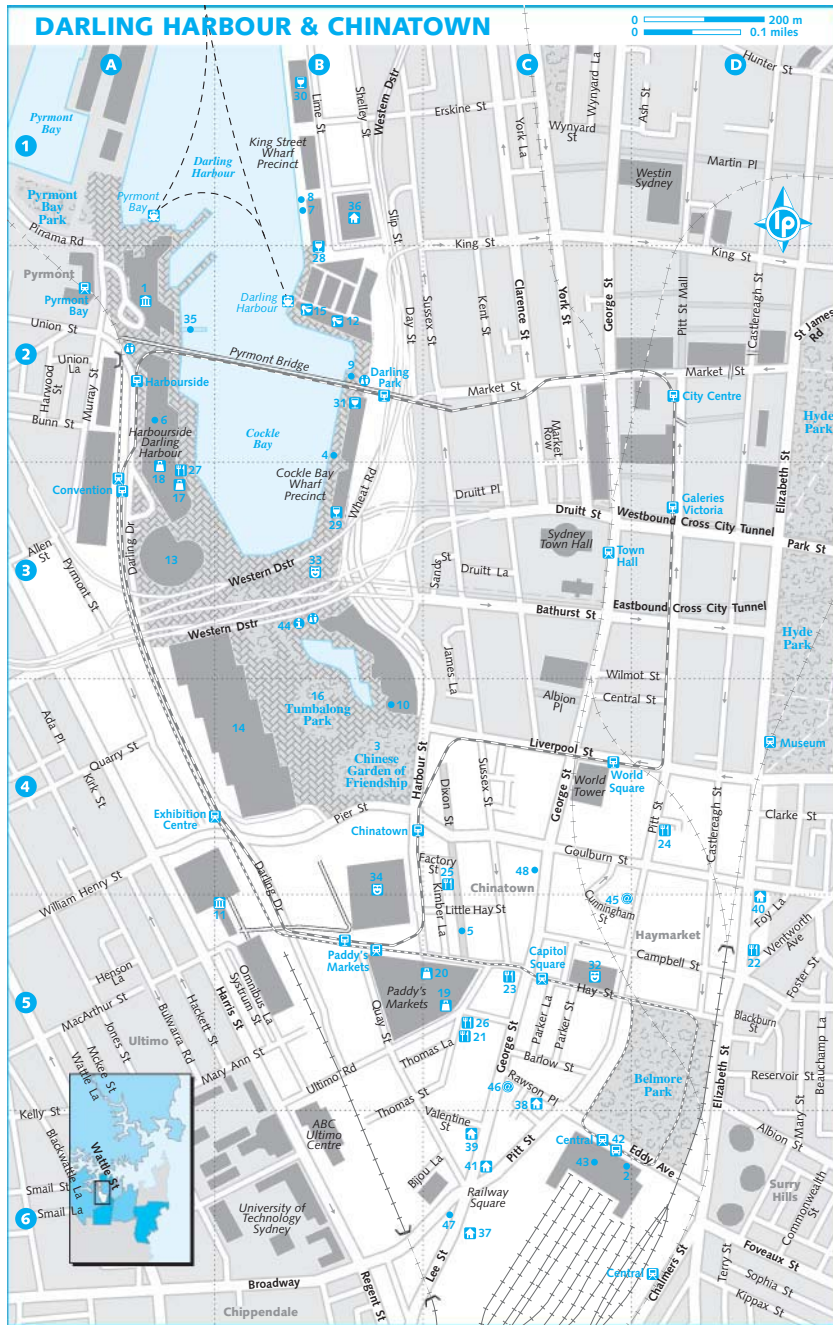
DARLING HARBOUR & CHINATOWN

- [Sydney Aquarium](#) (left)
- [Powerhouse Museum](#) (p74)
- [Chinese Garden of Friendship](#) (p74)
- [Australian National Maritime Museum](#) (below)
- [Sydney Wildlife World](#) (p73)

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM [Map p72](#)

☎ 9298 3777; [www.anmm.gov.au](#); 2 Murray St; admission free; ✉ 9.30am-5pm; MLR Pyrmont Bay
The maritime museum is a fascinating place to learn about Australia's ongoing relationship with the sea. Entry to the permanent indoor collection is free; touring the vessels moored outside varies, with the 'big ticket' (adult/child \$25/13) covering the submarine (HMAS *Oslow*), the destroyer (HMAS *Vampire*) and an 1874 square-rigger (*James Craig*). Occasionally a replica of James Cook's *Endeavour* also drops anchor. The huge museum has a curved roof (a little like a low-rent Opera House) and houses numerous displays, including a boat made of beer cans.

Outside, the 100m-long [Welcome Wall](#) honours migrants, allowing families to inscribe names and register their history on the database. It's not entirely clear who's doing the welcoming.



DARLING HARBOUR & CHINATOWN

SIGHTS	(pp71-6)	Market City.....	19	C5	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES			
Australian National Maritime Museum.....	1	A2	Paddy's Markets.....	20	C5	Sydney by Sail.....	35	A2
Central Station.....	2	C6				SLEEPING	(pp190-1)	
Chinese Garden of Friendship.....	3	B4				Medina Grand		
Cockle Bay Wharf.....	4	B2				Harbourside.....	36	B1
Dixon Street.....	5	C5				Railway Square YHA.....	37	C6
Harbourside.....	6	A2				Sydney Central YHA.....	38	C5
King St Wharf.....	7	B1				Valentine on George.....	39	C6
Magistic Cruises.....	8	B1				Vibe Hotel Sydney.....	40	D5
Matilda Cruises.....	9	B2				Wake Up!.....	41	C6
Outback Centre.....	10	B4						
Powerhouse Museum.....	11	B5				TRANSPORT		
Sydney Aquarium.....	12	B2				Sydney Coach Terminal.....	42	C6
Sydney Convention Centre.....	13	A3						
Sydney Exhibition Centre.....	14	B4				INFORMATION		
Sydney Wildlife World.....	15	B2				Countrylink Travel		
Tumbalong Park.....	16	B4				Centre.....	43	C6
						Darling Harbour Visitors		
						Centre.....	44	B3
SHOPPING	(pp125-6)	ARTS				Australia's Outback Gallery... (see 10)	45	C5
Australia's Outback Gallery... (see 10)		Australian Theatre.....	32	C5		Black Ridge Jewellers.....	17	A3
Black Ridge Jewellers.....	17	A3	IMAX Cinema.....	33	B3	Gavala Aboriginal		
Gavala Aboriginal			Sydney Entertainment			Art Centre.....	18	A3
Art Centre.....	18	A3	Centre.....	34	B4			
						Global Gossip.....	46	C5
						Global Gossip.....	46	C5
						TransitShop.....	47	C6
						Wu's Pharmacy.....	48	C4

SYDNEY WILDLIFE WORLD Map p72

📞 9333 9288; www.sydneywildlifeworld.com.au;
 Aquarium Pier; adult/child \$29/15; 🕒 9am-10pm;
 🐟 Aquarium

Following the same formula as its sister and neighbour [Sydney Aquarium](#) (p71), this large complex houses an impressive collection of Australian native reptiles, butterflies, spiders, snakes and small mammals. The nocturnal section is particularly good, bringing the extrovert out in the quolls, potoroos, echidnas and possums. The kids may be more interested in holding snakes and posing with koalas. It's extremely well done, but it's still not a patch on Taronga Zoo. You'll save around \$10 on a combined ticket with the Aquarium.

OUTBACK CENTRE Map p72

📞 9283 7477; www.outbackcentre.com.au;
 28 Darling Walk, 1-25 Harbour St; 🕒 10am-6pm;
 🏛️ Town Hall

A mixture of the kitsch and the cultural, this is a combination of souvenir store, performance space and art gallery. Among the fluffy koalas and key-rings you'll find woomeraws (spear-throwers), *kalis* (jumbo-sized boomerangs), musical clapsticks and bullroarers (ceremonial musical instruments). The highlight, hidden (strangely enough) out back, is [Australia's Outback Gallery](#) (p125). A free 'Sounds of the Outback'

didgeridoo performance takes place at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm daily.

TUMBALONG PARK Map p72

🕒 24hr; 🏛️ Town Hall

This friendly grassy area at Darling Harbour's south end has fountains with timed, acrobatic water jets, a delightful sculpture of sheep leaping into another dimension and an amphitheatre that often hosts free entertainment. Nearby there's an excellent children's playground and a lake with pricey paddle-boats (\$12 for 15 minutes, maximum three people).

top picks

FOR CHILDREN

- Any of Sydney's beaches and parks
- Taronga Zoo (p106)
- Sydney Aquarium (p71)
- Powerhouse Museum (p74)
- Australian National Maritime Museum (p71)
- Sydney Observatory (p53)
- Sydney Wildlife World (left)
- Australian Museum (p77)
- Royal Botanic Gardens (p57)
- Tumbalong Park (above)

TRANSPORT: DARLING HARBOUR & CHINATOWN

Train The best option; everything's an easy walk from Central or Town Hall Stations.

Bus As well as the routes heading through to The Rocks and Circular Quay (see p53), many leave from Railway Square, including 372 to Coogee via Surry Hills and 378 to Bronte via Oxford St.

MLR Metro Light Rail links Central to Lilyfield via Glebe, with several stops around Haymarket and Pyrmont.

Ferry Services head from Darling Harbour and Pyrmont Bay to Circular Quay.

Monorail The loop links Darling Park, Harbourside, Convention, Paddy's Markets and Chinatown to the city centre.

Parking Try Harbourside car park, under the Novotel (enter from Murray St; one hour \$7).

COCKLE BAY WHARF Map p72

☎ 9264 4755; www.cocklebaywharf.com;

📍 Town Hall

The first vaguely tasteful development in Darling Harbour, Cockle Bay Wharf takes up the city-side frontage as far as Pyrmont Bridge. Its modern architecture is softened by the use of timber and whimsical sculptures. We particularly like the stork fountain and the suspended clear plastic whales. Housing 10 upmarket restaurants and six bars, Cockle Bay helped pull Darling Harbour out of the financial dumps in the 1990s. The eateries are generally good, albeit touristy and pricey. [Home \(p158\)](#) set a new standard for stylish megaclubs, and bucked the colonial trend by spawning an offshoot in London.

KING ST WHARF Map p72

☎ 9299 0622; www.ksw.com.au; Erskine St;

📍 Wynyard

Cockle Bay Wharf in ultramodern metal drag, this wharf continues the Darling Harbour precinct past the Pyrmont Bridge on the city side. All the luxury apartments in this \$800-million development are sold and the office space leased out, but you can still get a taste of the high life at its strip of bars and restaurants.

HARBOURSIDE Map p72

☎ 9281 3999; Darling Dr; 🕒 10am-9pm;

📍 MLR Convention

The first big Darling Harbour development, Harbourside is like that guy in a trendy nightclub still wearing a pirate shirt and an unreconstructed mullet; its 1980s stylings are no match for the chic constructions loitering on the other side of the harbour. Restaurants line the frontage and a food hall and shops selling cheap clothes and souvenirs fill the interior.

SYDNEY CONVENTION CENTRE & SYDNEY EXHIBITION CENTRE Map p72

☎ 9282 5000; www.scec.com.au; Darling Dr;

📍 MLR Convention

No, you're not in Texas. They like to do things big in Sydney too, like this behemoth on the western edge of Tumbalong Park. It was designed by Australian architect Philip Cox, who also did the aquarium and the maritime museum. The exhibition centre, on the south end of the complex, has steel masts from which its roofs are suspended. The convention centre is the rounder bit located nearer to the harbour. Check the website to find out about opening times and events.

CHINATOWN

CHINESE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP Map p72

☎ 9240 8888; www.chinesegarden.com.au;

adult/child/family \$6/3/15; 🕒 9.30am-5.30pm;

📍 Town Hall

This tranquil, traditional garden – designed by landscape architects from Guangzhou (a sister city to Sydney) – occupies over a hectare of Darling Harbour bordering Chinatown. It was set up by Sydney's Chinese community to commemorate the Australian Bicentenary in 1988. Its ponds, pavilions, waterfalls and lush plant life make a refreshing break from hoofing it about the city's hot pavement, especially if you finish your visit with a pick-me-up in the [teahouse](#) (🕒 10am-4.30pm). Imperial court costumes are available for those who like to play dress up (\$5, or \$10 including a print).

POWERHOUSE MUSEUM Map p72

☎ 9217 0111; www.powerhousemuseum.com;

500 Harris St, Ultimo; adult/child/under 5 \$10/5/

free; 🕒 10am-5pm; MLR Paddy's Markets

Hands down the best museum for kids, the Powerhouse is huge, occupying what was once the power station for Sydney's erstwhile tram system. Grab a map of the museum once you're inside; you'll need it.

The zillion exhibits at the Powerhouse are extremely engaging, covering everything from furniture design to trains, from space shuttles to musical instruments, from robotics to fashion. There's plenty of interaction, including a series of exhibits where you can conduct your own magnetic and electronic experiments. Look out for the Strasburg Clock replica on level 4 and a guitar owned by AC/DC's Angus Young on level 2. Services are available for disabled visitors.

DIXON STREET Map p72

📍 Haymarket; MLR Paddy's Market

The epicentre of Chinatown, bustling Dixon St is a narrow pedestrian mall lined with restaurants, with ornate gates at either end. These *paifang* are topped with fake bamboo tiling and golden Chinese calligraphy (with English translations). Ornamental lions keep evil spirits at bay. This is actually Sydney's third Chinatown. The first formed in The Rocks in the late 19th century, before moving to the Darling Harbour end of Market St. Dixon St's Chinatown dates from the 1920s.

CENTRAL STATION Map p72

📍 Eddy Ave, City; 📍 Central Station

Sydney's main railway hub was built in 1906 on the site of a cemetery and a convent; the 75m Gothic Revival clock tower was added 15 years later. The main sandstone concourse has an impressive vaulted roof and is the terminus for the intercity and country trains. It also houses the [Railway Heritage Centre](#) (🕒 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat). Suburban trains chug into the outdoor platforms downstairs on the Surry Hills side. As you're pulling into Central from the south, look out for the ornate, disused [Mortuary Station](#) (1869) on your left.

A DARLING CHINATOWN STROLL

Walking Tour

1 Central Station Start upstairs in the main concourse of [Central Station](#) (above), taking time to admire the stained glass windows in the

[Rail Heritage Centre](#). Leave by the George St exit, turn left and walk through the small park down to [Railway Square](#). Cross Pitt St and head onto George St.

2 Christ Church St Lawrence At 812 George St step off Sydney's main thoroughfare into the oasis of calm that is this sandstone church (1845). It's a brief respite before the city's main thoroughfare leads you past a sordid collection of sex clubs and adult stores.

3 Sydney City Library Haymarket At the corner of Hay St, this fine Victorian sandstone building (1875) has delicate floral detailing. Inside, look for the photograph of the Chung Shan Society pictured in traditional costumes in Dixon St in 1910.

WALK FACTS

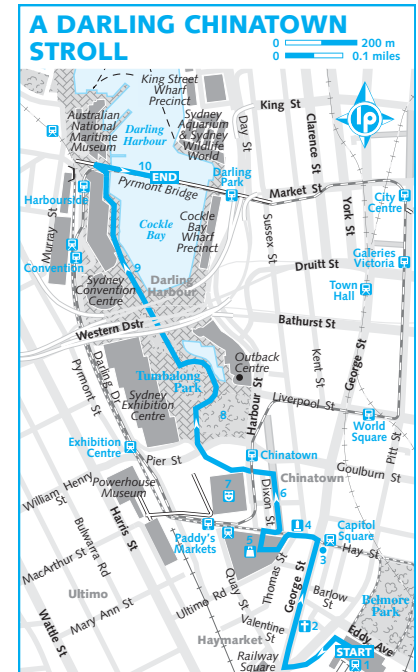
Start Central Station

End Pyrmont Bridge

Distance 4km

Duration 1½ hours

Fuel stops Numerous



4 Golden Water Mouth Cross George St and head down Hay St. To the right of the road, the Golden Water Mouth drips with gold and water; it's formed from a eucalyptus trunk from Condobolin, the destination of many gold rush-era Chinese. Its feng shui significance is to encourage positive energy and good fortune.

5 Paddy's Markets A little further down Hay St, **Paddy's Markets** (p126) occupies a large brick building. Although it had its start in the mid-19th century with mainly European traders, the market's tightly packed stalls are more evocative of present-day Vietnam.

6 Dixon Street Double back and enter through the lion-flanked gate to **Dixon St** (p75), the pedestrian mall at the heart of Chinatown. Look for the fake-bamboo awnings guarded by dragons, dogs and lions to your left, and a lighting fixture reminiscent of an upturned wok while crossing Little Hay St.

7 Sydney Entertainment Centre Exit through the far gate, turn left into Factory St, cross the road and cut across the paved area

to the right of the monumentally ugly **Entertainment Centre** (p169). Veer right in front of the **Pump House** (1889) and past the garish pink neon that marks the start of Darling Harbour.

8 Chinese Garden Of Friendship As you head towards the water you'll pass the **Chinese Garden of Friendship** (p74), one of the prettiest spots in the inner city. Consider paying the admission and soaking up the zen atmosphere over a beverage in the tea garden.

9 Darling Harbour You'll pass **Tumbalong Park** (p73) and the **Outback Centre** (p73) as you head towards the actual harbour. Follow it around to the left where there's a cool **sunken spiral fountain** in front of the **Convention Centre** (p74). The trick is to try to reach the centre while keeping your feet dry.

10 Pyrmont Bridge Continue past the **Harbourside** (p74) complex to Pyrmont Bridge, a swing bridge dating from 1902. While crossing over you'll get a great view of the city and Darling Harbour, including the **Australian National Maritime Museum** (p71) and, on the far side, **Cockle Bay** (p74) and **King Street Wharfs** (p74), **Sydney Aquarium** (p71) and **Sydney Wildlife World** (p73).

