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Why Host a Meeting in Sydney?

With a mild climate and plenty of sunshine, Sydney welcomes guests with a laid-back, friendly "G'day." From awards and accolades including the title of World's Best City for the 12th year in a row by highly-respected *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine's Readers Choice Awards in 2007, it's no surprise that Sydney remains an alluring destination for both vacations and meetings. In fact it has been host to numerous international events, including the 2000 Summer Olympics, the 2003 Rugby World Cup and the 2008 World Youth Day.



The [Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre](#), the city's main meeting complex, boasts the most extensive exhibition facilities in the Southern Hemisphere, reflecting Sydney's position at the forefront of Asia/Pacific trade and commerce. Located in downtown Sydney in close proximity to over 16,000 hotel rooms, the center is easily accessible by road, [monorail](#) and ferry links. The Convention Center has an auditorium capacity of 3,500 and 20 other meeting rooms with the ability to offer catering for 20 to 600 people.

The Link Building Gallery links the conference center to the Exhibition Center, which provides five single-level exhibition halls. Each hall is almost 54,000 square feet, providing a total area of almost 270,000 square feet. The Convention Center has served as host to many notable events, the most recent of which was APEC Australia 2007, a series of political meetings held between the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. Many impressive world leaders were in attendance including Australian Prime Minister John Howard, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and U.S. President George W. Bush.

Darling Harbour, a centerpiece of the city, has undergone the efforts of a major urban redevelopment project. Originally part of the Port of Sydney, the 1980s found the area largely derelict. After extensive renovations and upgrades, it has emerged as one of the world's foremost tourist precincts with over 15 million visitors a year. The harbour is home to numerous unique venues, including the **Star City Casino** and Chinese Garden of Friendship. Guests can lounge by the water at Cargo Bar, which, among other rooms, offers its entire upper deck for events of up to 600 people, or enjoy an intimate dinner at the Malaya, a flexible venue for groups of 20 to 300 guests.



Looking at the greater city area, over 50 unique venues, many of which feature the water as a backdrop, are available. Groups of 20 to 1,000 people will never forget their once-in-a-lifetime meeting experience at the world-famous **Sydney Opera House**. For incredible views of the harbor amongst lush, Australian flora and fauna, the Royal Botanical Gardens offer nearly 100 unique lawn settings for marquee events. For a truly original venue with an atmosphere of smiling faces and street performers, the bright lights and excitement at Big Top, located in waterfront amusement park Luna Park, offers a 2,000-seat auditorium and two spacious bars.

As a corporate and financial centre, Sydney's importance extends throughout Australia and well into the Asia Pacific region. Over 90 banks have their headquarters in the city and Sydney is also the regional headquarters of around 500 multinational corporations including Coca Cola, 3M, American Express, IBM and Microsoft. Fox Studios also has a major movie studio in the city. Sydney is also an important center of learning and research and has five large universities offering a wide range of subjects. The oldest of these, the University of Sydney, is currently undergoing an AU\$480 million redevelopment and expansion program including the construction of new centers for medical and scientific research.



Key Sydney Metro Area Facts

Time Zone: Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)
Convention Center: [Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre](#)
Airports: [Sydney Airport \(SYD\)](#)

Population 4,284,379 **Destination Type Listings**

Hotels	584	• Beach destination
Hotel Rooms	16,000	• Historic destination
Unique Venues	50	• Sailing destination
Restaurants	177	• Smoke free restaurants

Additional Sydney Information / History?

Charismatic and self assured, Sydney has rapidly become one of the most beautiful cities in the world and a beacon of national pride; indeed, it's hard to believe this vibrant city is just 220 years old. The first Europeans in Sydney were British convicts shipped to Australia in 1788 to ease the overcrowding in London prisons. At first, the colony floundered, but several gold rushes in the mid-19th century caused the population to soar, and subsequent open immigration policies paved the way for an influx of British, Irish, Scottish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Italian and Indian immigrants, who transformed the city into the multicultural haven it is today. Now, with a population of four million, Sydney is firmly established as the most populous city in Australia and the country's economic hub, providing approximately 25 percent of the country's total gross domestic product.



