

appearing in gourmet restaurants.

**Local drink:** Australia boasts a vibrant spirits industry, and samples of the country's renowned vintages are widely available at restaurants and bottle shops in Sydney. Beer or brut, chardonnay or cordial, Sydney's thirst-quenchers are strong, diverse and satisfying. Local wines from Rosemount, Yalumba, Petaluma and Cullen are winning international gold medals.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Australia has tremendous natural resources, and gemstones – especially opals and pearls – are particularly attractive. Western Australia also supplies 80% of the world's mother-of-pearl. Aboriginal art is widely available; it features hand-carved and painted spears and boomerangs, drumming sticks, boldly colored bark, canvas and sand paintings. Leather goods and woollens are also good buys. Quality hats, especially straw hats of the greatest variety, are available here. Or pick up the famous stockmen's Akubra hat. Australia is the home of Speedo, so plan to pick up the latest in competitive swimwear designs and accessories. Trendy shopping areas include The Rocks, Rose Bay, and Oxford Street in Darlinghurst, and the Queen Victoria Building.

**David Jones** Reputed to be Sydney's best department store, offering quality products and services for everything and everyone – fashion, linen, books, music, furniture, antiques, household goods, handicrafts, haberdashery, toys, perfumes, hair salons and much more. The "Food Hall," stocked with imported American delicacies including Oreo cookies and root beer, is certainly worth a visit. There are two stores right in the heart of the city and other stores throughout the Sydney metropolitan area.

**Myer/Grace Bros** Similar store to David Jones, although not as upmarket. Offers duty-free shopping. Stores located throughout the metropolitan area. 436 George St.

**Balmain Market** Antiques, bric-a-brac, plants, clothing, quality handcrafted wares, fresh organically-grown fruit and vegetables, multicultural food and more. Located in the grounds surrounding St. Andrew's Congregational Church, Darling St., Balmain.

**Paddington Bazaar** One of Sydney's most colorful landmarks, this is a showcase for gift seekers, homemakers, clothes, jewelry, crafts, health foods and more. At the Eastside Parish Uniting Church, extending through to the adjoining Paddington Public School grounds in Oxford Street, Paddington.

**The Rocks Market** Arts and crafts, housewares, decorator items, antiques, entertainment. George St.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The official currency of Australia is the Australian Dollar. Denominations include \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills and \$.10, \$.20, \$.50 \$1 and \$2 coins.

Foreign exchange rates fluctuate. There is also a slight variation for cash or traveler's checks.

**POST OFFICE & TELEPHONE FACILITIES** Sydney has both red and yellow mail boxes. The red boxes are for normal postal service; yellow boxes are used exclusively for Express Post within Australia. The General Post Office (GPO) is located at 1 Martin Place.

Most of the telephones in the street take coins and telephone cards, which can be purchased at a newsstand or the post office. Phone cards cost \$A2, \$A5, \$A10 and \$A20, depending on the number of calls permitted. Dial the following access numbers to place a call with your personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.881.011

MCI: 1.800.881.100

SPRINT: 1.800.881.877

**TOURIST INFORMATION** An information Centre booth offers brochures on places of interest in Sydney at Martin Place. **The Rocks Sydney Visitor Centre** can organize a walking tour of the historic Rocks district. **Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau** at 80 William Street.

**Manly Visitors Information Bureau** – Manly Wharf Forecourt, East Esplanade, Manly.

**Parramatta Visitors Information Service**, 346A Church Street (beside the Lennox Bridge).

**TRANSPORTATION** Once in the city, visitors discover a fantastic walking environment, with the novel option of taking the ferry to some tourist destinations. Most major attractions are located in the Central Business District, south of the Harbour Bridge. Taxis are plentiful, and the bus and train systems are user-friendly. A privately owned monorail connects some of the Central Business District's preferred tourist destinations, including Darling Harbour, Chinese Gardens and Pitt Street pedestrian malls.

#### USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES

The language spoken is English; however, it is spiced with a vocabulary and some pronunciations bound to confuse non-native speakers. For example:

Are you right? ▪ Do you need help?

Good on ya ▪ Good for you.

Good day ▪ G'day

Good afternoon ▪ Arvo

Woman ▪ Sheila

That's OK ▪ No worries

Evening meal ▪ Tea

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## PORT EXPLORER

# Sydney

## AUSTRALIA

**GENERAL INFORMATION** The brightest star in the Southern Hemisphere is Sydney, home to one quarter of Australia's residents and the financial, and cultural heart of the country. From its majestic Harbour Bridge to the spectacular Blue Mountains, this city yields a rich feast for visitors: great natural beauty, a clean and safe environment, exquisite cuisine and the vibrant energy that sets Sydney apart from other cities in Australia. Sydney impressed the world with its hosting of the Olympic Games in the year 2000, the validity of its claim to be "God's Country."