DARLINGHURST TO POTTS POINT

Drinking & Nightlife p158; Eating p142; Shopping p126; Sleeping p191

The beginning of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, the city fringe of Darlinghurst to Potts Point is a sociological stew. Taking in the first part of Oxford St (Sydney's sequinned mile), Darlinghurst is synonymous with the gay community – it's home to most of the city's gay venues and the Mardi Gras parade.

As Darlinghurst borders the city it morphs into East Sydney, with the remains of a tiny Italian enclave centred on Stanley St.

Where busy William St crosses Victoria, the Kings Cross red-light district begins in earnest – fittingly under the scarlet glow of a giant Coca-Cola sign. In the early 19th century this ridge became a popular address for the very rich, escaping the fetid slums of the city. As the slums spread, the wealthy abandoned their mansions to move to the suburbs and Sydney's first blocks of flats started to spring up. By the 1920s a bohemian reputation had stuck, as artists rubbed shoulders with immigrants from Continental Europe. During WWII the area was flooded with refugees and randy Americans on shore leave. Foreign conceptions such as cafés and cabarets sprung up, and eventually strip clubs. By the 1970s and 1980s the Cross was the haunt of crooked cops, ruthless underworld figures and heart-breakingly young junkies and prostitutes.

Now the area's changing again. In recent years the footpaths have been spruced up, obvious drug-dealers moved on and strip-club touts reined in.

Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay are the stylish sisters of tarty Kings Cross. Despite coming from the same gene pool, they've kept themselves nice, and offer fabulous remnants of the Victorian and Art Deco building sprees. Leafy Victoria St has a large concentration of backpacker hostels.

Wedge between the city and the Cross, Woolloomooloo was one of Sydney's most notorious slums and still has pockets best avoided after dark. The wharf and neighbouring streets have been gentrified beyond recognition over the last decade.

top picks

DARLINGHURST TO POTTS POINT

- Sydney Jewish Museum (left)
- National Art School (below)
- Elizabeth Bay House (p80)
- Finger Wharf (p80)
- Australian Museum (below)

DARLINGHURST & EAST SYDNEY

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM Map p78

☎ 9360 7999; www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au; 148 Darlinghurst Rd, Darlinghurst; adult/child/family \$10/6/22; 🕒 10am-4pm Sun-Thu, 10am-2pm Fri; 📍 311

This excellent museum has evocative displays on Australian Jewish history from the First Fleet (which included 16 known Jews) to the present day, along with the history of Judaism in general. Video testimony and touch-screen computers are used to good effect. There's a sobering Holocaust section, which includes the moving Children's Memorial. Allow at least two hours to explore this extraordinary place. Free 40-minute tours leave at noon and there's a kosher café on site.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM Map p78

☎ 9320 6000; www.amonline.net.au; 6 College St, East Sydney; adult/child \$10/5; 🕒 9.30am-5pm; 📍 Museum

This natural-history museum, established only 40 years after the First Fleet dropped anchor, has an excellent Australian wildlife collection (including some cool skeletons) and a gallery tracing Aboriginal history and the Dreamtime. There's a half-hour indigenous performance at noon and 2pm every Sunday, and a whole heap of fun programmes for kids. It's also wheelchair accessible.

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL Map p78

☎ 9337 8744; www.nas.edu.au; Forbes St, Darlinghurst; admission free; 🕒 10am-4pm Mon-Sat; 📍 311

DARLINGHURST TO POTTS POINT



DARLINGHURST TO POTTS POINT

SIGHTS		DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE		SLEEPING	
Artspace.....	1 C2	Bar Me & El Rocco	(pp158-61)	Asylum.....	68 C4
Australian Museum.....	2 A4	Jazz Cellar.....	33 C4	Blue.....	69 C2
Darlinghurst Courthouse.....	3 B5	Beauchamp Hotel.....	34 B6	Chelsea.....	70 D4
Elizabeth Bay House.....	4 D2	Darlo Bar.....	35 C5	Eva's Backpackers.....	71 C3
Finger Wharf.....	5 C2	Favela.....	36 D3	Great Aussie Backpackers.....	72 C4
Fitzroy Gardens.....	6 D3	Gazebo Wine Garden.....	37 D3	Hotel 59.....	73 D4
Ginseng Bathhouse.....	7 C4	Green Park Hotel.....	38 C5	Hotel Altamont.....	74 C4
Green Park.....	8 C5	Jimmy Lik's.....	(see 28)	L'otel.....	75 C4
Harry's Café de Wheels.....	(see 27)	Judgement Bar.....	39 B5	Maisonette Hotel.....	76 D2
McElhone Stairs.....	9 C2	Kinselas.....	40 B6	O'Malley's Hotel.....	77 C4
National Art School.....	10 B5	Lady Lux.....	41 D3	Original Backpackers Lodge.....	78 C3
St John's Church.....	11 C4	Old Fitzroy Hotel.....	42 C3	Regents Court.....	79 D3
Sydney Jewish Museum.....	12 C5	Peppermint Lounge.....	43 C4	Royal Sovereign Hotel.....	(see 35)
Sydney Yoga Space.....	13 A4	Ruby Rabbit.....	44 B6	Seventeen Elizabeth Bay Rd.....	80 D3
Taylor Square.....	14 B6	Soho Bar & Lounge.....	45 C3	Travellers Rest.....	81 C3
Yellow House.....	15 D2	Tilbury.....	46 C2	Victoria Court Hotel.....	82 C3
SHOPPING		Water Bar.....	47 C2	Wattle Hotel.....	83 B5
Blue Spinach.....	16 C5	World Bar.....	48 D4	Woodduck Harbour City Backpackers.....	84 B3
Central Station.....	17 A5	Yu.....	(see 45)	TRANSPORT	
Kookaburra Kiosk.....	18 B5	ARTS		Bayswater Car Rental.....	85 C4
Martin Browne Fine Art.....	(see 15)	Darlinghurst Theatre.....	49 D3	Kings Cross Car Market.....	86 D3
Robin Gibson Gallery.....	19 B5	Govinda's.....	50 C4	INFORMATION	
EATING		Griffin Theatre Company.....	51 C4	Blake's Pharmacy.....	87 D3
Bar Coluzzi.....	20 C4	Old Fitzroy Theatre.....	(see 42)	Global Gossip.....	88 C4
Bar Reggio.....	21 A4	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES		Kings Cross Travellers Clinic.....	89 C3
bill's.....	22 C5	Bayswater Fitness.....	52 C4	St Vincent's Public Hospital.....	90 C5
Dolcetta.....	23 C3	City Gym.....	53 A4	Wayside Chapel.....	91 D3
Don Don.....	24 A5	Spa Chakra.....	(see 69)	GAY & LESBIAN SYDNEY	
Dov @ Delectica.....	25 C3	ARTS		Arq.....	54 B6
Frattelli Paradiso.....	26 D2	Darlinghurst Theatre.....	49 D3	Bodyline.....	55 B6
Harry's Café de Wheels.....	27 C2	Govinda's.....	50 C4	Bookshop Darlinghurst.....	56 B6
Jimmy Lik's.....	28 C3	Griffin Theatre Company.....	51 C4	Colombian.....	57 A5
La Buvette.....	(see 29)	Old Fitzroy Theatre.....	(see 42)	House of Priscilla.....	58 A5
Spring Espresso.....	29 D2	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES		Manacle.....	59 B6
Ten Buck Alley.....	30 B4	Bayswater Fitness.....	52 C4	DARLINGHURST TO POTTS POINT	
Toby's Estate.....	31 B3	City Gym.....	53 A4	GREEN PARK Map p78	
Uliveto.....	32 C4	Spa Chakra.....	(see 69)	cnr Victoria & Burton Sts, Darlinghurst; 311	

From 1841 to 1912 this bizarre set of sandstone buildings was Darlinghurst Gaol. Writer Henry Lawson was incarcerated here several times for debt (he called the place 'Starvinghurst'). If today's art students ever think they've got it hard, they should spare a thought for the 732 prisoners crammed within these convict-hewn walls, or the 76 hanged here. The circular central building was the chapel; head upstairs for an interesting historical display. A tiny morgue near the Burton St exit has creepy skull and crossbone carvings. There's an excellent gallery on site showcasing students' work.

TAYLOR SQUARE Map p78

cnr Oxford & Bourke Sts, Darlinghurst; 380 You know it's been a rough night if you wake up here. This almost perfectly paved area straddling Oxford St is the hub of Darlinghurst's nightlife. The stern Greek Revival

Darlinghurst Courthouse (1842) watches the goings-on, no doubt disapprovingly. Near the courthouse is a heritage-listed Edwardian underground toilet (now closed), while on the Surry Hills side a sporadic fountain shoots enemas at unsuspecting passers-by. Carrying on that theme are metre-high suppositories, which house an outdoor gallery of sorts.

GREEN PARK Map p78

cnr Victoria & Burton Sts, Darlinghurst; 311 Once the residence of Alexander Green, hangman of Darlinghurst Gaol, Green Park is a pleasant place during the day but best avoided after dark. A large illuminated pink triangle backed by black pillars is the **Gay & Lesbian Holocaust Memorial**. It was founded by the late Dr Kitty Fischer, who as a young Jewish girl in Auschwitz was kept alive by food

TRANSPORT: DARLINGHURST TO POTTS POINT

Train For Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay and the eastern ridge of Darlinghurst, use Kings Cross Station. For the western end of Darlinghurst and East Sydney use Museum Station. For Woolloomooloo, walk downhill from either St James or Kings Cross.

Bus Route 311 hooks around the entire neighbourhood heading between Circular Quay and Railway Square. Oxford St buses head to Railway Square (378), Circular Quay (373, 380), Watsons Bay via Bondi (380), Bronte (378), Coogee (373) and Newtown via Surry Hills (352). The 389 cuts through the back streets of East Sydney and Darlinghurst from Circular Quay or North Bondi (via Paddington and Woollahra). Routes 324-5 pass through Kings Cross from Circular Quay or Watsons Bay.

Parking Street parking is usually possible, although often metered and limited in duration. Clearways are ruthlessly enforced. Don't leave valuables visible.

smuggled to her by a gay inmate forced to wear the pink triangle. At another corner of the park is a memorial to Victor Chang, the famed heart surgeon who worked at neighbouring St Vincent's Hospital.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH Map p78

☎ 9360 6844; www.stjohnsanglican.org.au; 120 Darlinghurst Rd, Darlinghurst; ☎ 10am-2pm; 📍 Kings Cross

Grab a pamphlet inside this lovely sandstone church (1858) for an interesting 10-minute, self-guided tour. There's a separate leaflet with information about the historic stained-glass windows. This Anglican congregation runs the Rough Edges Community Centre, working with the area's many homeless.

WOOLLOOMOOLOO

FINGER WHARF Map p78

Cowper Wharf Rdwy; 📍 311

A former wool and cargo dock, the Finger Wharf got a huge sprucing up in the late 1990s and has emerged as one of Sydney's most exclusive eating, drinking, sleeping and luxury yacht-mooring addresses. It's still a public wharf so feel free to walk through the centre, past five-star hotel [Blue](#) (p193) and its fabulously designery [Water Bar](#) (p159). Along the way the wharf's history is etched into glass walls. This bastion of working-class tough has been transformed into a star-spotting paparazzi haunt, so it's fitting that everyman-megastar Russell Crowe has the penthouse at the end.

ARTSPACE Map p78

☎ 9356 0555; www.artspace.org.au; The Gunnery, 51 Cowper Wharf Rdwy; admission free; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sat; 📍 311

This cutting-edge 'centre for experimentation' has changing contemporary avant-garde exhibitions that focus on modern Australian life and culture. It's an admirable attempt to liven things up in Sydney's art scene, with sometimes disturbing ideas stretching across the borders that stifle expression. Interdisciplinary works are a speciality; disabled access is excellent.

HARRY'S CAFÉ DE WHEELS Map p78

☎ 9347 3074; Cowper Wharf Rdwy; pies \$3-4; ☎ 9am-1am Mon-Wed, 9am-3am Thu, 9am-4am Fri & Sat, 9am-midnight Sun; 📍 311

A humble pie cart but a tourist attraction no less, Harry's has been open since 1938 (besides a few years when founder Harry 'Tiger' Edwards was on active service). Photos prove that anyone and everyone comes to Harry's; if you stop to pay homage, you'll be joining the ranks of Pamela Anderson, Frank Sinatra and Colonel Sanders.

KINGS CROSS & POTTS POINT

FITZROY GARDENS Map p78

cnr Macleay St & Darlinghurst Rd, Kings Cross; 📍 Kings Cross

It's testimony to the 'cleaning up' of the Cross that this once decidedly dodgy park is now a reasonably pleasant place to loiter (probably helped by the Stalinist police station at one end). The dandelion-esque [El Alamein Fountain](#) (1961) is one of the area's most notable landmarks, known locally as 'the elephant douche'. On Sundays a small flea market sets up in the plaza.

ELIZABETH BAY HOUSE Map p78

☎ 9356 3022; www.hht.net.au/museums/ebh; 7 Onslow Ave, Elizabeth Bay; adult/child/family \$8/4/17; ☎ 10am-4.30pm Tue-Sun; 📍 311

Once known as 'the finest house in the colony', Elizabeth Bay House (1839) has been meticulously restored; painted in the original colour scheme and furnished with early-19th-century furniture. The house, with fine harbour views, was designed in English Neoclassical Revival style by architect John Verge for then-colonial secretary of NSW Alexander Macleay (whose memorial tablet is in St James' Church, see p67). The large original grounds of the house served as a sort of botanic garden for Macleay, who collected plants from around the world.

YELLOW HOUSE Map p78

59 Madeay St, Potts Point; 📍 311

Once a sunflower-yellow symbol of all things bohemian, this former artists' residence housed cultural heroes such as Martin Sharp, Peter Weir, Brett Whiteley and George Gittoes. It fell into disrepair in the '70s but has recently been renovated into a slick commercial gallery (p126) showcasing contemporary Australian and New Zealand art and a café-providore known for its heavenly chocolate cake.

MCELHONE STAIRS Map p78

Victoria St, Potts Point; 📍 Kings Cross

These wonderful old stone stairs (1870) were built to connect smart Potts Point with the Woolloomooloo slums below. The downhill trip is infinitely easier on the legs and lungs than the 120 steps up from Woolloomooloo.

A RISQUÉ RAMBLE

Walking Tour

1 Taylor Square Start by following the route of the annual [Mardi Gras Parade](#) (p17) along Oxford St from Hyde Park; this is the city's main gay strip. Stop at [Taylor Square](#) (p79), the heart of the pink 'hood, and note the historic Victorian underground toilets (closed) and the majestic sandstone [Darlinghurst Courthouse](#).

2 National Art School Cut diagonally left across the square and take Forbes St, where you'll pass the old [Darlinghurst Police Station](#). To the right, behind imposing sandstone walls, is the [National Art School](#) (p77) – formerly Darlinghurst Gaol. Pass through the gates and search out the chapel, gallery and the creepy morgue.

3 Green Park Leave by the Burton St exit, turn right and head down to the traffic lights. Directly ahead is [Green Park](#) (p79), flanked by [St Vincent's Hospital](#) and [Sacred Heart Hospice](#). Both the hospital and hospice found themselves at the frontline of the AIDS epidemic when it hit the local community hard in the 1980s.

4 St John's Church Turn into Darlinghurst Rd, passing the [Sydney Jewish Museum](#) (p77) on your right (don't stop unless you've got a couple of hours to do it justice). This stretch has some lovely terrace houses and the [Darlo Bar](#) (p159), flat-ironed into a corner location. Stop at [St John's Church](#) (opposite) and grab a pamphlet for a 10-minute self-guided tour.

5 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst Cut through the church ground and turn left onto the Victoria St restaurant strip. Grab a coffee at [Bar Coluzzi](#) (p143) on the right, a local institution since the 1950s. Up ahead you'll see the giant [Coca-Cola sign](#) that marks the beginning of Kings Cross.

6 'Top of the Cross' Stop at this busy intersection to take in the view down William St. Behind you, in front of the Elan apartments, is Ken Unsworth's much derided *Stones Against the Sky* sculpture. Locals know it as 'Shits On Sticks', which may be why it's recently been painted from brown to grey.

7 El Alamein Fountain Follow Darlinghurst Rd into the seedy heart of the Cross. Look to the ground for a series of inscriptions offering tidbits of local history; just before McDonald's, you'll see one that marks the site of the 1978 Mardi Gras arrests (p183). Continue to [Fitzroy Gardens](#) (opposite) and the El Alamein Fountain.

8 Elizabeth Bay Cut past the distinctive round [Gazebo](#) tower, turn left into Elizabeth Bay

WALK FACTS

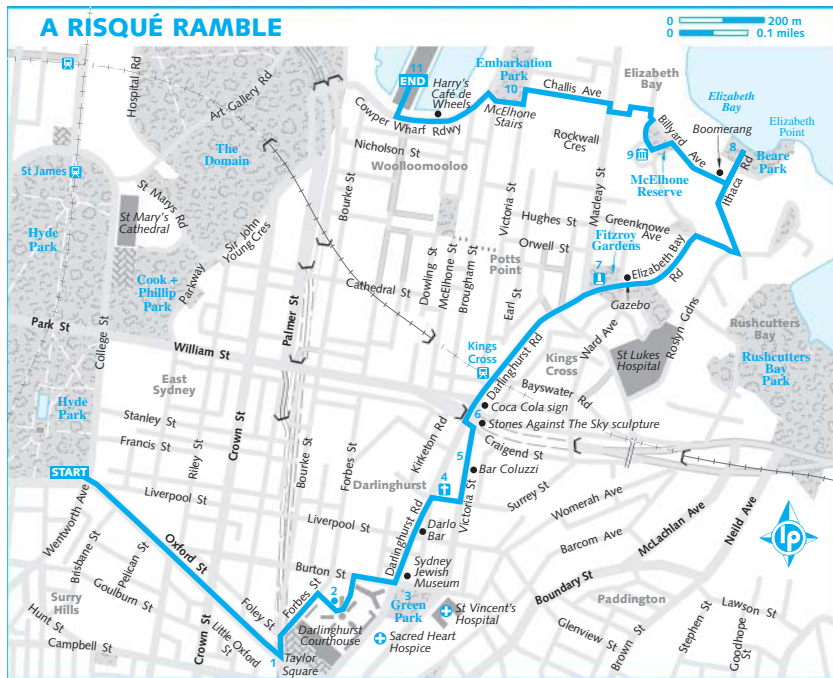
Start Hyde Park

End Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf

Distance 7km

Duration Two hours solid walking

Fuel stops Plenty along Victoria St and Challis Ave; Harry's and the Water bar at the end



Rd and follow it as it heads downhill and turns sharply right at a roundabout. Turn left when you reach Ithaca Rd and head down to pretty Elizabeth Bay where there's a small park.