Nicknamed "the Harbour City", Sydney hugs the shores of Port Jackson, the largest natural harbor in the world, on Australia's southeast coast. A stunning spot, especially on one of Sydney's numerous sunny days, the harbour is always dotted with hundreds of boats and ferries and occasionally dolphins or a humpback whale or two. [Circular Quay](#) ferry terminal is both the gateway to the harbour and the gateway to the city, where grandiose Sydney Sandstone heritage buildings, including the Town Hall and the Queen Victoria Building, nestle among a myriad of glittering skyscrapers, shady parks and pedestrian precincts.

The name "Sydney" generally brings to mind the city's most famous attractions, the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, but the city is also renowned for its laid-back surf [beaches](#), especially Bondi and Manly beaches, both a mere 30 minutes from downtown. Grab a board and head out to the waves to join the locals in a favorite weekend activity, or simply stretch out on the glittering sands to soak up the sun. Once the sun goes down, wander through Paddington or Surrey Hills at night to see the amazing range of international restaurants, colorful locals and pumping night clubs such as Selina's Nightclub at the historic [Coogee Bay Hotel](#). Or, for a more low-key venue, enjoy serene waterfront dining at one of many restaurants lining the harbour such as popular Catalina in Rose Bay. From days spent lounging on the beach, shopping or meandering through parks and museums to nights of eating, drinking and dancing, Sydney offers guests a world of opportunities to delight, entertain and inspire.



Sydney Climate Information

Sydney has a temperate climate with warm summers, mild winters and a high proportion of sunny days, all an effect of the city's proximity to the ocean. The warmest month is January with average temperatures between 66°F to 78°F. Winters are mild with temperatures rarely dropping below 41°F in coastal areas. The coldest month is July, with temperatures averaging 54°F.

Rainfall is relatively evenly divided between summer and winter, but tends to be slightly higher during the first half of the year when easterly winds dominate. The average annual rainfall is 48 inches, seen over about 138 days a year. The best time to visit is during October, November and December, when temperatures are mild but rainfall has not reached its heaviest.

Sydney Places of Interest

Circular Quay and the Rocks District

It's not hard to understand why Circular Quay is the first port of call for many visitors to Sydney. As the main ferry terminus, Circular Quay is the gateway to the Sydney Harbour and a hotspot for many of city's attractions and events. With the famous Sydney Opera House as a backdrop, the quay is home to numerous street performers that turn any day into a festival. Almost directly underneath the huge span of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Rocks district, the site of the city's first non-Aboriginal settlement, underwent a complete facelift in the 1970s. Now, with its maze of cobbled lanes, beautifully-restored sandstone buildings, art galleries, opal stores, bars and restaurants, it couldn't be more charming. Visitors can either fill a day with activities at the Quay, or simply opt for a relaxing afternoon of enjoying the waterfront view.



Darling Harbour

Part of the original port of Sydney, Darling Harbour was redeveloped as a pedestrian and tourist precinct in the 1990s, and the area is now viewed as one of the world's best urban redevelopment programs. Over 15 million people a year visit the harbour to enjoy a plethora of cultural and entertainment attractions. In addition to being home to the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour is home to the Powerhouse Museum, where guests can learn about Australian history and culture, and the National Maritime Museum, a showcase on the history of and stories from the seas.

Other attractions include the Sydney Aquarium, the Chinese Garden of Friendship and Sydney Wildlife World. Darling Harbour also provides free weekly entertainment and hosts seven free major events a year including the Australia Day spectacular on January 26, the Latin American-inspired Fiesta, a jazz festival and the Hoopla Acrobatic and Street Theatre Festival. At night the harbour stays busy with an array of theatres, shows, pubs, bars and nightclubs.

The Manly Ferry

A visit to the port city of Sydney is not complete without venturing out onto the water itself. Several harbour cruises are available, but guests can also simply take the Manly Ferry to the beach suburb of Manly. Offering unforgettable views of the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, the city skyline and the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Manly Ferry is one of the most popular visitor activities in Sydney. The 30-minute journey takes guests past the dramatic cliffs at the harbour entrance over to Manly, where the pace of life slides down a couple of notches. After arrival, visitors can explore this laid-back beach suburb, take a dip in the water or just kick back under the sun.



The ferry departs Circular Quay to Manly every 30 minutes Monday through Friday from 6 AM to 11:45 PM, Saturday from 8 AM to 11:45 PM and Sunday from 8 AM to 11 PM. Return ferries run every 30 minutes Monday through Friday from 6:40 to 12:20 AM, Saturday from 8:45 to 12:20 AM and Sunday from 8:45 AM to 11:45 PM. A single adult fare from Circular Quay to Manly is AU\$6.40.