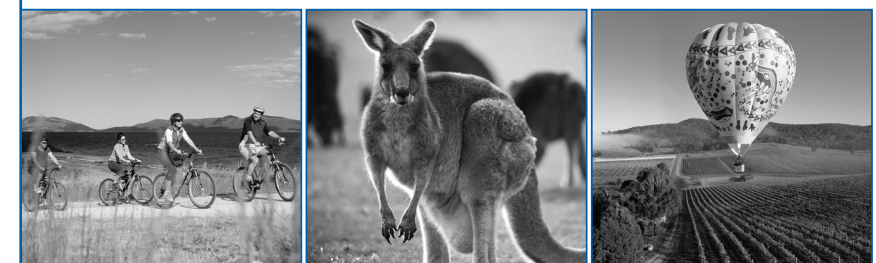
Sailing into Sydney harbour is one of the world's great maritime moments. Almost without warning, the golden sandstone cliffs that edge the Pacific coastline part to reveal a huge natural harbour with a beautiful city at its heart. Sydney is a premier cruising destination, offering first-class passenger facilities and infrastructure, all within walking distance of city experiences and a short hop to other attractions. Sydney proper is bounded by a natural harbour to the north and west and flanked to the east by the green park lands of the Botanic Gardens and Domain. Within these boundaries is an exciting and vibrant city. A simple ride on one of the cross harbour ferries or a stroll through the narrow back lanes of The Rock's area will provide a small slice of the history and magnitude of this great metropolis.

**HISTORY** The first inhabitants of Australia were the Aboriginal peoples. Their history began in a time called the Dreaming when the Ancestor Spirits emerged from the earth and gave form to the landscape. Anthropologists believe the Aboriginal people arrived from Asia more than 50,000 years ago. Clans lived in the area now known as Sydney until the Europeans caused violent disruption to this world.

In 1768, Captain James Cook began a search for the fabled "great south land." Traveling in the wake of other European explorers, he was the first to set foot on the east coast of the land the Dutch had named New Holland. He claimed the land for England, named it New South Wales, and sailed 2,500 miles along its shores, charting the coast and barrier reef. The "new" land wasn't empty, however. Captain Cook encountered a dark skinned race of nomadic hunters and gatherers. The distant ancestors of these people had begun their migration into the land at least 50,000 years before, passing across land bridges and shallow seas connecting Ice Age Asia to present-day Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Captain Cook also encountered an array of strange new animals, never before seen (or even imagined) by Europeans.

England didn't do much with New South Wales until 1787 when the First Fleet was dispatched, transporting convicts from overflowing British prisons to Botany Bay, now the harbour of Sydney. The fleet anchored on January 26, 1788, within a pistol shot of the shores of Sydney Cove, Port Jackson. Today, the western shore of the cove is the site of The Rocks, the restored first settlement. On the tip of the eastern shore are the shell-shaped, white buildings of the Sydney Opera House.