9 Elizabeth Bay House Backtrack slightly and turn right into Billyard Ave. As you do you're passing the high walls of **Boomerang**, one of Australia's most expensive private houses. Take the stairs on the left (by the bus stop) leading up to genteel **McElhone Reserve**. Across this little park is stately **Elizabeth Bay House** (p80).

10 Embarkation Park Turn right (downhill) and take the stairs just before 17 Billyard Ave. At the top turn right into Macleay St and then left into highly caffeinated Challis Ave where you'll pass an impressive row of colonnaded mansions. At the bottom is Embarkation Park, offering great views over Woolloomooloo and the city.

top picks

MUSEUMS

- **Museum of Contemporary Art** (p53)
- **Australian National Maritime Museum** (p71)
- **Sydney Jewish Museum** (p77)
- **Powerhouse Museum** (p74)
- **Nicholson Museum** (p102)

11 Finger Wharf Head down **McElhone Stairs** (p81), to the left of the park. As you approach Woolloomooloo **Finger Wharf** (p80) you'll pass **Harry's Café de Wheels** (p80), a Sydney institution since 1938. Refuel with a pie or continue into the wharf for a classier finale at the **Water Bar** (p159).

PADDINGTON TO DOUBLE BAY

Drinking & Nightlife p161; Eating p144; Shopping p127; Sleeping p193

The next belt of suburbs to the east is distinctly well-heeled. Pretty Paddington is a residential area of steep leafy streets and tightly packed terrace houses. It was built for aspiring artisans in the later years of the Victorian era, but during the lemming-like rush to the dreary outer suburbs after WWII, the area became an overcrowded slum. A renewed interest in Victorian architecture, combined with a sudden recollection of the pleasures of inner-city life, led to the area's restoration from the 1960s onwards.

Paddington has since turned into a fascinating jumble of beautifully restored terrace homes, elegant boutiques, cosy restaurants with five-star kitchens, sleek art galleries and cool bookshops.

Paddington's main spine is Oxford St, built over an ancient Cadigal walking track. When it passes through the suburb it becomes Sydney's premiere fashion strip. The best time to see Paddington at its liveliest is on Saturday, when the Paddington Markets (p86) and the surrounding boutiques are in full swing.

In contrast to Paddington, Woollahra was never a slum, and it's this old-money smugness that gives it a genteel, bordering on pompous, ambience. A dash of decent cafés, some great restaurants, upmarket boutiques and a wealth of antique shops (mainly around Queen St) make it a good spot for a combined stroll and shopping spree.

As you head down the hill towards the harbour, Edgecliff is a nondescript transport hub centred on New South Head Rd, sheltering the seriously moneyed mansions of Darling Point. Nicole Kidman has her Sydney home here. Just to the west of the point is peaceful Rushcutters Bay, while to the east Double Bay has a flashy nouveau riche reputation. Colloquially known as 'Double Pay', its pricey boutiques and restaurants aren't as interesting as Paddington's, but it does have some good hotels and the closest beach to the city (which you'd ever contemplate swimming at).

VICTORIA BARRACKS Map pp84–5

☎ 9339 3330; Oxford St, Paddington; admission free; ☞ museum & tour 10am–1pm Thu, museum only 10am–4pm Sun; ☎ 380

There are free tours of these stately Georgian barracks (built 1841–8) that include a performance by the military band (weather permitting). It's a large complex, brought alive by the old soldiers of the Corps of Guides; expect a good yarn. The museum is jam-packed with military paraphernalia. Disabled access is good.

CENTENNIAL PARK Map pp84–5

☎ 9339 6699; www.cp.nsw.gov.au; Oxford St, Woollahra; ☞ sunrise-sunset; ☎ 380 Sydney's biggest park, Centennial Park is a leafy 189-hectare expanse popular with horse riders, joggers, cyclists and in-line skaters (for cycle and in-line skate hire see

top picks

PADDINGTON TO DOUBLE BAY

- **Australian Centre For Photography** (p85)
- **Centennial Park** (left)
- **Victoria Barracks** (left)
- **Redleaf Pool** (p87)
- **Rushcutters Bay Park** (p87)

p217 and p175); it also offers barbecue sites, playgrounds and football fields. Built in 1888 in the grand Victorian tradition, it has wide formal avenues, ponds and numerous statues. The spot where Australia was officially proclaimed a nation (on 1 January 1901) is marked by the **Federation Pavilion**.

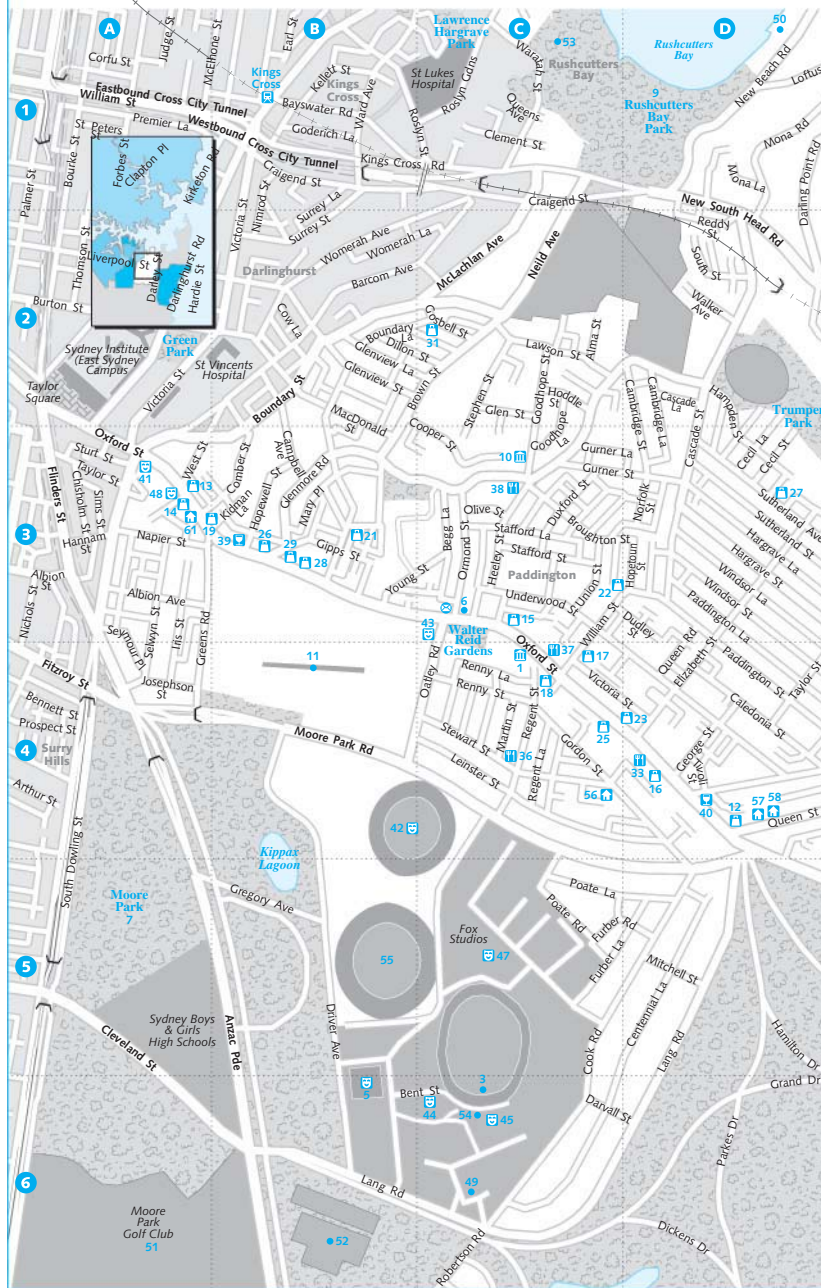
During summer, you can catch the **Moonlight Cinema** (p170) here, as well as various rock concerts. At the southern edge of the park is **Royal Randwick Racecourse** (p179), while on its eastern edge it joins **Queens Park** and continues for another 26 hectares.

MOORE PARK Map pp84–5

☎ 9339 6699; www.cp.nsw.gov.au; Anzac Pde; ☎ 339

Part of the Centennial Parklands – a huge green swathe that cuts from Surry Hills to Bondi – Moore Park covers 115 hectares

PADDINGTON TO DOUBLE BAY



TRANSPORT: PADDINGTON TO DOUBLE BAY

Bus Routes 378 (to/from Railway Square and Bronte), 380 (between Circular Quay and Watsons Bay via Bondi) and 352 (between Bondi Junction and Newtown via Surry Hills, Redfern, Alexandria and Erskineville). Bus 389 connects North Bondi and Circular Quay via Woollahra's Moncur St. Buses 324-5 pass through Edgecliff and Double Bay (to/from Circular Quay and Watsons Bay).

Train Walk downhill from Edgecliff Station to Rushcutters Bay, Double Bay and the bottom of Paddington.

Ferry Services stopping in Double Bay connect Watsons Bay and Circular Quay.

Parking Street parking is usually possible, although often metered and limited in duration.

just south of Paddington, including sports fields, tennis and netball courts, an 18-hole public **golf course** (p177) and a site for visiting circuses. The broader precinct also includes the homes of the Sydney Swans Aussie rules team, the Sydney City Roosters rugby league team and the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Party – the historic **Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG)**, **Aussie Stadium** and the **Hordern Pavilion**, respectively. Try not to get them confused! **Fox Studios** and the **Entertainment Quarter** (p86) add further to the mix.

SCG Tour Experience (☎ 1300 724 737; www.scgt.nsw.gov.au/tours.html; adult/child/family \$25/17/65; 🕒 tours 10am & 1pm Mon-Fri, 10pm Sat) are behind-the-scenes guided tours of the facilities at Aussie Stadium and the SCG, giving sports fans the chance to run up the players' tunnel from the dressing rooms in their own Grand Final moment.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Map pp84-5
☎ 9332 1455; www.acp.org.au; 257 Oxford St, Paddington; admission free; 🕒 noon-7pm Tue-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat & Sun; 🚗 380

This not-for-profit centre has wonderful regular exhibitions of the work of Sydney's best photographers. You can pick up a copy of the centre's magazine, *Photofile*, while you're there.

PADDINGTON TO DOUBLE BAY

SIGHTS (pp83–8)	Leona Edmiston.....22 C3	Chauvel Cinema.....43 C3
Australian Centre for Photography.....1 C4	Merchandise Market.....(see 3)	Cinema Paris.....44 C6
Centennial Park.....2 E5	Morrissey.....23 D4	Hoyts at Fox Studios.....45 C6
Entertainment Quarter.....3 C6	Orson & Blake.....24 E4	Moonlight Cinema.....46 F5
Federation Pavilion.....4 E6	Paddington Markets.....25 C4	Sydney Comedy Store.....47 C5
Hardern Pavilion.....5 B6	Quick Brown Fox.....26 B3	Verona Cinema.....48 A3
Juniper Hall.....6 C3	Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery.....27 D3	
Moore Park.....7 A5	Sass & Bide.....28 B3	
Paddington Markets.....(see 25)	Scanlan & Theodore.....29 B3	
Queen Street.....8 E4	Simon Johnson.....30 E4	
Rushcutters Bay Park.....9 D1	Stills Gallery.....31 C2	
Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation.....10 C3		
Victoria Barracks.....11 B4		
	EATING (pp144–5)	
	Bistro Moncur.....32 E4	
	Chocolate By The Bald Man	
	Max Bremner.....33 D4	
	Golden Sheaf Hotel.....34 F2	
SHOPPING (pp127–9)	Jones the Grocer.....35 E4	
Akira Isogawa.....12 D4	Relish On Regent.....36 C4	
Ariel.....13 A3	Sloanes.....37 C4	
Berkelouw Books.....14 A3	Vamps.....38 C3	
Bracewell.....15 C3		
Cambodia House.....16 D4		
Collette Dinnigan.....17 C4	DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE (p161)	
Dinosaur Designs.....18 C4	Fringe Bar.....39 B3	
Fox Studio Farmer's Market.....(see 3)	Light Brigade Hotel.....40 D4	
Gertrude & Alice.....19 A3	Woollahra Hotel.....(see 32)	
Herringbone.....20 E4		
Hogarth Galleries Aboriginal Art Centre.....21 B3		
	ARTS (p)	
	Academy Twin Cinema.....41 A3	
	Aussie Stadium.....42 B4	
	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	
	Ashanga Yoga Space.....(see 48)	
	Centennial Parklands	
	Equestrian Centre.....49 C6	
	EastSail.....50 D1	
	Moore Park Golf Club.....51 A6	
	Parklands Tennis Centre.....52 B6	
	Rushcutters Bay Park	
	Tennis.....53 C1	
	Skater HQ.....54 C6	
	Sydney Cricket Ground.....55 B5	
	SLEEPING (pp193–4)	
	Hart's Homestay.....56 C4	
	Hughenden.....57 D4	
	Kathryn's on Queen.....58 D4	
	Savoy Hotel.....59 F1	
	Stamford Plaza	
	Double Bay.....60 F1	
	Sullivans Hotel.....61 A3	
	INFORMATION	
	German Consulate.....62 E3	

SHERMAN CONTEMPORARY ART FOUNDATION

Map pp84–5
 ☎ 9331 1112; www.sherman-scaf.org.au;
 16 Goodhope St, Paddington; admission free;
 ☎ 10am–6pm Tue–Fri, 11am–6pm Sat;
 ☎ 389

After 21 years as a cutting-edge commercial gallery, at the time of research Sherman Galleries was preparing to celebrate its coming-of-age by re-opening as a not-for-profit gallery. The focus will be on temporary exhibitions of work by influential and innovative artists from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Details such as opening hours may change, so it would pay to call ahead.

ENTERTAINMENT QUARTER

Map pp84–5
 ☎ 9383 4333; www.entertainmentquarter.com.au; 122 Lang Rd, Moore Park; ☎ 10am–midnight;
 ☎ 339

Formerly named after neighbouring Fox Studios (where *Moulin Rouge*, *The Matrix* and two *Star Wars* prequels were made), this very-LA entertainment complex spreads along a palm-lined avenue. It boasts cinemas, shops, restaurants, pubs and performance venues and is home to two popular markets (p124). There's a monster car park and disabled access is very good.

JUNIPER HALL

Map pp84–5
 www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/properties/juniper-hall/; 250 Oxford St, Paddington; ☎ 10am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm Sat; ☎ 380

This magnificently restored Georgian mansion was built by Robert Cooper as a family home in 1824 with profits from his gin business. He named it after a key gin-making ingredient. Paddington's oldest home, it's owned by the National Trust but tenanted as a shop specialising in antiques and decorative arts; there's nothing to stop you having a nosy inside during opening hours.

PADDINGTON MARKET

Map pp84–5
 ☎ 9331 2923; www.paddingtonmarket.com.au; St John's Church, 395 Oxford St, Paddington; ☎ 10am–4pm Sat; ☎ 380

A cultural experience, these quirky, long-running markets turn Saturdays in Paddington into pandemonium. Originating in the heady Whitlam era of the 1970s, Paddington Markets were a beacon for larrikin artists and artisans, Eastern Suburbs punks, skinheads, patchouli-scented hippies and fledgling fashion designers. It's a tad more mainstream now, but still worth checking out for its pricey cutting-edge fashions and vintage clothing, creative crafts, beautiful jewellery, tasty food, palm-reading and holistic treatments. Don't even think about

finding a place to park – this is one for public transport.

LINDESAY

☎ 9363 2401; www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/properties/lindesay; 1a Carthona Ave, Darling Point; admission \$6; ☎ 10am–2pm 1st Thu of the month; ☎ Darling Point

It's rarely open but aside from Nicole Kidman inviting you in for tea, this is probably your best chance to look inside an actual Darling Point mansion. Built in 1834, it's still got its Georgian interiors, servants' quarters and long lawn overlooking the harbour.

RUSHCUTTERS BAY PARK

Map pp84–5
 New South Head Rd, Rushcutters Bay; ☎ 324-5
 This delightful waterfront park is an ideal spot for a quiet walk or jog, surrounded by enormous Moreton Bay figs, luxury yachts and overly pampered pooches. In December this is where you'll find the country's greatest yachties as they prepare for the gruelling *Sydney to Hobart race* (p19).

REDLEAF POOL

Map pp84–5
 536 New South Head Rd, Double Bay; ☎ 324-5
 Not really a pool at all, Redleaf is the closest swimmable beach to the city – and as such attracts an urbane collection of inner-eastern locals. A boardwalk runs around the top of a shark-net, giving it an enclosed pool-like feel. This and two floating pontoons are highly sought-after posing platforms for those who confuse beaches with catwalks. The western end is popular with families, who enjoy the sense of security

the shark-net brings, while the eastern is nearly exclusively colonised by gay men.

QUEEN STREET

Map pp84–5
 Woollahra; ☎ 389
 Despite its status as the premier antique shopping strip in Australia (its first antique shop opened in 1957), elegant tree-lined Queen St retains a village atmosphere, with attractive boutiques that make for great window-shopping. It was once the site of a famous annual street fair until the delicate residents had it shut down in the early 1980s, unhappy with the noise. Paul Keating, former prime minister, owns a grand home here.

FOLLOW THE FASHION TRAIL

Walking Tour

1 Victoria Barracks This place (p83) is still an active Army base, so you'll have to catch a view of the impressive Georgian sandstone structure from the guarded gate. Cross Oxford St, turn left and head down to Glenmore Rd where temptation comes by way of a cluster of boutiques.