Pitt Street Mall

As the city's retail core, the Pitt Street Mall is Australia's busiest retail strip and, during peak hours, boasts 14,500 pedestrians an hour. The mall mixes contemporary plazas and beautifully renovated arcades to offer world-class shopping opportunities. Shoppers can browse among 600 stores that

feature award-winning Australian designers such as Akira Isogawa and Collette Dinnigan and international labels such as Versace, Armani and Louis Vuitton. Several cafes and eateries are available for breaks between stores.

Sydney Entertainment

Star City Casino

Star City Casino is Sydney's only legal casino, featuring two gaming floors with popular games such as Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, Mini Baccarat, Sic Bo, Big Wheel, Caribbean Stud Poker, Pai Gow and Pontoon. On the waterfront in Darling Harbour, it enjoys sweeping views of the harbour and city skyline. Guests can also stop by one of eight bars and seven restaurants, or visit the Lyric Theatre or Star Theatre, which adjoin the complex. The Star City Casino also boasts 35 hotel rooms. Star City Casino is open 24 hours a day. *For more information: +61 2 9777 9000*



Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is one of the most distinctive and famous performing arts venues in the world. Having been granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 2007, it sits proudly on Bennelong Point next to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Designed by Jørn Utzon, a Danish architect, the Opera House houses five main performance spaces which can also be used for activities such as conferences, ceremonies and social functions. In fact, the Opera House was used as a key meeting venue at APEC Australia 2007, a series of political meetings held between the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

In addition to hosting a constant stream of touring theater, ballet and musical productions, the Opera House is home to the internationally-acclaimed Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Opera Australia and regular performances by the Sydney Theatre Company. Visitors can also take various guided tours, from the Backstage Tour to the Asian Spotlight Tour, of the concert hall and opera theater. The opera house has facilities for private events of 20 to 1,000 guests.

The Sydney Opera House Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 8:30 PM. The Guided Tours Desk is open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 5:30 PM. Tour schedules and tickets vary based on type, with prices starting at AU\$26. *For more information: +61 2 9250 7111*



Sydney Wildlife World

Sydney Wildlife World invites visitors to take a walk on the wild side right in the heart of downtown. Located on the shores of Darling Harbour and attached to the Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Wildlife World recreates nine unique Australian habitats, from spectacular rainforests to grasslands spread across three floors. With more than 6,000 native creatures, visitors have the chance to see everything from the eye-catching Thorny Devil to well-known Australian icons koalas and kangaroos.

Sydney Wildlife World is open daily from 9 AM to 10 PM. Tickets are AU\$15 for children ages 3-15 and AU\$29.50 for adults. Reduced prices are available for tickets bought online. *For more information: +61 2 9333 9288*

Sydney Restaurants

ARIA

Enviably located overlooking the Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, ARIA first opened its doors in 1999 and offers a quintessential Sydney experience. Guests can take advantage of the Kitchen Table, a glass-enclosed table for eight in the middle of the action where diners can watch what happens behind the scenes as their dishes are prepared. The contemporary Australian menu, inspired by the head chef's passion for using the finest seasonal produce, includes a mouthwatering lamb loin roasted with basil, ratatouille and fennel paste, and roasted John Dory with

mussels, bok choy and crushed kipfler potatoes. The wine list offers over 700 selections, both Australian and international varieties.

ARIA offers three dining areas for private functions: the main dining room for 80 to 100 guests; private dining room for up to 60 guests; and outdoor terrace for 80 to 120 guests. Aria serves lunch Monday through Friday from noon to 2:30 PM and dinner Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 11:30 PM, Saturday from 5 to 11:30 PM and Sunday from 6 to 10:30 PM. Dinner entrees range from AU\$44 to AU\$56. *For more information: +61 2 9252 2555*

Astral

With sophisticated décor and panoramic views of the city and harbour, Astral is the Star City Casino's premier dining venue on its 17th floor. With a focus on modern French cuisine, the restaurant has received a variety of accolades such as Chef of the Year 2008 and Chef's Hat Award 2007 and 2008 by the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Good Food Guide. Astral's signature dish is duck and foie gras pie floater on crushed peas with a delicate shiraz jus, while other favorites include Angus beef tenderloin, steamed snapper and zucchini risotto. An extensive list of specially-selected wines is available to complement any dish. The private dining room, resplendent with glass panels, mohair-covered chairs, copper lighting fixtures and an enclosed terrace, is available for private events of up to 18 people.