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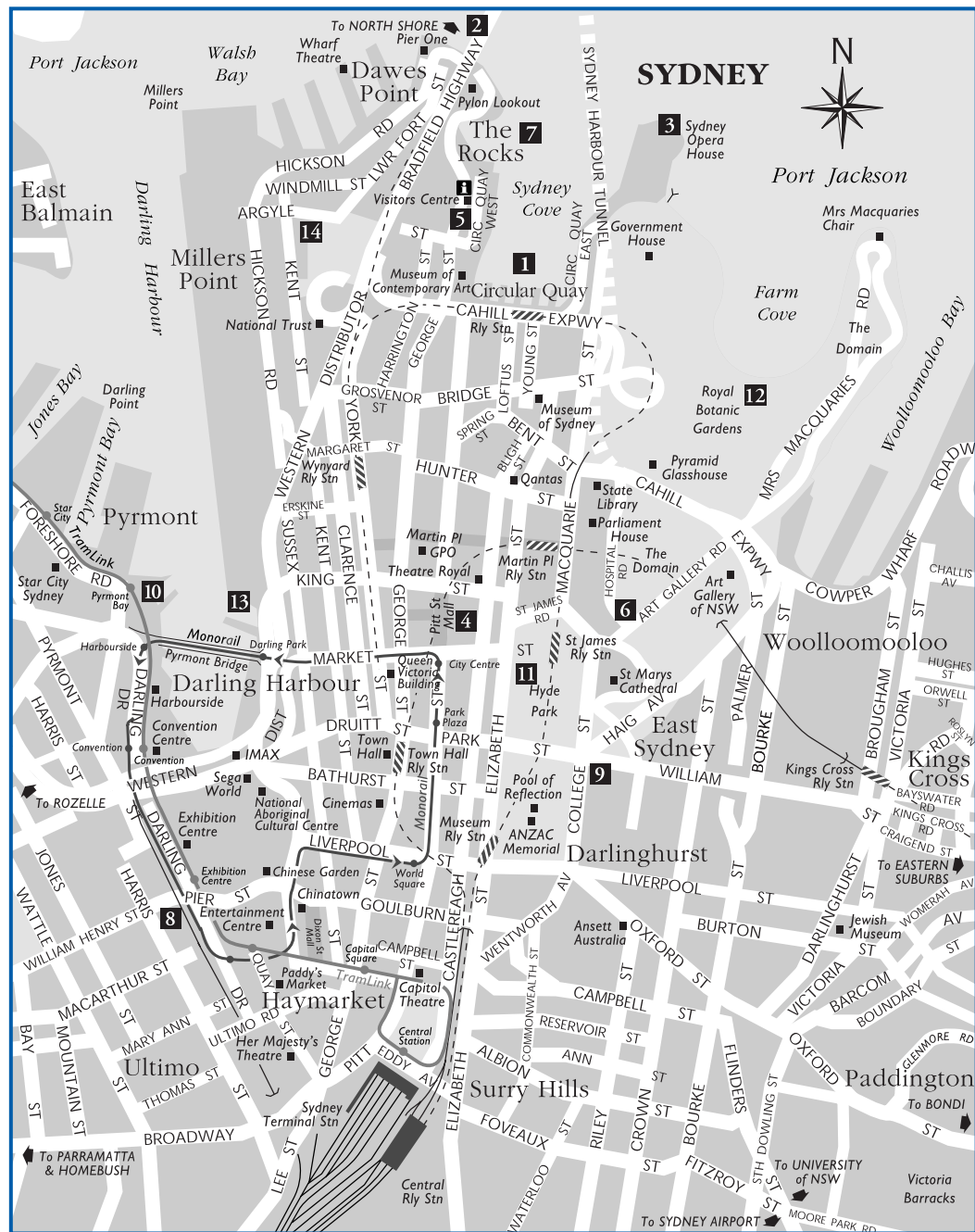


History continued

More prisoners were transported and other convict colonies founded. Free settlers followed the colonies. Slowly the land was explored and domesticated, in some ways reminiscent of the opening of the West in the United States. Settlers in wagons followed pathfinders to make homes in the wild country; pioneers came into conflict with the Aborigines; great cattle stations (ranches) were founded; cattle drives were made across trackless wastes; gold was discovered and fortunes made and lost in boom towns; railroads were built along old wagon routes, and paddlewheelers were built for transport along the mighty Murray River. These experiences, set in a land that for decades remained at the ends of the world's transportation and communication lines, bred an enduring frontier spirit and independent attitude into the Aussie. These traits persist today even though the majority of Australians now dwell in coastal cities and the well-watered lands of the southeast.

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Circular Quay** Captain Phillip sailed into Sydney Cove in January 1788 to establish the First Settlement and since then this bustling port has been a focal point of Sydney. The restored eastern-end wool stores now house quality restaurants, shops and galleries. Take a stroll along this scenic foreshore promenade and enjoy cafés, shops and regular street entertainment. It is also Sydney's busiest commuter terminus – scenic cruises and ferries depart for all parts of the harbour.
- 2 Sydney Harbour Bridge** “The Coathanger” was completed in 1932 connecting the north and south shores with a 1,650 feet (503m) span. For a magnificent view of the harbour, climb the 200 steps at the southeast column of the bridge, from Cumberland Street, The Rocks, and visit the Pylon Lookout.
- 3 Sydney Opera House** Built 1952-73 from a design by Danish architect Joern Utzon, this is one of the architectural wonders of the world, with vaulted roof shells rising like billowing sails against the harbour backdrop. It provides a world-class cultural center, including a concert hall and theaters for opera, ballet, drama and dance.



- 4 Sydney Tower** Rising from Centrepoint Shopping Complex and bounded by Pitt, Market and Castlereagh streets, this is Australia's tallest structure. It soars 1,000 feet (305 m). The observation level provides fascinating views over Sydney and beyond, with high-powered binoculars. Facilities include a café and information services.
- 5 Cadman's Cottage** Built in 1815 off George Street, the cottage is Sydney's oldest surviving residential building. It now houses the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service shop and information center.
- 6 Hyde Park Barracks** This 1819 landmark is a museum. The elegant Georgian building, designed as convict accommodations, depicts the daily life of convicts through exhibitions, an innovative soundscape and a rich archaeological collection.