WALK FACTS

Start Victoria Barracks
End Centennial Park
Distance 4km
Duration Two hours (not including Centennial Park or extended shopping frenzies)
Fuel stops Continuously available



3 Five Ways Turn right into Glenmore Rd and follow it as it curves around for several blocks to Five Ways, a roundabout at the confluence of five roads. While Oxford St is the main strip, this charming collection of cafés and shops is the residential heart of Paddington – surrounded by million-dollar-plus terrace houses.

3 William Street boutiques At Five Ways stop for a quick look around the [Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation gallery \(p86\)](#) at the beginning of Goodhope St, before heading uphill along Broughton St, turning right into Hopetoun St and following this to William St. This quiet side street has sprouted a strip of relaxed boutiques.

4 Oxford Street, Paddington Turn left into Oxford St, Sydney's main fashionista thoroughfare. Both local and international

designers are represented, selling swanky threads for women and men. Cafés, pubs and homeware stores join the race to prise your credit card out of your wallet.

5 Queen Street, Woollahra At the end of the strip turn left into Queen St, the beginning of upmarket Woollahra. There are a few leading boutiques at the beginning, but gradually they give way to antique stores and providers. [Simon Johnson \(p129\)](#) at number 55 usually has tastings, so drop in for a free nibble.

6 Centennial Park Turn right into Ocean St and follow this back up to Oxford St. Cross the road and enter [Centennial Park \(p83\)](#). There's a lot of park to explore – if you're not too laden down with shopping bags. Lighten the load by getting stuck into the yummys you couldn't resist buying at Simon Johnson.

SURRY HILLS TO ALEXANDRIA

Drinking & Nightlife [p161](#); Eating [p145](#); Shopping [p129](#); Sleeping [p194](#)

Collectively known as South Sydney, this area has long had a reputation as a tough, tightly-knit working class community. While its city-fringe terraces are fast becoming flash, there's still a lively mix of racial and sexual minorities, and the inner city's biggest Aboriginal population.

Squeezed between the east side of Central Station and South Dowling St, Surry Hills is the most obvious recipient of relentless gentrification. Once the hub of the rag trade and print media, it's now increasingly known as Sydney's pre-eminent dining precinct. Gay men are now the most easily identifiable grouping in the suburb.

Not as sleazy as Darlinghurst, Surry Hills' leafy backstreets make a great base for exploring the city – although sleeping options are limited. Crown St, heading south from Oxford St, is the main drag and, along with quiet Bourke St, it has most of the restaurants, funky boutiques and trendy bars. At its south edge, Cleveland St has cheaper dining options including a cluster of vegetarian Indian eateries.

Heading further south, Redfern and Waterloo have held on to their traditional character more tightly but have a grittier reputation as a result.

Tensions boiled over into a night of rioting in 2004 when a 17-year-old Aboriginal boy died while being pursued by police. The Block, an area of Aboriginal housing near Redfern station, is a virtual no-go zone where it's not unusual to see fires lit on the street and dealers openly pushing heroin. No matter how genuinely interested you are in seeing 'the real Sydney' you're not going to win any friends poking around here with your camera.

Bizarrely, the last few years have seen Danks St in Waterloo transform into an art and gourmet food enclave – well worth checking out.

Further south still, Alexandria is a mostly industrial area and a great spot to find bargain-basement factory shops.

BRETT WHITELEY STUDIO [Map pp90–1](#)

☎ 9225 1881; [www.brettwhiteley.org](#); 2 Raper St, Surry Hills; adult/concession \$7/5; ☎ 10am–4pm Sat & Sun; 📞 301-303

Down a small lane hides the former studio of this renowned modern Australian artist. You can identify it by the two oversized matches (one burnt, one intact) at the door – a miniature version of his famous sculpture in [The Domain \(p66\)](#). The studio houses a selection of Whiteley's work and has been preserved to show how the artist operated before his untimely death in 1992.

OBJECT GALLERY [Map pp90–1](#)

☎ 9361 4555; [www.object.com.au](#); 417 Bourke St, Surry Hills; admission free; ☎ 11am–6pm Tue–Sun; 📞 380

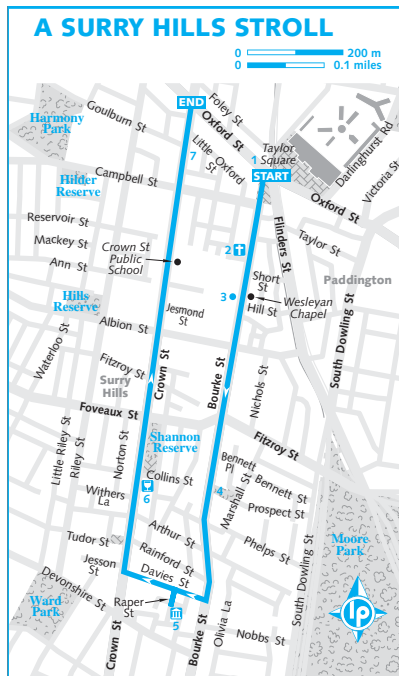
Also known as the Australian Centre for Craft and Design, Object Gallery focuses on contemporary Australian design in a variety of materials, encompassing everything from furniture to fashion to kitchen utensils. It occupies the delicious chapel of the former St Margaret's Hospital, an intriguing design in itself – round with panels of coloured glass.

TRANSPORT: SURRY HILLS TO ALEXANDRIA

Train Walk uphill from Central for the western edge of Surry Hills, or use Museum for the blocks around Oxford St. Most lines stop at Redfern Station. For Alexandria use Green Square.

Bus To/from Circular Quay, routes 301–3 take Crown St and carry on to Waterloo, routes 309–10 skirt the western edge of Surry Hills before heading through Redfern and Alexandria, and route 339 to Clovelly passes through Surry Hills. Route 372 heads along Cleveland St to/from Railway Square and Coogee. Route 355 and 352 connect Bondi Junction to Newtown via Surry Hills and Redfern (the former through Alexandria and Erskineville, the latter through Oxford St).

Parking Street parking is usually possible, although often metered and limited in duration. Don't leave valuables visible.



WALK FACTS

Start Taylor Square

End Oxford St

Distance 2km

Duration One hour

Fuel stops The Crown Hotel and many other restaurants, bars and cafés

a straight ex-plumber and a staunch supporter of gay rights.

5 Brett Whiteley's Studio Note the row of particularly grand four-storey terraces starting at No 520. Turn right into Davies St into a tight web of laneways. Raper St is on the left and the large matchsticks on the wall will help you spot **Brett Whiteley's Studio** (p89).

6 Clock Backtrack then continue left along Davies St until you come out on Crown St, Surry Hills' main strip and a glutton's paradise. Turn right and note for future reference the location of some of the city's best restaurants. If you're getting thirsty, call into the **Clock** (p162).

7 Secondhand clothing boutiques Continue along Crown St past more terraces and pubs (turn it into a pub crawl if you must). Look out for the stately **Crown Street Public School** (1849) on your right, with a statue of a WWI digger out the front. When you start to hit the secondhand clothing boutiques you'll know you're nearing Oxford St.

4 Fred Miller Park Continuing along Bourke you'll pass some interesting houses, including a sandstone Georgian block with a deep veranda and some large Victorian terraces, gentrified and otherwise. Just after No 454 a small park commemorates a very-Surry Hills character. Fred Miller was a Labor politician,

BONDI TO COOGEE

Drinking & Nightlife p163; Eating p147; Shopping p131; Sleeping p195

Glorious stretches of golden sand framed by sheer cliffs, the Eastern Beaches are a big part of Sydney's appeal. Most famous of all is the broad sweep of Bondi Beach, only 7km from the CBD yet a world away; the stunning scenery and constant procession of beautiful bods is enough to take anyone's mind off work. This is where Sydney comes to see and be seen – preferably wearing as little as possible. It's not an affirming place for those with body image issues.

Bondi Junction is an innocuous transport hub at the end of Oxford St. Bondi Rd begins here, passing through Bondi proper before swooping down to Campbell Pde, the beachfront road where most of the hotels and pubs are located.

Bondi wasn't always known for million-dollar apartments and flashiness. Traditionally the neighbourhood of choice for New Zealand migrants (including a strong Maori community), until recently it was the frequent butt of sneering 'Kiwi dole-bludger' comments. More noticeable due to their distinctive garb is a large Hassidic Jewish community concentrated around several synagogues in the steep back streets.

South of Bondi, Tamarama (aka 'Glamarama') is a lovely cove with notorious rips. Below Tamarama you'll find family-friendly Bronte and its pretty bowl-shaped park with picnic tables and coin-operated barbecues. While brunching on the popular café strip during the winter months you may catch sight of the watery snorts of migrating whales.

Further south is the shallow, protected lagoon of Clovelly. Swimming is excellent, and the water is home to an abundance of marine life that attracts both snorkellers and divers.

Four kilometres south of Bondi, Coogee is nearly a carbon copy of its famous sister but without the airs and graces. While it takes longer to get here on public transport, budget accommodation options here are generally of a better standard than at Bondi.

Inland, Randwick is home to a famous racecourse and the University of New South Wales.

BONDI

BONDI BEACH Map pp94–5

Campbell Pde, Bondi; ☎ 380

Sydney's (indeed, Australia's) most famous beach, Bondi lures people from around the world with its promise of sun, sand, surf and exposed skin, and all just 8km from the CBD. The average water temperature is a pleasant 21°C. If you don't like it rough, there are saltwater swimming pools at either end – great for the kids.

The two surf clubs – Bondi and North Bondi – patrol the beach between sets of flags. These are positioned to avoid the worst rips and holes; don't be an idiot – swim between them. Try not to be one of the thousands of tourists and locals who have to be rescued every year. Surfers ride breaks at either end of the beach and it's a good place for learners (see p178). Near the

top picks

BONDI TO COOGEE

- Bondi Beach (left)
- Clovelly Beach (p97)
- Waverley Cemetery (p96)
- Coogee Ocean Pools (p96)
- Bronte Beach (p96)

south end of the beach is a popular **skate ramp**. If posing in your budgie smugglers (Speedos) isn't having enough impact, there's an outdoor **work-out area** near the North Bondi Surf Club. Coincidentally this is the part of the beach where the gay guys tend to hang out.

Bondi Pavilion (below) has changing rooms and lockers, along with a gelato shop. Ice-cream vendors also strut the sand in summer. At the north end there's a lovely grassy spot with coin-operated barbecues. Alcohol is forbidden on the beach.

BONDI PAVILION Map pp94–5

☎ 8362 3400; www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/info/pavilion/; Queen Elizabeth Dr, Bondi; ☎ 380 'The Pav', just off the esplanade, is a 1929 Mediterranean Georgian Revival-style edifice. It has changing rooms, lockers and

BONDI TO COOGEE



SIGHTS (pp93-8)		POMPEI'S.....33 E1	
Aboriginal Rock Engravings.....	1 F1	Sabbaba.....	34 D1
BelleVue Park.....	2 C1	Swell.....	35 D3
Bondi Beach.....	3 E2	DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE (p163)	
Bondi Pavilion.....	4 E1	Aquarium.....	36 C5
Bronte Beach.....	5 D3	Beach Road Hotel.....	37 D1
Clovelly Beach.....	6 D5	Bondi Icebergs	
Coogee Beach.....	7 C6	Swimming Club.....(see 44)	
Dolphin Point.....	8 C6	Clovelly Hotel.....	38 D5
Giles Baths.....	9 C6	Coogee Bay Hotel.....	39 C6
Gordons Bay Underwater Nature Trail.....	10 D5	Eastern.....	40 B2
Kitepower.....	(see 23)	Icebergs.....(see 30)	
McIvers Baths.....	11 C6	North Bondi RSL.....	41 F1
Ross Jones Memorial Pool.....	12 C6	ARTS (p163)	
Tamarama Beach.....	13 D3	Bondi Open Air Cinema.....	42 E1
Waverley Cemetery.....	14 D4	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	
Wylies Baths.....	15 C6	Bondi Beach Golf Club.....	43 F1
SHOPPING (pp131-2)		Bondi Icebergs	
100% Mambo.....	16 E2	Swimming Club.....	44 E2
Bang-On.....	17 B2	Clovelly Bowling Club.....	45 D4
Bondi Markets.....	18 E1	Dive Centre Bondi.....	46 C2
Dirty Cheap CDs.....	19 E1	Let's Go Surfing.....	47 F1
Gertrude & Alice.....	20 D1	SLEEPING (pp195-6)	
Grandma Takes A Trip.....	21 E1	Avonmore on the Park.....	48 A5
Kirrilly Stores.....	22 B6	Beachouse.....	49 C5
Kitepower.....	23 C5	Coogee Sands.....	50 C5
Shop.....	24 E1	Dive Hotel.....	51 C6
Tuchuzy.....	(see 24)	Hotel Bondi.....	52 E1
Westfield Bondi Junction.....	25 B2	Ravesi's.....	53 E2
EATING (pp147-8)		Swiss Grand.....	54 E1
Caffe Salina.....	26 D3	TRANSPORT	
Chish & Fips.....	27 C6	Bondi Junction Bus Interchange.....	55 B2
Churrasco.....	28 B6	Bus Station.....	56 F1
Green's Cafe.....	29 D1	INFORMATION	
Icebergs.....	30 E2	Global Gossip.....	57 D1
Jed's Foodstore.....	31 E1		
Katipo Coffee House Deluxe.....	32 C2		

TRANSPORT: BONDI TO COOGEE

Train Take the train to Bondi Junction for Bondi (then bus 380, 381 or 382), Tamarama (then bus 361), Bronte (then bus 360, 361 or 378), Clovelly (then bus 360) or Coogee (then bus 313, 314 or 353).

Bus For Bondi take bus 380 from Watsons Bay or Circular Quay via Oxford St, or 389 from Circular Quay via Woollahra. For Bronte take bus 378 from Railway Square via Oxford St. For Clovelly take bus 339 from The Rocks via Surry Hills. For Coogee take bus 373 from Circular Quay via Oxford St or bus 372 from Railway Square via Surry Hills. For Bondi Junction take any of the Oxford St routes or 352/355 from Newtown via Redfern and Surry Hills.

Parking Difficult on sunny weekends – be prepared to park and walk. Bronte has only limited-duration meters near the beach.

showers, as well as a theatre and gallery hosting cultural and community events, holiday entertainment for kids and a plethora of classes.

ABORIGINAL ROCK ENGRAVINGS

Map pp94-5
Bondi Golf Course, Military Rd, North Bondi; (M) 380
 On the golf course a short walk north (and uphill) from Bondi Beach, you'll find some interesting Aboriginal rock engravings. Look for the fenced areas about 20m southeast of the enormous chimney. The original carvings had to be regrooved by Waverley Council in the 1960s in order to preserve them. Some of the figures are a little hard to distinguish, though you should be able to make out the marine life and the figure of a man. There's also a great **lookout** at the end of Ramsgate Ave with stunning views back over Bondi Beach.

BELLEVUE PARK

Map pp94-5
BelleVue Park Rd, Bellevue Hill; (M) 326-7
 This quiet suburban park has brilliant views over Bondi and all the heads – North, South and Middle. When the early Irish convicts named it Vinegar Hill, after a battle in the 1798 Irish Rebellion, Governor Macquarie stepped in and officially named

top picks

BEACHES

- Bondi Beach (p93)
- Whale Beach (p112)
- Dee Why (p112)
- Cronulla (p120)
- Balmoral (p111)

it Bellevue Hill, after the beautiful views. The surrounding neighbourhood is home to a large Jewish community and some of Sydney's richest and most famous, including the Packer media clan and actress Toni Collette.

BRONTE

BRONTE BEACH Map pp94-5
Bronte Rd, Bronte; ☎ 339

A superb family-orientated beach hemmed in by sandstone cliffs and a grassy park, Bronte claims to have the oldest surf life-saving club in the world (dating back to 1903). Locals pronounce it 'Bronty', not like the name of the famous authoring sisters. In fact, it's named after Lord Nelson who was the Duke of Bronte, a place in Sicily.

A toy train chugs around during the warmer months offering children's rides. There's a kiosk and changing room attached to the surf club and plenty of outdoor seating near the coin-operated barbecues. Parking is a nightmare.

WAVERLEY CEMETERY Map pp94-5
☎ 9665 4938; www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/cemetery; St Thomas Street, Bronte;
🌅 7am-sunset; 🚗 378

Many Sydneysiders would die for these views, and that's the only way they're going to get them. Perched on the cliffs between Bronte and Coogee the white marble gravestones are dazzling in the sunlight. Eighty-thousand people have been interred here since 1877, including writer and poet Henry Lawson. It's a fascinating place to potter about and a good spot for whale-watching in the winter months.

TAMARAMA BEACH Map pp94-5
Pacific Ave; ☎ 361

When it got its nickname Glamarama in the 1980s, this was probably Sydney's gayest beach. Perhaps it's a sign of increasing acceptance that the gay guys have migrated en masse to North Bondi, leaving the huge waves to the surfers. Surrounded by high cliffs it's a lovely spot with only 80m of water line but a deep tongue of sand and parkland. It's considered the single most dangerous patrolled beach in New South Wales due to its ever-present rips; it's often closed to swimmers. From 1887 to 1911 a rollercoaster looped over the water in Sydney's first coastal amusement park.

COOGEE

COOGEE BEACH Map pp94-5
Arden St, Coogee; ☎ 372-3

Bondi without the glitz and the posers, Coogee has a lovely sweep of golden sand, historic **ocean baths** (right) and plenty of green space for barbecues and Frisbee-throwing. Locals clip both syllables and pronounce the double 'o' like in the word 'took'. It's believed to have its origins in an Aboriginal word meaning 'smelly place' – probably a reference to the seaweed that gets washed up after storms; nowadays it's cleared before it ever lives up to the name. Between the wars Coogee had an English-style pier, with a 1400-seat theatre and 600-seat ballroom – until the surf took it.

DOLPHIN POINT Map pp94-5
Cnr Beach & Baden Sts, Coogee; ☎ 372-3

This grassy park at Coogee Beach's northern end offers great ocean views, and has a delightful ocean pool. A sobering shrine commemorates the locals killed in the Bali bombings of 12 October 2002. This neighbourhood was hit hard by the tragedy, with 20 locals killed out of a total of 89 Australians. Formerly known as Dunningham Park, its name was changed to honour the six members of the Coogee Dolphins A-grade rugby league team who were killed in the blast.