Astral serves lunch Friday from noon to 3 PM and dinner Tuesday through Saturday from 6 PM to close. The three-course menu costs AU\$105. Tasting menus start at AU\$125 per person while pre-theater menus cost AU\$70 for two courses and AU\$85 for three courses. *For more information: +61 2 9657 8767*

Catalina

Located in Rose Bay, Catalina has enjoyed consistent rave reviews from food critics since opening in 1994. The restaurant offers a seasonal Mediterranean-influenced menu with a strong aquatic theme, including Sydney rock oysters, shucked on the premises, and a signature dish of roasted snapper fillet with potato and garlic purée and lemon caper butter. With simple yet sophisticated décor, virtually uninterrupted views of the harbour and frequent entertainment provided by Rose Bay's resident pelicans, Catalina is the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing lunch or dinner during one of Sydney's famous flaming sunsets.

Catalina is available for private events of up to 250 people. Catalina is open Monday through Saturday from noon to midnight and Sunday from noon to 6 PM. Entrees range from AU\$39 to AU\$45. *For more information: +61 2 9371 0555*

Icebergs Dining Room and Bar

As a well-regarded hangout for the rich and famous, Icebergs offers superbly stylish, yet affordable, extravagance. Perched on the rocks at the southern end of Bondi Beach, Icebergs towers above the surfers and affords its diners wraparound views of the beach and Tasman Sea. It's been the restaurant of choice for the likes of famed soccer player David Beckham and actress Nicole Kidman, and the Italian-style food is as sexy as the clientele, with selections such as a 30-day-aged ox filet and a selection of seasonal fish served with a choice of almond aioli, Murray River salt, soft herbs or virgin olive oil. The restaurant is available any Monday for private events.

Icebergs Dining Room and Bar is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to midnight and Sunday from noon to 10 PM. Entrees range from AU\$36 to AU\$48. Reservations are recommended. *For more information: +61 2 9365 9000*

Sydney Nightlife

The Basement

The Basement is a landmark music venue that has entertained Sydney with some of the best musicians of the last 25 years including Prince, Tim Rogers, Vince Jones and Guy Sebastian. Although widely recognized as the country's number 1 jazz venue, it also features a range of other musical styles including acoustic, folk, acid jazz, soul, funk and rhythm and blues. Off the main entrance, the Green Room bar, decked out in posters, flyers and album covers from past shows, offers a large selection of beer, wine and spirits.

The Basement is available for private events of up to 400 guests. The Green Room is open Monday through Friday from noon to close and Saturday and Sunday from 7 PM to close. Basement schedules and prices vary based on event, but dinner and show deals are available starting around AU\$40. *For more information: +61 2 9251 2797*

Coogee Bay Hotel

Located in one of Sydney's most idyllic settings, the 135-year-old Coogee Bay Hotel sits opposite the golden sands of Coogee beach. Much more than just a hotel, the Coogee Bay is a local icon, boasting seven bars sure to keep any guest from sports fans to music aficionados, entertained. Though the building has undergone major design changes and renovations over the years, it remains a wonderful example of early Australian beachside architecture with Victorian period cedar staircases, long street side verandas and intricate wood finishing. The Beer Garden, the largest in Sydney, is an al fresco spot where patrons can enjoy nightly events such as poker and live music. The Sports Bar features plasma screens and three separate sports viewing areas, while Selina's Nightclub is a 1,800-seat entertainment venue, hosting acts from international stars to local DJs. Hours vary based on venue, but most bars are open after midnight. Prices vary and some venues have cover charges. *For more information: +61 2 9665 0000*

The Loft Sydney

This chic Sydney bar with a Moorish Kasbah design and stunning views of the harbour is the epitome of opulence. Chandeliers of colored Spanish beads hang above the grand wood-paneled bar while ambient lighting diffuses a soft amber glow throughout the dining room. Grouped into Middle East, Far East, Mediterranean, American and Australia sections, the bar's cocktail selections are extensive and unique. Sadam's Apple and Fizz of Damsacus are found in the Middle East group, while the Far East drinks include Girl from Okinawa and Tibetan Mule. Patrons should definitely try the bar's signature drink Bagdad Iced Tea, a mixture of fresh green apple, cucumber and mint, with blue vodka, apple liqueur, gin, rose and jasmine tea. Guests can order tapas to enjoy between drinks, including tempura vegetables and salt and pepper squid.