**7 The Rocks** The site of Australia's first permanent European settlement. With unique historic buildings and a wealth of heritage, it has become a leading retail precinct for quality gifts and souvenirs and the very best of the nation's crafts. It is also renowned for its quaint pubs and great restaurants. This area is located at Sydney Cove, with the main shopping area on George Street.

**8 Powerhouse Museum** This museum was created within the shell of a huge derelict power station adjacent to Darling Harbour. More than 25 exhibitions depict human achievement, science and technology, decorative arts and everyday lives of Australians as well as a NASA space station, 1930s cinema, gas-filled plasma ball, fashion through the centuries, computers and interactive exhibitions.

**9 The Australian Museum** Changing exhibits trace the rich culture and environment of Australia from thousands of years ago to the present. Permanent exhibits include Aboriginal Australia, mammals, birds, insects, fossils, dinosaurs and more.

**10 Australian National Maritime Museum** Features Aboriginal maritime cultures, early Asian contacts, European discovery and sea travel to Australia since convict times. Learn about the Navy and water sports, and explore a fleet of historic vessels moored at the wharves. A special gallery pays tribute to 200 years of U.S.-Australian maritime cooperation.

**11 Hyde Park** This is the green heart of the city. At the southern end stands the Anzac War Memorial, with sculptures and exhibits of Australian exploits from the Boer War to the Vietnam War. Enjoy the 1932 Archibald Fountain and stroll through Queen's Square to the colonial Saint James' Church.

**12 Royal Botanical Gardens** This superb 74 acre (30 hectare) botanical collection is located on the harbour foreshore and is the oldest scientific institution in Australia. Garden features include Palm Grove, the first farm site in Sydney, and the Sydney Tropical Centre; the Arc and Pyramid Glasshouses focus on the wonders of tropical ecosystems, with exotic plants from the world's rainforests. Superb views of the harbour and city skyline may be seen from Mrs. Macquarie's Point; she was the wife of one of the early governors of New South Wales. She had a stone chair hewn in the rock at the end of the point, where she could watch for ships entering the harbour. Gardens open daily from sunrise to sunset. Free (except for the Tropical Centre).

**13 Sydney Aquarium** Boasts the world's largest collection of Australian aquatic life. Confront dangerous crocodiles, explore Australia's largest river system, wander through a mangrove swamp, admire the color of the Great Barrier Reef and walk on water while seals swim beneath. A highlight is the huge collection of sharks in the Open Ocean exhibit.

**14 Sydney Observatory** Built in 1858 as a center for time-keeping and astronomical study. Now a museum of astronomy offering a regular program of exhibitions, films and talks. Night viewings allow visitors to explore the heavens through modern and historic telescopes. The views of Sydney Harbour are breathtaking. Night tours must be pre-booked.

**15 Taronga Park Zoo** With 74 acres (30 hectares) of harborside bushland, this is one of the world's great zoos. It has Australia's largest collection of exotic animals, in addition to the unique native animals – koalas, kangaroos, dingoes, wombats, Tasmanian devils and platypus in natural environments. Also features a spectacular view of Sydney's harbour.

#### BEYOND SYDNEY

**Centennial Park** A 544 acre (220 hectare) tranquil reserve with abundance of birdlife, including black swans. First opened in 1888 to commemorate the arrival of the First Fleet. Combines the formality of a Victorian garden with the natural beauty of native plants and ornamental lakes.

**Botany Bay National Park** This park is protected for its historic significance: Captain Cook landed there in 1770 and later in 1788; French explorer LaPerouse anchored there just six days after the arrival of the First Fleet. The Discovery Centre features exhibitions about Cook. The LaPerouse Museum houses fascinating relics of the French expedition. There is also adjacent an Aboriginal Art Gallery. Located at Kurnell and LaPerouse.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Sydney and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Tipping: While tipping is still optional in Australia it is increasingly seen at better hotels, restaurants and in taxis. As a general rule in restaurants add 5%-10% of the bill depending on service and in taxis add 5%-10% depending on the length of the trip.

**Local Cuisine:** Sydney offers a wide variety of quality produce. The ordinary fare has been pushed aside as restaurateurs seek out regional specialties. From New South Wales, you may sample Sydney rock oysters, honey from Mudgee, mushrooms from Orange, lamb from Illabo, and the Southern Highlands' gourmet potatoes. Also try the olive oil of South Australia, salmon farmed in Tasmania, soft fruit and dairy produce from Victoria, reef fish and exotic fruit from Queensland, and Western Australian farmhouse cheeses. The adventurous can sample kangaroo, crocodile, camel or try witchetty grubs. Once a mainstay of Aboriginal diet, these small larvae have not started

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