COOGEE OCEAN POOLS Map pp94-5
Coogee; ☎ 372-3

If you've got kids, shark-paranoia, or surf just isn't your thing, Sydney's blessed with

beautiful man-made ocean pools up and down the coast. Coogee's got the best of the bunch. The **Ross Jones Memorial Pool**, at the beach's southern end, has sand-castle-like concrete turrets. Perched against the cliffs to the south is **McIvers Baths**. Well screened from passers-by, this spot has been popular for women's bathing since before 1876. Its strictly women-only policy has made it popular with an unlikely mixture of nuns, Muslim women and topless lesbians. Further south still, **Wylies Baths** (adult/child \$3/\$50c) is for serious lap swimmers.

Closer to Maroubra is the **Mahon Pool** (Marine Pde, Maroubra; ☎ 399), an idyllic rock pool where the surf crashes over the edges at high tide.

CLOVELLY BEACH Map pp94-5
Clovelly Rd; ☎ 339

It might seem a little odd, but this ocean channel with concrete edging is a great place to swim, sunbathe and snorkel. It's safe for the kids, and the water is exceptionally clear. A handy sign identifies the kind of marine life you might encounter in the waters, including a metre-long blue grouper. On the other side of the car park is the entrance to the **Gordons Bay Underwater Nature Trail**, 500m of chain to guide divers through the reefs, sand-flats and kelp forests.

A COASTAL CRUISE

Walking Tour

1 Dolphin Point Wander past the friendly bustle of **Coogee Beach**. On calmer days you can snorkel in the rock pool at the northern end of the sand. A short walk north from the beach takes you to **Dolphin Point** (p96) where there's a sobering memorial to the victims of the 2002 Bali bombings.

WALK FACTS

Start Coogee Beach
End North Bondi
Distance 5km
Duration Two to 2½ hours
Fuel stops Many along the way

A COASTAL CRUISE



2 Clovelly Pass the native fauna and fishing boats of **Gordon's Bay** (one of Sydney's most popular dive spots), and continue on to sheltered **Clovelly Beach** (p97), a favourite with family picnickers. Here you will find a well protected, narrow rock pool for swimming.

3 Waverley Cemetery Further along, the stunning cliff-edge **Waverley Cemetery** (p96) is the final resting place for some famous Australians, most notably the poet Henry Lawson. On a clear day, this is a prime vantage point for keen whale-watchers. A series of pretty beaches lies ahead.

4 Bronte Descend the cliff-top path, pass (or take a dip) in the **Bronte Baths** and you will reach **Bronte Beach** (p96) where you are spoilt for choice for cafés. Cross the beautiful beach and pick up the path on the other side.

5 Tamarama A couple of hundred metres north is the small but prettily formed **Tamarama Beach** (p96). It has an incredibly deep stretch of

sand, quite out of proportion to its width. Pick up the cliff-top path on the opposite side.

6 Icebergs As you wind your way around the coastal curves you will soon see the glorious sweep of Bondi Beach. Pass or go into the lavish **Icebergs** (p163) complex, depending on your thirst and the size of your wallet. You would need to have booked ahead to have any chance of a meal.

7 Bondi Beach You're now deep in Bondi territory. Head down the stairs, kick off the shoes and cut across the golden sand. Check out the graffiti wall to your left and the iconic **Bondi Pavilion** (p93). Note a car-sized rock near the very northern tip of the beach – this 235-tonne monster was spat out of the sea during a storm in 1912.

8 Ben Buckler Lookout Right at the end of the beach, head down Ramsgate Ave to the **Ben Buckler Lookout** and admire the view as well as the ground you have just covered. One worthwhile detour is to head up Military Rd to **Bondi Beach Golf Club** (p177), which has some interesting **Aboriginal rock engravings** (p95).

INNER WEST

Drinking & Nightlife p164; Eating p148; Shopping p132; Sleeping p196

Arguably the city's coolest suburb, Newtown is a melting pot of stoned students, social and sexual subcultures, and spiffed-up home renovators. King St is lined with funky clothes shops, musty bookshops, cheap cafés and an inordinate number of Thai restaurants. While it's definitely moving up the social scale, Newtown comes with a healthy dose of eccentricity and political activism (a McDonald's branch that opened in the 1990s didn't last long).

Erskineville is similar but more upmarket, with an appealing village feel centred on its small hub of pubs and cafés.

On the other side of the university Glebe is home to students, New-Agers, lesbians, a sizable Aboriginal community and more than its fair share of the city's judges. The main thoroughfare, Glebe Point Rd, runs the length of the suburb from Broadway and offers affordable eateries, interesting shops and several good places to stay.

The area has been inhabited since the First Fleet's chaplain was granted the first church land (or glebe), covering an area of 160 hectares. Mansions started to spring up in 1826, but after 1855 the church leased the remaining land for down-market housing, which deteriorated into slums. In the mid-1970s Gough Whitlam's federal government bought the estate and rejuvenated the area for low-income families, many of whom have lived here for generations.

Once a tough, working-class neighbourhood, Balmain now rivals Paddington in Victorian-era trendiness – with the added advantage of being surrounded by water and only a short ferry ride from the city. Darling St runs the length of the peninsula and makes for a decent pub-crawl. Neighbouring Rozelle is more low-rent, but has some historic English-feeling pubs hidden in its back streets.

Norton St, the main drag of the predominantly Italian suburb of Leichhardt (affectionately known as Dykeheart to its lesbian residents), is known for its Italian restaurants and piazza.

NEWTOWN

CAMPERDOWN CEMETERY Map pp100–1

☎ 9557 2043; 189 Church St, Newtown;

🌅 sunrise-sunset; 📍 Newtown

Take a self-guided tour beyond the monstrous fig tree (which dates from 1848) into this woody, spider-web-filled and eerily unkempt cemetery. Many famous Aussies were buried here between 1849 and 1942, including Eliza Donithorne, the inspiration for Miss Havisham in Dickens' *Great Expectations*. It's a great place to spot some big (up to 10cm) but harmless St Andrew's Cross Spiders.

SYDNEY PARK

Sydney Park Rd; 📍 St Peters

Popular with dog-walkers and kite-flyers, Sydney Park is a great place to watch the sunrise and sunset. From the barren,

top picks

INNER WEST

- Nicholson Museum (p102)
- Camperdown Cemetery (left)
- Anzac Bridge (p103)
- University of Sydney (below)
- Sydney Park (left)

windswept hill the city rises like a volcanic island from a sea of suburbia, while to the south there's a view over the airport to Botany Bay. This 40-hectare site, opposite St Peters Station, has modern sculpture and sculptural-looking chimneys from its days as a brickworks; much of the pit has been converted to wetlands.

GLEBE

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY Map pp100–1

☎ 9351 2222; www.usyd.edu.au; Parramatta Rd; 📍 422-3

Australia's oldest tertiary institution (1850), the University of Sydney has over 45,000 students and even boasts its own postcode. You don't need to be an academic to grab a free campus map and wander around at your leisure. The Gothic Revival design of the **Quadrangle** tips its mortar board towards

INNER WEST

SIGHTS (pp99–105)	Newtown Old Wares.....33 D8	Friend in Hand Hotel.....64 E5
Anzac Bridge.....1 E3	Park Pharmacy.....34 E5	Marlborough Hotel.....65 D7
Bellevue Cottage.....2 D4	Pretty In Pink.....35 D8	Monkey Bar.....66 D1
Camperdown Cemetery.....3 D7	Quick Brown Fox.....(see 53)	Rose of Australia.....67 E8
Clontarf.....4 E2	Rozelle Markets.....36 C2	Sandringham Hotel.....68 D8
Dawn Fraser Baths.....5 C1	Simon Johnson.....37 F3	Town Hall Hotel.....69 D1
Elkington Park.....6 C1	Sydney Fish Market.....38 E4	Unity Hall Hotel.....70 D1
Hampton Villa.....7 E2		Vanguard.....71 E7
Harold Park Paceway.....8 D5	EATING 🍴 (pp149–50)	Welcome Hotel.....72 C2
Inner City Cycles.....9 E5	All about... Ramona's.....39 D2	Zanzibar.....73 D7
Italian Forum.....10 A6	Almufasta.....40 E5	
Jubilee & Bicentennial Parks.....11 D4	Bakery Café.....41 D4	ARTS 🎨
Nicholson Museum.....12 E6	Blue Ginger.....42 D1	Dendy Newtown.....74 D7
St Marys Hall.....13 E2	Café Jolly.....43 A5	Enmore Theatre.....75 C8
Star City.....14 F3	Café Sofia.....(see 67)	Lyric Theatre.....(see 14)
Sydney Fish Market.....(see 38)	Digi.Kaf.....44 D5	New Theatre.....76 D8
Sze Yup Temple.....15 D4	Fair Trade Coffee Company.....45 E5	Palace Norton Street Cinema.....77 A6
University of Sydney.....16 E6	Fidel's Bar.....46 E3	
Victoria Park.....17 E6	Fifi's.....47 C8	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES
Watch House.....18 E2	Guzman Y Gomez Taqueria.....48 D7	Victoria Park Pool.....78 E6
Waterman's Cottage.....19 F1	Kilimanjaro.....49 D7	Wentworth Park.....79 F5
	La Cremeria De Luca.....50 A6	
SHOPPING 🛍️ (pp132–4)	Pinto Thai.....51 D1	GAY & LESBIAN SYDNEY
Balmain Markets.....20 D2	Sappho Espresso Bar.....52 E5	Imperial Hotel.....80 D8
Beehive Gallery.....21 D8	Thai Pothong.....53 D7	Newtown Hotel.....81 D7
Berkelouw Books.....22 A6	Varga Bar Espresso.....54 D7	Sly Fox.....82 C8
Better Read Than Dead.....23 D7	Yuga.....55 E5	
Broadway Shopping Centre.....24 F5		SLEEPING 🛏️ (p196)
C's Flashback.....25 D7	DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE 🍷 (pp164–6)	Alishan International Guest House.....83 E5
Egg Records.....26 D7	A.B. Hotel.....56 E5	Billabong Gardens.....84 D7
Enlightened Elephant.....27 D8	Annanale Hotel.....57 C6	Glebe Point YHA.....85 D4
Faster Pussycat.....28 D8	Bald Rock Hotel.....58 D2	Glebe Village.....86 D4
Frolic.....29 D8	Bank Hotel.....59 D7	Tricketts B&B.....87 D4
Glebe Markets.....30 E5	Cat & Fiddle.....60 C1	
Glebebooks.....(see 52)	Empire Hotel.....61 C6	INFORMATION
Gould's Book Arcade.....31 E7	Exchange Hotel.....62 D2	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.....88 D6
Holy Moley.....32 D7	Flying Fish.....63 F2	
Kirilly Stores.....(see 51)		

the stately colleges of Oxford. It boasts two grand halls that wouldn't be out of place in Harry Potter's beloved Hogwarts, as well as the wonderful **Nicholson Museum** (below) and the small **University Art Gallery**. Nearby, the **Macleay Museum** has a musty dead smell associated with either old dons or its historic collection of taxidermied Australian fauna. If you want to be sure of seeing inside the usually locked Great Hall, enquire about **guided tours** (\$11).

NICHOLSON MUSEUM Map pp100–1
☎ 9351 2812; www.usyd.edu.au/museums/about/nicholson.shtml; Bldg A14, Main Quadrangle, University of Sydney; admission free; ☎ 10am–4.30pm Mon–Fri, noon–4pm Sun; 📍 422-3

Located near the University of Sydney's quad, this museum is a must-see for ancient history buffs. It houses an impressive display of Greek, Roman, Cypriot, Egyptian, and Near Eastern antiquities, including the mummified remains of a cat. It was

founded in 1860 by Sir Charles Nicholson, who was an important figure in the founding of both the University of Sydney and the Australian Museum.

VICTORIA PARK Map pp100–1
cnr Broadway & City Rd; 📍 422-3
The green gateway to the Inner West and the University of Sydney, Victoria Park is a pleasant 9-hectare grassy space set around pond-like **Lake Northam** and **Victoria Park Pool** (p176). Every February 75,000 people descend on the park for the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras **Fair Day** – a fun family day that includes dog shows, live performances and the Miss Fair Day drag competition.

SZE YUP TEMPLE Map pp100–1
☎ 9660 6465; Edward St; MLR Jubilee Park
This humble temple was opened in 1898 by immigrants from the Sze Yup area of China. At Chinese New Year it's a hive of

activity, with people of various ethnicities coming to make offerings of incense and fruit. It's dedicated to 3rd-century folk hero Kwung Ti whose embroidered image in green robes, flanked by two guards, takes centre place on the altar. Known for his loyalty, physical prowess and masculinity, supplicants look to him as a wise judge, guide and protector. Respectful visitors are welcome to this sacred site. Remove your shoes before entering.

JUBILEE & BICENTENNIAL PARKS

Glebe Point Rd; MLR Jubilee Park
At the northern tip of Glebe Point Rd these two large grassy parks merge together, offering good views across the bay to Rozelle. Looking towards the city you get a rare combined view of the Anzac and Harbour Bridges. Fig and palm trees dot the landscape and mums and dads stroll along with their kiddies. A new pathway leads along the shoreline to **Blackwattle Bay**, passing the Victorian Italianate **Bellevue Cottage** (1896) and a new park set around the temple-like ruins of an industrial incinerator.

PYRMONT

SYDNEY FISH MARKET Map pp100–1
☎ 9004 1100; www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au; Bank St, Pyrmont; ☎ 7am–4pm; MLR Fish Market
With over 15 million kilograms of seafood sold and shifted out of here annually, this large fish market is the best place to get on first-name terms with a bewildering array of scaly critters. You can witness fish auctions happening in the early mornings, eat sushi or fish and chips all day, attend **cooking**

classes (see left), and buy the freshest seafood in town.

STAR CITY Map pp100–1
☎ 9777 9000; www.starcity.com.au; 80 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont; ☎ 24hr; MLR Star City
This large casino complex includes a major theatre, retail stores, restaurants, bars and a luxury hotel. It's located on the waterfront in Pyrmont, on the northwestern headland of Darling Harbour. The décor is best described as 'Disney-meets-Outback', complete with a lagoon bar (think indoor waterfall), fake palm trees and flashy lights all over the place.

ANZAC BRIDGE

Map pp100–1
Western Distributor
Completed in 1996, Sydney's other eye-catching bridge spans Johnstons Bay, connecting Pyrmont and Rozelle. At 345m in length it's the longest cable bridge in Australia, offering great views as you stroll into the city from the west. The two main towers are shaped like the eye of a needle, with the road as the thread. The Anzac theme is reinforced by an Australian flag atop the eastern tower, a New Zealand flag on the western, and a bronze statue of a soldier.

BALMAIN & LEICHHARDT

ELKINGTON PARK Map pp100–1
cnr Glassop & White Sts; 📍 Balmain West
This small, peaceful and hilly park on a waterfront escarpment was named in 1883 after a local politician. On its grounds is the oldest swimming club in Australia (1888),

TRANSPORT: INNER WEST

Train The best option for Newtown (Newtown or St Peters Stations) and Erskineville.

Bus From Circular Quay you can reach Newtown (422-3, 426-8) or Leichhardt (435-8, 440). From The Rocks, services head to Glebe Point (431) or through Glebe to Balmain (432-4). From Bondi Junction, there are buses to Newtown via Surry Hills and Redfern (352, 355).

Ferry Regular between Balmain and Circular Quay.

MLR The Metro Light Rail runs from Central to Lilyfield (near Leichhardt) with two stops in Glebe (Glebe and Jubilee Park).

Parking Street parking is generally available, although it can be tight on weekends. Watch out for the maze of one-way streets around Newtown.

which owns the murky saltwater **Dawn Fraser Baths** (☎ 9555 1903; adult/child \$3.40/\$2.30; 🕒 7.15am-6.30pm Oct-Apr), named after Australia's greatest-ever swimmer and local-girl-turned-world-champion.

YURULBIN POINT

Louisa Rd; 📍 Birchgrove

At the northern tip of the Balmain peninsula, this narrow point stretches to within 300m of the North Shore. Once called Long Nose Point, it was changed back to its original name (meaning 'swift running water') in 1994. It was originally inhabited by the Wangal clan, of which Bennelong is thought to have been a member (see p23). There are great views up the harbour towards the bridge, making this a popular firework-watching spot. Louisa Rd is one of Sydney's most expensive streets; Birchgrove House (c1810) at number 16 was the first residence in the area.

BALMAIN HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Map pp100-1

📍 Balmain East

Balmain's pretty streets are home to dozens of significant buildings, most of which are privately owned. The most notable is **Hampton Villa** (12b Grafton St), a marine villa in the Georgian style (1847). From 1888 to 1892 it was the home of 'The Father of Federation', NSW Premier Sir Henry Parkes. At least one cabinet meeting was held here during the constitutional debates. Nearby is **Clontarf** (4 Wallace St), an impressively restored house (1844) saved by local protests, and **St Mary's Hall** (7 Adolphus St), built around 1851. At 179 Darling St is Sydney's oldest surviving lockup, the **Watch House** (1854), and at No 12 is **Waterman's Cottage** (1841)

ITALIAN FORUM

Map pp100-1
☎ 9518 3396; www.theitalianforum.com; 23 Norton St, Leichhardt; 📞 436-8

This re-creation of an Italian piazza has had its fair share of criticism and compliments, and yes, it is a bit cheesy (think Disney does Italy), but the Italian Forum is a good place to partake in fairly authentic Italian grub. Order a gelato or a macchiato, check everyone out and remember to say 'ciao' whenever possible. The Forum is home to shops, family-friendly restaurants and a library.

A WILD WESTERN WANDER

Walking Tour

1 Erskineville Village As you come out of the train station turn left and walk through Erskineville village. On your left you'll pass the lovely tiled pub, **Rose of Australia** (p164), and on your right the defunct **South Sydney City Council Chambers** (it was merged with the City of Sydney in 2004) and the Art Deco **Erskineville Hotel**.