The bar is also available for private events. The Loft is open Monday through Wednesday from 4 PM to 1 AM, Thursday from 4 PM to 3 AM, Friday and Saturday from noon to 3 AM and Sunday from noon to 1 AM. *For more information: +61 2 9299 4770*

The Lord Dudley Pub

Lord Dudley's owner James Couche spent over 30 years taking great care to restore the Lord Dudley into a traditional "English Style" pub. The pickled eggs and pork pies on the menu and English artifacts and dart boards on the walls are testaments to his success. The pub's casual and down-to-earth atmosphere attracts people from all walks of life from office employees to sports stars. The three-level pub features three bars offering 18 beers on tap, numerous bottled beers and an Australian wine list.

Lord Dudley has two rooms available for private functions: the Guinness Room, capable of seating 60 to 100 people, and the Boardroom, capable of seating 30 to 60 people. It is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 AM to 11 PM, Thursday through Saturday from 11 AM to midnight and Sunday from noon to 10 PM. *For more information: +61 2 9327 5399*

Family Activities in Sydney

Sydney Observatory

The historic Sydney Observatory, located near the Rocks district and Harbour Bridge, offers various educational exhibits including *Transit of Venus*, which explores when the planet crossed the sun in 2004, and *By the Light of the Southern Stars*, highlighting the history of Australian astronomy. Guests can also opt for a daytime tour, which includes stops at the 3D Space Theatre, the historic 29cm lens telescope, 42cm computer-controlled telescope and hydrogen-alpha solar telescope; or the nighttime tour, where visitors can get amazing views of the moon and planets and learn about the unique features of the southern sky.

Sydney Observatory is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM and 6:15 to 10:15 PM. Admission to the observatory and museum is free. Daytime tours cost AU\$10 for children and AU\$15 for adults. Nighttime tours cost AU\$5 for children and AU\$7 for adults. *For more information: +61 2 9241 3767*

Sydney Tower

Sydney Tower is the tallest free-standing structure in Sydney and the 2nd tallest building in Australia. Ranked as one of the safest buildings in the world, its unique design makes the tower capable of withstanding earthquakes and extreme wind conditions - a necessity for a structure that towers roughly 1,000 feet above the heart of Sydney's Central Business District. The turret contains two levels of restaurants, a coffee lounge and an observation deck for guests to stroll, while the more adventurous can attempt the Skywalk, an altitude walk 850 feet above ground with an expert sky guider. The tour is

also home to OzTrek, the largest simulated ride in the southern hemisphere, which takes guests on an amazing cultural, historical and geographical virtual reality ride across Australia.



Sydney Tower is open Sunday through Friday from 9 AM to 10:30 PM and Saturday from 9 AM to 11:30 PM. Skywalk is open daily from 9:30 AM to 8:45 PM. Tickets, which include a visit to the observation deck and admission to OzTrek, are AU\$15 for children ages 4-15, AU\$25 for adults and AU\$19.50 for seniors and students. Admission for children under 4 is free. *For more information: +61 2 8223 3800*

Taronga Zoo

Aside from its fine collection of native animals and other exotic species, what sets Taronga Zoo apart from other zoos is its location on elevated land alongside the harbour. Overlooking Sydney Cove, the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, Taronga Zoo has its very own wharf, making a 12-minute ferry ride from Circular Quay a convenient, and memorable, mode of travel to the zoo. At the zoo visitors can see animals, several of which are endangered, hailing from six continents, from the small white-lipped tree frog to the large Indian rhinoceros. Guests can also take a ride on the Zoo Sky Safari Chair Lift or meet reptiles, koalas, giraffes and seals at the Animal Encounters Experience. The zoo has two facilities for private events: the Taronga Centre for up to 450 guests and the ANZ Conservation Theatre for up to 300 guests.