2 Imperial Hotel If you experience déjà vu as you reach the **Imperial Hotel** (p184) at the corner of Union St, it may be that you recognise this as the spot the bus set off from in classic Aussie flick *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. The Sydney drag scenes were filmed inside.

WALK FACTS

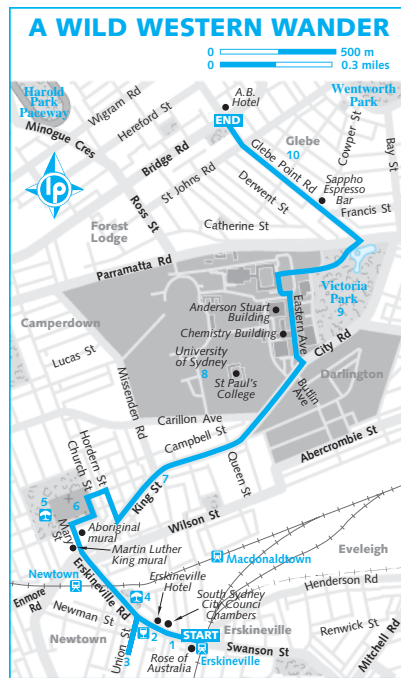
Start Erskineville Station

End Glebe Point Rd

Distance 4km

Duration Two hours plus bookshop browsing time

Fuel Stops Hard to avoid



3 Union Street An unassuming house on this quiet suburban street was the setting for the 'Battle of Union St' in June 1931, one of several eviction battles during the Great Depression. Hundreds of people jeered on the street as police brutally evicted the occupants, including members of the Unemployed Workers Movement, who had barricaded themselves inside.

4 Green Bans Park Another Socialist landmark is a small park a block further along Erskineville Rd, just before the railway bridge, which owes its existence to the Green Bans. Ceramic tiles tell the story of the 1992 union construction ban that led to this land being retained as a park for the local community.

5 Camperdown Memorial Rest Park

Cross the bridge and head to King St, Newtown. Across the road is a large mural honouring Martin Luther King. Cross King St and cut down Mary St, noting the **Aboriginal mural** on the wall. Directly ahead is the Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, Newtown's green meeting place.

6 Camperdown Cemetery

Turn right then left into Church St. You'll find the evocatively ramshackle **Camperdown Cemetery** (p99) on your left. Grab a self-guided tour pamphlet from the box near the gate and explore.

7 King Street, Newtown

Leaving the cemetery go straight ahead then turn right into

Hordern St – noting the mix of grungy and gentrified villas – before turning left into King St. As you pass the boutiques, bookshops and bars, notice the lovely old buildings forming Newtown's largely intact old streetscape.

8 University of Sydney

By the time you pass Carillon Ave, you're in **Sydney Uni** (p99) territory. You can catch glimpses of grand **St Paul's College** behind the wrought iron fence. Enter the campus by the drive opposite Butlin Ave and follow Eastern Ave past the Norman-looking **Madsen Building**, the ugly **Chemistry** block and the gorgeous Gothic Revival **Anderson Stuart Building**.

9 Victoria Park

Ahead is the main university building, housing the **Quadrangle**, **Nicholson Museum** (p102), **MacLaurin Hall** and the **Great Hall**. Wander around and explore whatever's open. Leave by the main entrance and take the grand path through **Victoria Park** (p102), veering to the left at the bottom of the stairs, keeping the pond on your right.

10 Glebe

Cross busy Parramatta Rd and head down Glebe Point Rd. It's a little like Newtown's begun again, with an eclectic collection of cafés, health stores and some excellent bookshops. Finish with a coffee at the **Sappho Espresso Bar** (p149) or, if you're after something harder, continue down to the **A.B. Hotel** (p165).

NORTH SHORE

Drinking & Nightlife p166; Eating p150; Sleeping p197

The amorphous sprawling suburbs north of the harbour are lumped together under the umbrella of the North Shore.

The Harbour Bridge reaches to Milsons Point which, along with McMahons Point to the west and Kirribilli to the east, is a pleasant harbourside suburb with stunning city views. To the north the towers of North Sydney are a continuation of the CBD, but without the pizzazz. It's the preserve of advertising and recruitment agencies, and a handful of pubs. There's not a lot to do here, but the proximity to the city makes it worth considering as a place to stay.

Military Rd is the main artery heading east towards Manly. It passes through the largely residential areas of Neutral Bay, Cremorne and Mosman (one of Sydney's wealthiest suburbs), all of which have pretty bays, strips of bushland and multi-million-dollar houses.

It's due to its military use that the scrub-covered coast leading to Middle Head has been left much as the First Fleet would have found it. While the navy still controls some land, most has been turned over to Sydney Harbour National Park (below).

The beachside suburb of Balmoral faces Manly across Middle Harbour. It has a fine beach and some good restaurants.

Sydney's other iconic beach, Manly straddles a narrow peninsula that ends at the cliffs of North Head (p109). Proving that even Sydney's first governor wasn't beyond checking out the locals' bods, His Excellency named it after the 'manly' physique of the indigenous people he met here.

This popular beachside village boasts a lively holiday-resort atmosphere along with a keen sense of local identity. Most of The Corso (the cheeky pedestrian mall that links the harbour with the ocean) is lined with touristy shops, mediocre eateries and boozy bars – its brashness a refreshing change from the prim surrounding suburbs.

Spread out over 25km and reaching to Sydney's northern limits, the Northern Beaches are some of the city's finest.

LOWER NORTH SHORE

TARONGA ZOO Map p108

☎ 9969 2777; www.zoo.nsw.gov.au; Bradleys Head Rd, Mosman; adult/child \$32/18; 🕒 9am-5pm; 🐾 Taronga Zoo

Not even the governor general has views as good as Taronga's residents. A definite Sydney highlight, this exceptional zoo boasts a spectacular location, which over 3000 furry, scaly and feathered critters (including a substantial number of Australian natives) call home. The animals are well looked after, and there are more natural open enclosures than cages. A zoo fave is the nocturnal platypus habitat, in which day and night have been switched to give you an opportunity to see the little guys partying. The koala and giraffe displays offer great photo ops (\$3), and the seal and bird shows are also popular (so find a seat in advance).

top picks

NORTH SHORE

- Taronga Zoo (left)
- Fort Denison (opposite)
- Balmoral (p111)
- Whale Beach (p112)
- Manly Scenic Walkway (p110)

Ferries leave regularly, taking only 12 minutes from Circular Quay. From the wharf there's a cable car and bus that will whisk you to the main entrance, allowing you to traverse the zoo downhill back to the ferry. A **ZooPass** (adult/child \$39/21), sold at Circular Quay and elsewhere, includes return ferry rides and zoo admission. Parking (\$10) is available for 500 cars. Disabled access is good, even if arriving by ferry, and wheelchairs are available.

SYDNEY HARBOUR NATIONAL PARK Map pp50-1

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/parks.nsf
One of the qualities that make Sydney such a wonderful city is its close proximity to beautiful bushland and stunning seascapes. The Sydney Harbour National Park protects the large swathe of bushland around the harbour and includes several small **islands**

(below). It offers great walking tracks, scenic lookouts, Aboriginal carvings, beaches and a handful of historic sites. While the park incorporates **South Head** (p116) and **Nielsen Park** (p116) on the south side, the largest part of it is on the North Shore – including **Bradleys Head**, **Middle Head**, **Dobroyd Head** and **North Head** (p109). Free brochures, including self-tours, are available from the park office in **Cadman's Cottage** (p56), which itself is part of the park.

LUNA PARK Map p108

☎ 9922 6644; www.lunaparksydney.com; admission free; 1 Olympic Dr, Milsons Point; 🕒 10am-6pm Sun, 11am-6pm Mon & Thu, 11am-11pm Fri, 10am-6pm Sun; 📍 Milsons Point
A colourful landmark, this old-fashioned amusement park opened in 1935 but served a long spell locked up before its toothy gates reopened in 2004. You can pay as you go, or buy a height-based unlimited **ride pass** (over 130cm/106-129cm/85-105cm \$42/32/20). Kids under 85cm can ride the Ferris wheel and carousel for free. If you're creeped out by clowns and ventriloquist dolls, avoid looking too hard at the painted signs. Even John Wayne Gacy would find the disastrous dentistry and spiky metal eyelashes of the clown entrance a bit sinister. During school and public holidays Luna Park opens daily, with extended hours.

MARY MACKILLOP PLACE Map p108

☎ 8912 4878; www.marymackillopplace.org.au; 7 Mount St, North Sydney; adult/concession/family \$7.50/5/15; 🕒 10am-4pm; 📍 North Sydney
This museum tells the life story of Australia's first hope for a saint, a dedicated and

HARBOUR ISLANDS

Previously known as Pinchgut, **Fort Denison** (Map pp50-1) is a small, fortified island off Mrs Macquaries Point. It was originally used for punishment of troublesome convicts until it was fortified in the mid-19th century during the Crimean War amid fears of a Russian invasion. It now has a café, which may be one of the best places to have coffee in all of Sydney in terms of views and location. Take your pick of either the daily **heritage tour** (adult/child \$22/18; 🕒 11.45am-3pm) or the **brunch tour** (adult/child \$47/43; 🕒 9am-1pm Sat & Sun).

The largest island in the bay, **Goat Island** (Map pp50-1), near Balmain, has been a shipyard, quarantine station and gunpowder depot in its previous lives. The island is currently closed to visitors, although regular tours should resume towards the end of 2008.

Clark Island off Darling Point, **Rodd Island** at Iron Cove near Birkenhead Point and **Shark Island** off Rose Bay make great picnic getaways, but to visit you'll need a permit from Cadman's Cottage (landing fees are \$5 per person). These three islands are open from 9am to sunset daily; all have drinking water and toilets available. There's a ferry service from Circular Quay to Shark Island (adult/child \$16/14, four daily) but you'll need to hire a water taxi (see p217) or have access to a boat to reach the others.

For more information and tour bookings contact the Sydney Harbour National Park office at **Cadman's Cottage** (p56).

TRANSPORT: NORTH SHORE

Ferry The nicest way to travel between Circular Quay and McMahons Point, Milsons Point, Kirribilli, North Sydney, Neutral Bay, Cremorne, Mosman, Taronga Zoo and Manly.

Train Milsons Point and North Sydney are stops on the North Shore and Northern Lines. The Northern Line will take you all the way to the outskirts of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

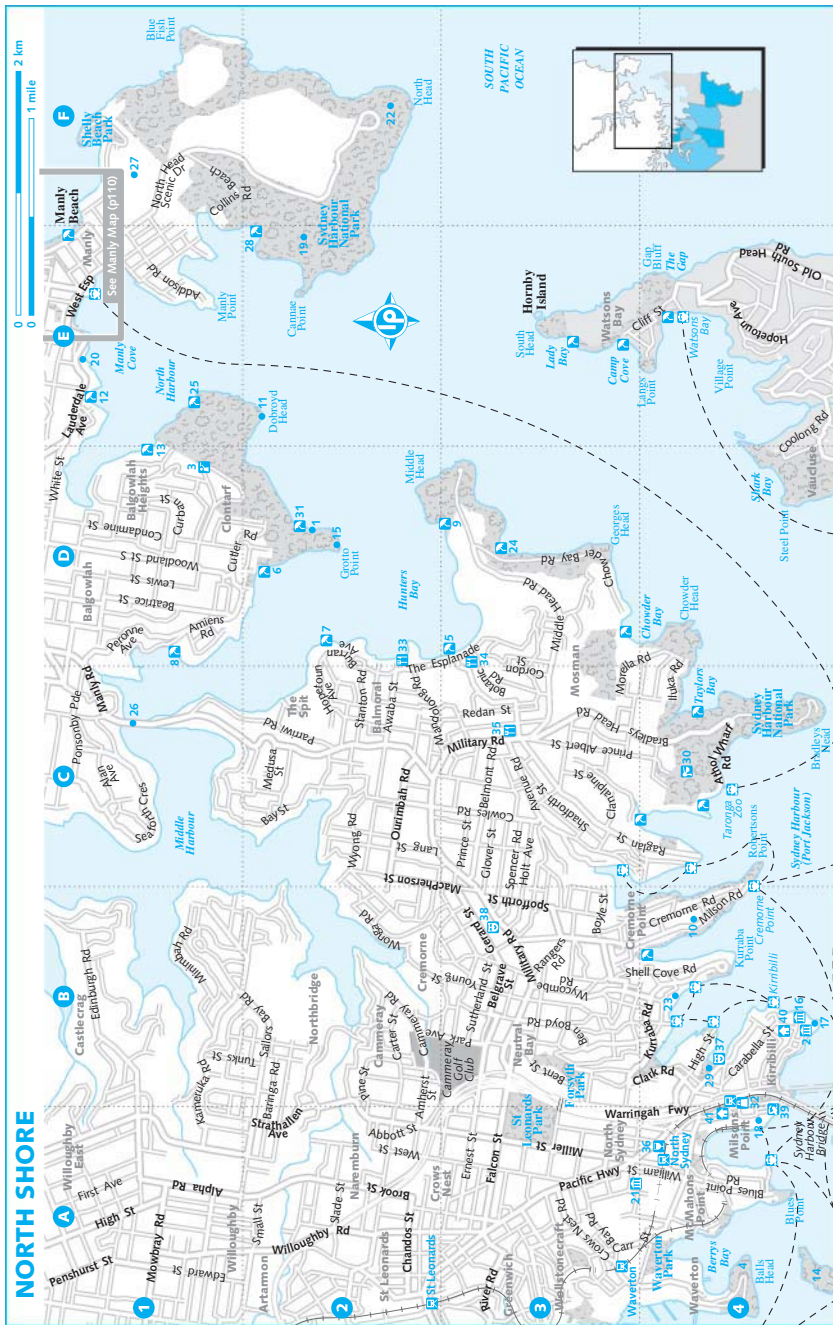
Bus From Wynyard Park in the city, buses pass through North Sydney, Cremorne and Mosman en route to Taronga Zoo (247), Balmoral (246), Obelisk Bay (244), The Spit (248-9, 172-3), Manly (169), Dee Why (178) and the tip of the Northern Beaches (L88, L90). Routes 272-3 head to Chatswood via North Sydney. Bus 257 connects Balmoral with Chatswood. Bus 135 runs from outside Manly Wharf to North Head and the Quarantine Station. Buses 136 and 139 head from Manly Wharf to Freshwater and Curl Curl.

Parking There's metered street parking all over the North Shore.

outspoken educator and pioneer who prevailed over conservative Catholic hierarchical ideals despite being excommunicated for six months. The building was blessed by Pope John Paul II on the day of MacKillop's beatification (19 January 1995). You'll find her tomb inside the chapel.

NUTCOTE Map p108

☎ 9953 4453; www.maygibbs.com.au; 5 Wallaringa Ave, Neutral Bay; adult/child \$8/3; 🕒 11am-3pm Wed-Sun; 📍 Neutral Bay



NORTH SHORE

NORTH SHORE

SIGHTS (pp106–15)

- Aboriginal Rock Carvings..... 1 D2
- Admiralty House..... 2 B4
- Arabanoo Lookout..... 3 D1
- Balls Head Reserve..... 4 A4
- Balmoral Beach..... 5 D3
- Castle Rock Beach..... 6 D2
- Chinamans Beach..... 7 D2
- Clontarf Beach..... 8 D1
- Cobblers Beach..... 9 D3
- Cremorne Point..... 10 B4
- Dobroyd Head..... 11 E2
- Fairlight Beach..... 12 E1
- Forty Baskets Beach..... 13 D1
- Goat Island..... 14 A4
- Grotto Point..... 15 D2
- Kirribilli House..... 16 B4
- Kirribilli Point..... 17 B4
- Luna Park..... 18 A4
- Manly Quarantine Station..... 19 E2
- Manly Scenic Walkway..... 20 E1
- Mary MacKillop Place..... 21 A3
- North Head..... 22 F2
- Nutcote..... 23 B4
- Obelisk Beach..... 24 D3
- Reef Beach..... 25 E1
- Spit Bridge..... 26 C1
- St Patrick's College..... 27 F1
- Store Beach..... 28 E2
- Sydney Flying Squadron..... 29 B4
- Taronga Zoo..... 30 C4
- Washaway Beach..... 31 D2

SHOPPING (p124)

- Kirribilli Markets..... 32 B4

EATING (pp150–1)

- Bathers' Pavilion..... 33 D2
- Bottom of the Harbour..... 34 D3
- Ripples..... (see 39)
- Source..... 35 C3

DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE (p166)

- Greenwood Hotel..... 36 A4

ARTS

- Ensemble Theatre..... 37 B4
- Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace..... 38 B3

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- North Sydney Olympic Pool..... 39 A4

SLEEPING (pp197–8)

- Glennferrie Lodge..... 40 B4
- Vibe Hotel North Sydney..... 41 A4

BALLS HEAD RESERVE Map p108

Balls Head Rd; **Waverton**
 Balls Head Reserve not only has great views of the harbour and skyline, but also wonderful water-line and inland paths, ancient Aboriginal **rock paintings and carvings** (although they're not easily discernible) and barbecue facilities. It gives a great idea of how pre-European Sydney was. From Waverton train station turn left and follow Bay Rd, which becomes Balls Head Rd (just before the harbour, turn right). It's a 10-minute walk.

CREMORNE POINT Map p108

Cremorne Point
 Cremorne Point is an excellent spot for a swim or a picnic on the grass reserve, with great views of the harbour. It's especially popular on Christmas Day, and on New Year's Eve as a vantage point for the annual fireworks.

KIRRIBILLI POINT Map p108

Kirribilli
 The Sydney residences of the governor general and the prime minister are on Kirribilli Point, east of the Harbour Bridge. John Howard bucked tradition by making his home the Gothic Revival-style **Kirribilli House** (1854), as opposed to The Lodge in Canberra. The governor general's digs are in **Admiralty House** (1846), the one nearer the bridge (and the one everyone dreams of living in, if it came without the job). Both houses are better spotted from the water than by peering through the heavily-guarded gates.

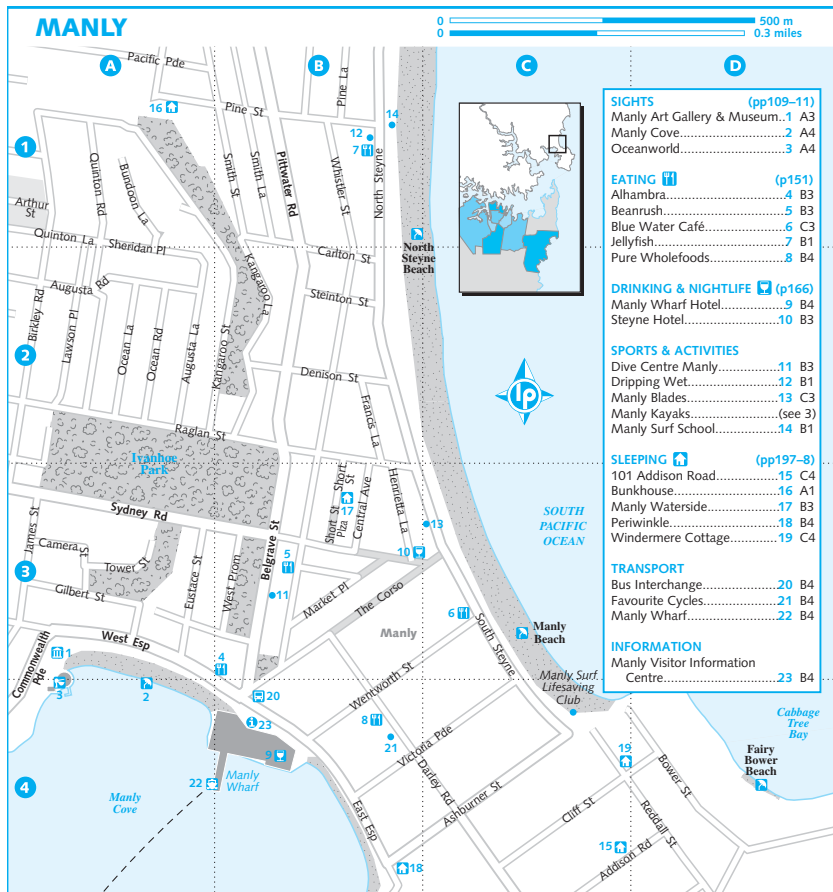
To the north of Kirribilli Point is the **Sydney Flying Squadron** (p179) headquarters for the Royal Yacht Squadron. Yachting has been popular on the harbour since the 1830s.

MANLY

NORTH HEAD Map p108

North Head Scenic Dr; **Manly then** **135**
 Spectacular North Head, about 3km south of Manly, offers grand views of the ocean, harbour and city skyline. The area is believed to have been used as a ceremonial site by the native Camaraigal people. The peninsula boasts dramatic cliffs, lookouts and the **Manly Quarantine Station** (opposite); it's

Nutcote (1925) is the former home of well-known and much-loved Australian children's author May Gibbs (author of *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie*). It's now a museum, restored to its 1930s style, and has exhibits on her life and work. Volunteer guides can show you around and there are beautiful gardens, a tearoom and a gift shop. It's a five-minute walk from the wharf.



great to explore by bike. Most of the headland is in the **Sydney Harbour National Park** (p106); contact the **National Parks and Wildlife Service office** (NPWS; ☎ 9977 6522) near the Quarantine Station for information. Parking in the area costs \$3.

MANLY SCENIC WALKWAY Map p108

🚶 168 to The Spit, 🏠 Manly
This classic, well-marked, four-hour walk wanders through pricey residential areas and beautifully preserved, undulating native bushland with breathtaking harbour views. Starting from the **Spit Bridge** it winds its way along the edge of secluded bays before reaching **Clontarf Beach** (opposite) and its grassy picnic grounds. It's then sign-posted to isolated **Castle Rock Beach**, within

the wonderfully native **Sydney Harbour National Park** (p106). A little later it turns towards **Grotto Point**, which has great views beside a whitewashed old lighthouse. Nearby there are ancient **Aboriginal rock carvings**, just to the right of the main track.

Further down the track, a 200m detour inland leads to the **Arabannoo Lookout** for lovely vistas over Manly and North Head. Views are just as good from **Dobroyd Head**, off a short path to the right, not far from **Reef Beach** (opposite). There is an inland detour you can take if access to the picnic areas and beach of **Forty Baskets Reserve** is cut off at high tide. Beyond the reserve the path follows the road (not the stairs) to the top, and then goes on to **Fairlight Beach**, which has water fountains and a lovely

saltwater pool. The walkway finishes in **Manly Cove** near **Oceanworld** (below).

Take comfortable shoes, water and snacks – supplies along the way are limited.

MANLY QUARANTINE

STATION Map p108

☎ 9977 5145; www.q-station.com.au; North Head

Scenic Dr; 🚶 Manly then 🚶 135

A favourite haunt of ghost-hunters, this station was used as a quarantine area from 1828 to 1972 in an attempt to limit the spread of cholera, smallpox and bubonic plague. It was then used until 1984 to house illegal immigrants. At present access is limited to guided tours, but this is about to change. There are controversial plans afoot to turn the station into a major full-time tourist attraction, with its own ferry stop. Phone ahead or check the website before attempting a visit.

OCEANWORLD Map p110

☎ 8251 7877; www.oceanworld.com.au; West Esplanade; adult/child \$18/10; 🕒 10am-5.30pm; 🏠 Manly

Manly's shabby aquarium isn't a patch on its big sister in **Darling Harbour** (p71), but if you're staying locally and you're stuck with grumpy kids on a wet day, it starts to justify the admission charge. There are plenty of aquariums and an underwater tunnel for viewing the sharks and stingrays. Snakes and reptiles also make an appearance. There's reasonable access for wheelchairs and prams. After 3.30pm the admission price drops 15%.

MANLY ART GALLERY &

MUSEUM Map p110

☎ 9949 1776; West Esplanade; adult/child \$3.60/free, free Wed; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 🏠 Manly
Next to Oceanworld on the Manly Cove foreshore, this tiny gallery has a small local history section with old photos and newspapers, an exhibition space and a ceramics collection.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE Map p108

Darley Rd; 🏠 Manly

The college is the large building (1889) on the hill, southeast of Manly's town centre. It was a seminary for years and the first

top picks

SYDNEY HARBOUR BEACHES – NORTHSHORE

Obelisk (Map p108) Isolated gay and nudist beach surrounded by bushland in the Middle Head section of Sydney Harbour National Park (p106). It loses the sun quickly in the afternoon.

Cobblers Beach (Map p108) Also nudist and secluded, on the other side of Middle Head.

Balmoral (Map p108) A large, sweeping beach near Mosman with several fancy eateries, grassy parkland for picnics and a small island (connected by a foot-bridge) to explore. Popular on weekends.

Chinaman's Beach (Map p108) Gorgeous, peaceful and serene, despite its proximity to busy Balmoral. Good for picturesque swimming.

Clontarf Beach (Map p108) Another popular and sheltered beach for families, with large grassy areas for picnics. It faces towards the Spit Bridge.

Washaway Beach (Map p108) Rugged and beautiful, this is a secluded spot near Grotto Point on the Manly Scenic Walkway (opposite).

Reef Beach (Map p108) Also on the stunning Manly Scenic Walkway, this beach is not nudist, despite what you may have heard.

Forty Baskets Beach (Map p108) Past Reef Beach, just outside of Sydney Harbour National Park. It has a picnic area, which is cut off at high tide.

Manly Cove (Map p110) A decent sheltered beach with shark nets, next to Manly Wharf. For party action or surf simply cross the peninsula.

Store Beach (Map pp50-1) A hidden gem on Little Manly Cove only reachable by kayak or boat. A fairy penguin breeding ground, access is prohibited from dusk when the penguins return from feeding.

Catholic training college to be built in Australia; you can read about it in author Thomas Keneally's early works. It's now a tourism and hotel management school, and the recipient of a Unesco award for cultural heritage conservation.

UPPER NORTH SHORE

KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK

PARK Map p113

☎ 9472 8949; www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/parks.nsf; per car \$11, boat landing fee adult/child \$3/2; ☀ sunrise-sunset; 🚫 Berowra, Mt Kuring-Gai or Turramurra then 🚗 577, 🚗 594 express from Town Hall, 🏠 from Palm Beach

This 14,978-hectare national park is 24km north of the city centre and borders the southern edge of Broken Bay and the western shore of Pittwater. It has that classic Sydney mixture of sandstone, bushland and water vistas, plus walking tracks, horse-riding trails, picnic areas, Aboriginal rock engravings and spectacular views of Broken Bay. The park has over 100km of shoreline and several through-roads (enter from Bobbin Head Rd, North Turramurra; Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd off Pacific Hwy, Mt Colah; or McCarrs Creek Rd, Terrey Hills). **Camping** (adult/child per night \$10/5) is allowed only at the Basin (call ☎ 9974 1011 to book).

There's an information centre in the historic Bobbin Inn at Bobbin Head on Cowan

Creek, which also has a marina, picnic areas, a café (serving hot meals, coffee and snacks) and a boardwalk leading through mangroves.

Elevated parts of the park offer superb views across inlets such as Cowan Creek and Pittwater, and from **West Head**, in particular, there's a fantastic view across Pittwater to Barrenjoey Head and Lion Island. You may also be lucky enough to see lyrebirds in this area during their May to July mating season.

West Head Rd offers access to some of the best places within the park to see **Aboriginal engravings and handprints**, listed here in order from east to west. Nearly at West Head itself is the Resolute picnic area, from which you can amble 100m to Red Hands Cave for a look at some very faint ochre handprints. About another 500m along Resolute Track (after a short steep section) is an engraving site. You can turn around or continue to one more site and make a 3.5km loop that takes in Resolute Beach.

Back on West Head Rd, just less than 2km west of the picnic area, is the Echidna

Track, whose boardwalk provides good disabled access to engravings very near the road. Less than a kilometre up the road from Echidna is the Basin Track, which makes an easy stroll to a good set of engravings.

Please note that it's unwise to swim in Broken Bay because of sharks, but if you're dying for a dip in waters that seem free of the usual hordes of tourists, there are safer netted swimming areas at Illawong Bay and the Basin.

BARRENJOEY LIGHTHOUSE

Map p113

Palm Beach; 🚗 L90

Located at the tip of the northern beaches peninsula (and in an annexe of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park) is this historic lighthouse (1881). You'll need to don sturdy shoes for the steep 40-minute hike (no toilets!), but superb views across Pittwater await. On Sundays short **tours** (adult/child \$3/2) start every half hour from 11am to 3pm; no need to book ahead.

LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK

☎ 9412 1811; www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/parks.nsf; Lady Game Dr, Chatswood; per car \$7;

☀ 9am-6pm (till 7pm in summer); 🚗 292 This 601-hectare park lies about 10km northwest of Sydney's centre and is a good option for bushwalks. It's home to dozens of critters including some endangered species of owl and toad. The best time to visit is in spring, when the water dragons are getting horny and the native orchids and lilies are in flower. The Lane Cove River is great for rowing boats and kayaks, but swimming is inadvisable. You can cycle and camp, and wheelchair access is available in parts.

ROSE SEIDLER HOUSE

☎ 9989 8020; www.hht.nsw.gov.au/museums/rose_seidler_house; 71 Clissold Rd, Wahroonga; adult/child \$8/4; ☀ 10am-5pm Sun; 🚗 Turramurra then 🚗 575

World-famous architect Harry Seidler designed this modest house (built 1948-50) for his mother and father, Rose and Max. It's a Modernist construction and its interior reflects the style of the time, with plenty of open spaces, a muted colour scheme and

NORTHERN BEACHES

It requires an effort to reach them, but many rate the Northern Beaches as Sydney's finest. For surf freaks and *Home and Away* devotees they're a must-see. No trains run here and bus services seem to take forever. Consider hiring a car to beach-hop at your leisure. Heading north from Manly, these are the best of them:

Freshwater (Map p113; 🚗 Manly, then 🚗 139) This is a nice sheltered beach with an ocean pool, popular with local teenagers. Good for beginner surfers.

Curl Curl (Map p113; 🚗 Manly, then 🚗 136) A well-balanced mix of family groups and experienced surfers, with a lush lagoon nearby. Bring food and water.

Dee Why (Map p113; 🚗 178) Big and popular with local families, and with one of the best point breaks in Sydney (suitable for experienced surfers who can handle heavy take-offs). Near plenty of services.

Collaroy (Map p113; 🚗 L88, L90) A long beach that's a good spot to unwind, with a relaxed family atmosphere. Good for learning to surf.

Narrabeen (Map p113; 🚗 L88, L90) This is surfing turf, so get experienced before trying the consistent breaks here. Not the best for swimming, but there's a pool and lagoon.

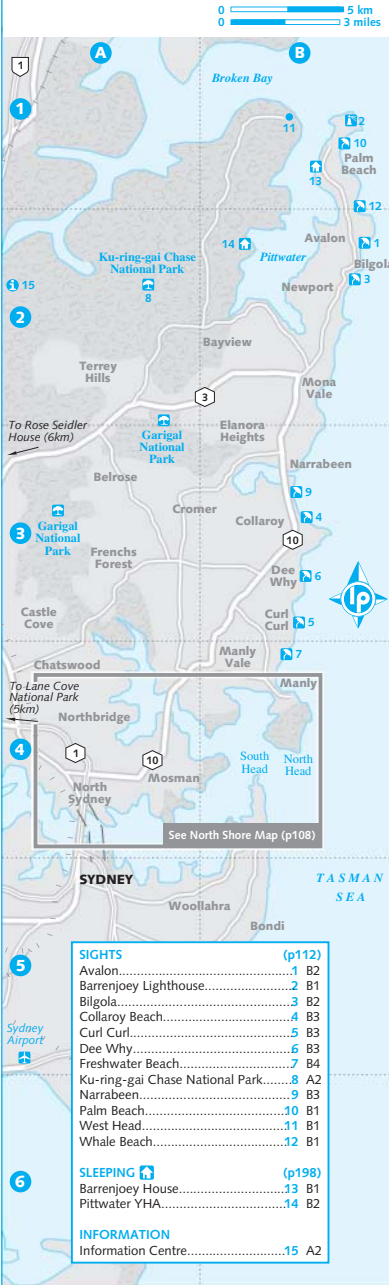
Billgola (Map p113; 🚗 L88, L90) With its saltwater pool, this beach seems like a bit of a secret gem. Good swimming, and some services available.

Avalon (Map p113; 🚗 L88) This medium-sized beach has challenging surf and tangerine sand. Great services like cafés, shops and picnic tables.

Whale Beach (Map p113; 🚗 L88 to Avalon, then 🚗 193) Heavenly, remote and clean, this gorgeous beach is ideally sized and not touristy. Good for surfers and families; no services.

Palm Beach (Map p113; 🚗 L90) The tip of Sydney and supremely blissful. Kids should stick to beach pools; cafés provide nourishment. Site of cheesy TV series *Home and Away* and the **Barrenjoey lighthouse** (opposite).

NORTHERN BEACHES



the hippest furnishings of the era. Every year the Historic Houses Trust holds a Fifties Fair (usually in August) on the grounds of the house. Only serious architecture fans or true retro buffs need visit.

A NORTH SHORE HIKE

Walking Tour

1 Cremorne Point Take a ferry from the city to [Cremorne Point \(p109\)](#), which is surrounded by the jungle-like strip of native shrubs and trees that make up Cremorne Reserve. Make your way to the tip of the reserve, [Robertson's Point](#), for some truly magnificent views.

2 Mosman Rowing Club Heading north, you'll pass some well-tended plots of palms, ferns, philodendrons and other tropical flora in [Lex and Ruby's garden](#), which has been lovingly tended for decades. Keep wandering along the path to [Mosman Rowing Club](#) (☎ 9953 7713); if you catch it open you can stop for a meal.

3 Mosman Bay After a refreshing break, amble around exclusive Mosman Bay (which used to be an old whaling cove). Note the

historic stone building called the [Barn](#), an early colonial structure that's now a scout hall. Just beyond is the [Wharf Store](#); go up the stairs to Mosman St, following it up to McLeod St.

4 Little Sirius Cove Cross Musgrave St and take the stairs down to the other side, then cross Raglan St where you'll find more stairs that head down to the shore. Wind around Little Sirius Cove and take the stone steps onto a shoreline path, which leads to the border of Taronga Zoo.

5 Taronga Zoo To visit a secluded little strip of sand, take the stairs down to [Whiting Beach](#) (look for the 'No Dogs' sign). After heading further along this lush, shaded path you'll

finally reach the [Taronga Zoo \(p106\)](#) entrance and ferry wharf, where there's a stand selling drinks and snacks.

6 Chowder Bay Naval Base Keep following the path through [Bradleys Head](#) and [Clifton Gardens](#), where you'll link up with a recently opened track with spectacular views of the headlands. You will soon reach Chowder Bay Naval Base, now open to pedestrians. For refreshments there's a kiosk and the [Tearoom Gunners' Barracks](#).

7 Lookout Wander to the lookout to the right, which has a glorious cityscape panorama

and views over the gun stations that guarded the entrance to Sydney Harbour. Continue down the path as it cuts through bush and scrubland, passing an [artists' colony](#) on the left-hand side.

8 Balmoral Beach Follow the path and take in the magnificent gnarled red gum trees on the right-hand side. The path will lead you down some steps to the delightfully low-key [Balmoral Beach \(p111\)](#). If you are on a dawn stroll you'll probably catch t'ai chi and aerobics classes in action. Stop here to pick up some well deserved refreshment.

WALK FACTS

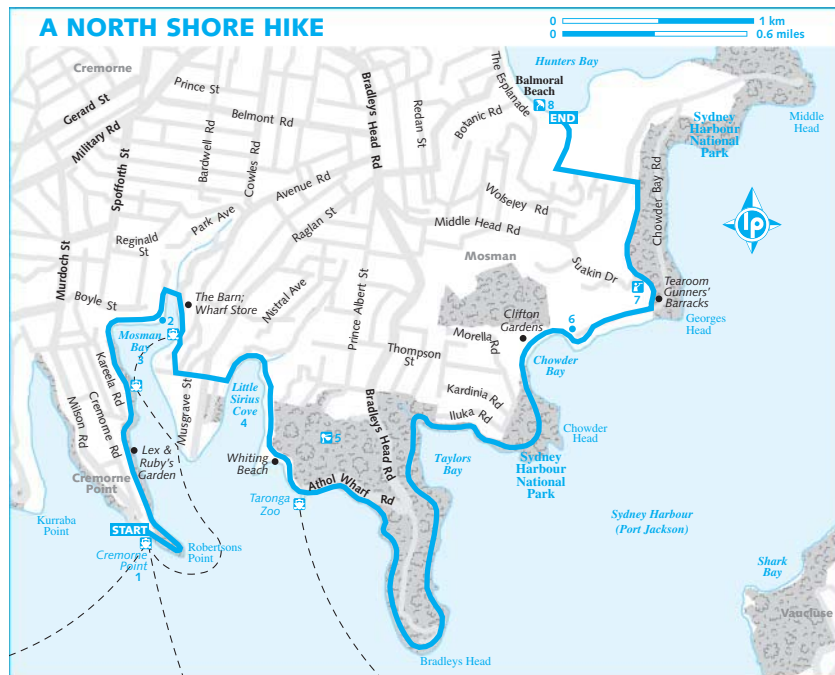
Start Cremorne Point

End Balmoral Beach

Distance 5½km

Duration Three to 3½ hours

Fuel stop Mosman Rowing Club, Chowder Bay Naval Base



OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Give up the idea that every Sydneysider has a harbour or beach view from their front veranda, or even that central Sydney is at the centre of the city. The geographical midpoint is Parramatta, 24km west along the Parramatta River. From this point Sydney's suburbs sprawl for at least 25km in every direction; this is where the majority live – and it's not all pretty.

The prosperous eastern harbour suburbs are close to the city and quickly reached by bus or ferry. The further-flung sights to the west and south are well connected by public transport and within the normal daily commute of many thousands of Sydneysiders.

EAST

VAUCLUSE HOUSE Map pp50–1

☎ 9388 7922; www.hht.nsw.gov.au; Wentworth Rd, Vaucluse; adult/child/family \$8/4/17; 🕒 10am–4.30pm Tue–Sun; 🚗 325

Vaucluse was a desirable address even in the colony's early days, so it's interesting to note that one of its finest mansions was built by William Wentworth, a prominent explorer, patriot and barrister who, as a result of his free thinking and vocal advocacy of self-government, suffered a sort of social ostracism.

Built in fine grounds (1828–62), sumptuous Vaucluse House is an imposing example of a Gothic Revival marine villa and is one of Australia's finest mansions. The interior is laden with beautiful period pieces from Europe, including Bohemian glass, Meissen china and a Venetian dining setting. Life may well have been privileged for the Wentworths, but it also had its share of sorrow, which you'll discover as you tour the house and read the fascinating signs that accompany the rooms (disabled access on ground floor only). The lush 10-hectare grounds are a delight and well worth a picnic.

NIELSEN PARK Map pp50–1

Vaucluse Rd, Vaucluse; 🕒 5am–10pm; 🚗 325
Nielsen Park is a beautiful bush area and part of [Sydney Harbour National Park](#) (p106).

Attractions include a decent netted beach, some gentle walking tracks and Greycliffe House (1851), a beautiful rustic Gothic sandstone pile (not open to visitors). The best time to come is on a weekday, when it's not too busy and the other layabouts are just mums, kids, oldies and people throwing sickies from work.

SOUTH HEAD Map pp50–1

Old South Head Rd; 🚗 Watsons Bay, 🚗 324-5, 380
The narrow peninsula heading to the harbour's southern head is one of Sydney's most sublime spots. Best approached from Bondi, the view as Old South Head Rd leaves the sheer ocean cliffs to descend to Watsons Bay is breathtaking; all at once Sydney Harbour as far as the Bridge is laid out before you.

Nestled on the harbour side, [Watsons Bay](#) was once a small fishing village, a fact that is still evident in some of the tiny heritage cottages that pepper the suburb's narrow streets (and now cost a fortune). While you're here, tradition demands that you sit on the sunny terrace of the beer garden at [Doyles Palace Hotel](#) (p166). At sunset the sun falls behind the disembodied Harbour Bridge that juts out above Bradley's Head.

On the ocean side of the peninsula, opposite Watsons Bay, is [The Gap](#), a dramatic cliff-top lookout with the surf crashing far below. It has a macabre reputation as a suicide spot.

Past Watsons Bay is small family-friendly swimming beach [Camp Cove](#) (opposite). At its north end the [South Head Heritage Trail](#) begins, leading into yet another section of [Sydney Harbour National Park](#) (p106). It passes old battlements and a path heading down to little nudist/gay beach [Lady Bay](#) (opposite) before continuing to the candy-striped [Hornby Lighthouse](#) and [Lightkeepers' Cottages](#) (1858) on the tip of the head itself.

MACQUARIE LIGHTHOUSE Map pp50–1

Old South Head Rd; 🚗 380

When the original Francis Greenway-designed lighthouse (1818) fell into disrepair, the current lighthouse (1883) was built in front of it as an exact replica and the original dismantled. It's a pleasant spot to visit, with large surrounding grassy lawns and heavenly ocean views, best enjoyed while ambling along the Coastal Cliff Walk. Before the lighthouse was built a series of fires were lit along Sydney's headland to alert ships to the treacherous cliffs below.

WEST

SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK Map pp50–1

www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au; Homebush Bay; admission free; 🚗 Olympic Park, 🚗 Sydney Olympic Park

More than just a nostalgic reminder of the glorious, glitzy, over-the-top 2000 Olympic Games, Sydney's Olympic Park is a sprawling sustainable world unto itself, 14km west of the city centre. In the years since the Olympics the surrounding land has been transformed into nature reserves, 35km of cycleways and whole new residential suburbs.

The best way to explore this 23-hectare site is to hire a [bike](#) (per 1/2/4/8hr \$12/17/22/32) from the [Visitor Centre](#) (☎ 9714 7888; 1 Showground Rd; 🕒 9am–5pm), where you can also pick up maps and information on tours and events. Get a heads-up on the park's layout from the [Observation Centre](#) (adult/child \$4/2.75; 🕒 10am–4pm) on the 17th-floor of the Novotel.

The main Olympic venues are near the train station, including the [Aquatic Centre](#) (p175). Also here is the [Sydney Showground](#) – the home of the annual [Royal Easter Show](#) (p17) and [Big Day Out](#) (p16) music festival – and a massive new [Skate Park](#). [Newington Armoury](#), at the complex's north edge, hosts the weekend-long [Great Escape](#) (p17) music festival.

[Telstra Stadium](#) (formerly Stadium Australia, see p118) is an imposing oval bedpan with a colourful sculpture of native feathers spiralling over its main entrance. It's used for large sporting events including the [Rugby League Grand Final](#) (p18) and [State of Origin](#) (p17) matches, and rugby union internationals.

On the approach to the stadium is [Games Memories](#), an outdoor multimedia museum of sorts, constructed of 480 poles. Interspersed between the names of 74,000

top picks

SYDNEY HARBOUR BEACHES – SOUTHSIDE

Redleaf Pool A small city beach with floating pontoons and a boardwalk (see p87).

Shark Beach ([Map pp50–1](#)) Despite its name, this easily accessible beach is netted and safe. It's in Nielsen Park (opposite) and popular for family picnics; there are services and lush walks nearby.

Parsley Bay ([Map pp50–1](#)) A real gem, with a large calm lagoon to swim in, grassy areas for picnics and a cute suspension bridge to cross.

Camp Cove ([Map pp50–1](#)) An attractive family-friendly beach with a kiosk and historic past. Close to South Head (opposite).

Lady Bay ([Map pp50–1](#)) Nudist and gay beach, with boulders and sand on which to sun, and great views of the harbour. On the popular path to South Head (opposite), but reasonably private.

volunteers are poles decorated with bits of track surfaces, rowing oars, javelins and movement-activated TV screens. Look for Ian Thorpe's pole, a mirrored one celebrating Kylie Minogue's closing ceremony performance, and one dedicated to 'Fatso the big-arsed wombat', the mascot of an irreverent nightly TV roundup screened during the games. A circular theatre fast-forwards the entire games experience with 12 screens simultaneously broadcasting highlights. Nearby, the silver flying saucer that burst into Olympic flame has been converted into a striking fountain.

A new addition is the architecturally stunning [Brickpit Ring Walk](#) (🕒 sunrise-sunset), a brightly coloured circular walkway supported 18m above an abandoned brickworks on what looks like metal chopsticks. Between 1911 and 1988 three-billion bricks were made here, but it's now been reclaimed by several native species including the endangered green and golden bell frog. Built into the loop are multimedia exhibits about the brick-workers and their amphibious replacements.

Native critters also have possession of various woodland and wetland reserves around Homebush Bay, Haslams Creek and the Parramatta River. The site has the

top picks

OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS

- South Head (right)
- Vaucluse House (above)
- Nielsen Park (above)
- Sydney Olympic Park (opposite)
- Cronulla (p120)

WHOSE STADIUM?

There are Olympic stadiums all over the world – from Montreal to Munich – but not in Sydney, home of the 2000 Olympic Games. Perhaps you vaguely remember Sydney's stadium being referred to as Stadium Australia – a patriotic name for a grandiose venue. But you won't find a Stadium Australia these days either. There is an Aussie Stadium, but that's in Moore Park, not Olympic Park. Confused?

Sydneysiders seem unperturbed that their iconic Olympic stadium and Sydney Football Stadium have been rechristened in corporate branding deals as Telstra Stadium and Aussie Stadium (after sponsor Aussie Home Loans) respectively. Of course, this does nothing to dispel the rest of the country's impression that Sydneysiders would sell their grandmothers for a harbour view. One can't imagine the same indignity happening at the beloved MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground).

prettiest sewage works you're ever likely to see or smell. Each year 850 million litres of water are captured in the park's water features, reducing its demand on the city's water supply by half. Banks of solar panels generate much of the site's electricity.

A variety of tours of the area are available; contact the visitors centre or check the website for more details.

PARRAMATTA

📍 Parramatta or 📍 Parramatta

Sydney's reserves of glamour are running dry by the time you head this far west, but for those on longer stays in Sydney – particularly those with a historical bent – a river journey to Parramatta is an interesting diversion and a chance to see more of the 'real Sydney'.

The second European settlement in Australia, Rose Hill was founded by First Fleet convict labour when Sydney Cove proved to be a poor area for farming. While this name survives in an inner Parramatta suburb, the town became known by what is actually a mishearing of the name of the local Aboriginal people, the Burramattagal. It roughly translates to 'eel creek' – the slippery critters giving their name to the area's rugby league team. Consumed by Sydney's westward sprawl, Parramatta is a thriving commercial centre, with some historic gems nestled among the mostly dreary modern developments.

If arriving by RiverCat, follow the river west to the knowledgeable **Parramatta Heritage & Visitors Centre** (📞 8839 3311; 346A Church St; 🕒 9am-5pm) and grab a *History & Heritage* brochure outlining walking routes that take in the major sights. The centre is a museum in its own right, with temporary exhibits by local artists, as well as a fine permanent exhibition on Parramatta's history and culture.

Bicentennial Sq (on Church St, south of Macquarie St) is the civic centre, containing **St John's Cathedral** (with towers dating to 1819) and the **Parramatta Town Hall** (1883). **St John's Cemetery** (O'Connell St), three blocks southwest of the cathedral, contains the graves of many of the first settlers.

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

📞 9635 8149; www.friendsofogh.com; adult/concession/family \$8/5/18; 🕒 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-4pm Sat & Sun; 📍 Parramatta

The country residence of the early governors, this elegant Georgian Palladian building is situated in **Parramatta Park**, site of the first farm. The earliest part dates from 1799, making it the oldest remaining public building in Australia. Entry is by way of an interesting hour-long tour around rooms furnished with original colonial furniture and painstaking reproductions. An extra \$2 will get you a joint ticket giving access to **Experiment Farm** (opposite). Phone for details about monthly ghost nights.

ELIZABETH FARM

📞 9635 9488; www.hht.net.au/museums/ef; 70 Alice St, Rosehill; adult/child/family \$8/4/17; 🕒 10am-5pm; 📍 Parramatta or 📍 Rosehill

Built as the home of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, this lovely homestead is the oldest surviving building in Australia (1793). Macarthur may be heralded as the founder of Australia's wool industry, but he wasn't a nice man. An officer turned ruthless capitalist, his misuse of power made him immensely wealthy and a thorn in the side of successive governors. His house is much more pleasant. Unlike Old Government House (above) all of the furniture is reproduction; you're allowed to swan around, touch things and sit in the chairs as if you own the colony – just like Macarthur did.

EXPERIMENT FARM COTTAGE

📞 9635 5655; www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/properties/efc; 9 Ruse St, Harris Park; adult/concession/family \$6/4/14; 🕒 10.30am-3.30pm Tue-Fri, 11am-3.30pm Sat & Sun; 📍 Parramatta or 📍 Harris Park

A block east of Elizabeth Farm is this colonial bungalow (1835), built on the site of the first land grant issued to a convict. Only a year after arriving, Governor Phillip granted 12 hectares of land to James Ruse in an experiment in self-sufficiency (much to the consternation of some of the military). Down the hill, **Hambledon Cottage** (📞 9635 6924; 63 Hassell St; adult/child \$4/2; 🕒 11am-4pm Wed-Sun) is older still (1824) and surrounded by nearly 200-year-old camphor laurels and English oaks.

SOUTH

BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/parks.nsf; per car \$7; 📍 Cronulla then 📍 987 to Kurnell, 📍 393-4 to La Perouse

This 456-hectare national park straddles the entrance of Botany Bay, 15km south of Sydney Harbour. If all had gone according to plan, this would have been the site of Sydney. It was here that Captain Cook landed in 1770. The bay was named in honour of

the many botanical specimens his naturalist Joseph Banks found here. Banks was the one who suggested it as a good place to plant the new penal colony. When the First Fleet arrived in the height of summer 18 years later, they weren't inclined to agree; the scorched vegetation and limited water supplies a far cry from the paradise Banks had visited in winter.

Cook's landing place is marked on the **Monument Track**, a 1.5km walk at Kurnell on the southern side of the bay. The nearby **Discovery Centre** (📞 9668 9111; 🕒 11am-3pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4.30pm Sat & Sun) has material relating to Cook's life and expeditions, an exhibition about the first contact between Cook's crew and the local people, and information on the surrounding wetlands.

La Perouse is on the northern side of the bay at the spot where the First Fleet laid anchor, followed by French explorer Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de La Pérouse just six days later. His arrival was utterly coincidental, and gave the Brits quite a scare. However the La Pérouse expedition was purely scientific; he and his men camped at Botany Bay for a few weeks, then sailed off into the Pacific and vanished. Many years later the wrecks of their ships were discovered on a reef near the Solomon Islands.

SHE'LL BE WHITE, MATE

One of the great contradictions of Australian life is the easy-going 'she'll be right, mate' self-image that stands in sharp contrast to a nasty racism boiling away under the surface in some sections of society. Two recent race riots in Sydney make it hard to deny. The White Australia policy may have been officially shelved by government in 1973 but perhaps some attitudes linger on.

In 2004 Redfern erupted in a night of rioting following the death of an Aboriginal teenager in a police pursuit. The following year it was images of white youths bashing people of different ethnicities while brandishing slogans such as 'Aussie Pride' and 'Wog Free Zone' that made headlines around the world.

The catalyst for the Cronulla riots of December 2005 was an assault of local surf life-savers by four young men, who some in the media were quick to point out were Lebanese Australians. Whipped up by talkback radio shock jocks and an SMS message issuing the call to 'come to Cronulla this weekend to take revenge' a crowd of 5000 white youth gathered in what started as a party atmosphere, but degenerated into drunken racially motivated mob attacks on any passer-by who looked vaguely Middle Eastern. Retaliatory attacks from both sides of the racial divide continued over the next few days.

It would be wrong to stereotype Sydneysiders as racist. After all, 250,000 people took to the streets in 2000 in support of Aboriginal reconciliation. But this is a nation where some politicians and sections of the media pander to racism with relative impunity. Visitors are often shocked to hear casual references to 'Abos', 'Lebs' and 'Wogs' (a catch-all that covers anyone of Mediterranean extraction) in otherwise polite conversation.

After the Australian Communications and Media Authority ruled that shock jock Alan Jones broadcast comments in the lead up to the riot likely to encourage violence and vilify people of Middle Eastern background, Prime Minister John Howard leapt to his defence, saying that Jones 'is a person who articulates what a lot of people think'. Jones is popular with the lower-middle-class 'Aussie battlers' that are a key part of Howard's constituency.

Back in Cronulla, most locals were horrified by what had happened. One positive outcome has been the formation of *On The Same Wave*, a successful collaboration between the local council, Surf Life Saving and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship aimed at increasing participation of people from ethnic minorities in surf life-saving.

The La Perouse area has strong links with the Aboriginal community. [Laperouse Museum & Visitor Centre](#) (☎ 9311 3379; adult/child \$5.50/3.30; 🕒 10am-4pm Wed-Sun) has an interesting Aboriginal gallery, as well as relics of the La Pérouse expedition and antique maps. There's a monument commemorating the explorer, built in 1828 by French sailors searching for him.

The French connection continues in the name of [Sans Souci](#), one of the sprawling suburbs that line Botany Bay – although in the local accent it's made to rhyme with 'man-floozy'.

CRONULLA

📍 Cronulla

In the last edition of this book this surf town south of Botany Bay was described as having 'an atmosphere that couldn't be more relaxed without reaching the comatose level'. Then came the Cronulla riots (see [p119](#)). Things have calmed down again and visitors should have no qualms enjoying what this top beach has to offer: great surf, endless sand dunes and a pleasant beachfront promenade with dozens of eateries and bars nearby.

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