The Taronga Zoo is open daily from 9 AM to 5 PM. Admission is AU\$19 for children ages 4-15 and AU\$39 for adults. Admission for children under 4 is free. Group rates are available, as are discounted rates for ferry and zoo pass packages. While a new parking lot is being built, parking is available on Bradley's Head Road for AU\$10. *For more information: +61 2 9969 2777*



Recreation and Outdoors in Sydney

Bondi to Coogee Walk

This stunning coastal walk, just 30 minutes from downtown, is undoubtedly one of the most popular activities in Sydney. Beginning at the southern end of the famous Bondi Beach, the walk winds past sea-sculpted cliff edges, the golden beaches of Tamarama and Bronte and the snorkeling haven of Gordons Bay. The walk ends at the beautiful sands of Coogee Beach. Every summer, the Bondi to Bronte section of the coastal walk features "Sculpture by the Sea," a series of sculptures installed among the cliffs, sand and crashing waves.

Hyde Park

Sydney boasts over 300 acres of parks, gardens and open spaces, including the oasis that is Hyde Park. Bordering the eastern edge of downtown, Hyde Park has been a local favorite since 1972. Its centerpiece is the majestic Archibald Fountain, which commemorates the alliance between Australia and France during World War I. The tranquil Nagoya Gardens and a giant outdoor chess set where locals go head to head in mighty battles are found at the northern end, while the southern end is home to the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) War Memorial, a monument to the Australian Imperial Force during World War I. Hyde Park is an especially lively spot during the month-long Sydney festival in January when it's filled with music, art and food stalls.

Royal Botanical Gardens

Located on the harbour's shore next to the Opera House, the Royal Botanical Gardens is a collection of three botanical gardens that together offer hidden spots, shady walkways and colorful plants. Guests are welcomed at the entrance with a sign encouraging them to "walk on the grass, smell the flowers and hug the trees," leaving them at ease to spend a whole day exploring or having a picnic in the picturesque setting. Aside from the flora, hundreds of giant fruit bats hang from the tree tops and cockatoos proudly strut around the garden lawns. The gardens offer several breathtaking facilities for private rentals.

The Royal Botanical Gardens are open daily, November to February, from 7 AM to 8 PM; daily, March and October, from 7 AM to 6:30 PM; daily, April and September, from 7 AM to 6 PM; daily, May and August from 7 AM to 5:30 PM; and daily, June and July, from 7 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free. *For more information: +61 2 9231 8111*

Sydney Beaches

Sydney has no fewer than 37 golden sandy beaches in its immediate vicinity, from Palm Beach in the north to Cronulla in the south. Many of them, including the two most famous of Bondi and Manly, are easily accessible from downtown by public transportation. Several of the beaches are lined with eateries and shops, and also serve to host outdoor events and festivals. Most beaches, which are infamous for their rough surf and powerful rips, are also patrolled by Surf Lifesaving Clubs, instructing visitors on the safe places to swim and monitoring those who venture into the water.



Sydney Harbour Islands

Although the eight islands are all prominent landmarks in the Sydney Harbour, Shark, Clarke, Fort Denison, Goat, Cockatoo, Spectacle, Snapper and Rodd have varying degrees of accessibility. Now undergoing a total restoration, the largest island of Cockatoo was first used for convicts, then later housed a reform school and eventually was a site for shipbuilding during World War II. A mixture of former prison buildings and industry workshops, the island is a very popular tourist attraction for campers, hikers, kayakers and sightseers. On Clark Island, guests can also explore the walking track, which boasts excellent views of the Sydney Opera House. Shark Island, named for its shape, not its wildlife, is an ideal place for a picnic. Rodd Island is the smallest but boasts a hall, summer houses dating back to the 1920s, a small stage and a gazebo. Many of the islands are available for private events, ranging in capacity from 100 to 500 people. Island hours and schedules vary. Some islands are accessible by ferry, but many require guests to make arrangements for transportation.



Sydney Tours

Bridge Climb

Perhaps Sydney's most iconic tour, Bridge Climb is a must-do experience that offers three-and-a-half-hour guided tours to the summit of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Guests can select from two tour options: the Bridge Climb takes guests along catwalks and ladders, climbing steadily to the summit of the bridge; and the Discovery Climb gives guests a behind-the-scenes look at this Australian icon by allowing them to explore the inner-workings of the bridge before climbing to the summit. Both climbs are available daily from dawn to well into the night. Tour prices start at AU\$179. *For more information: +61 2 8274 7777*



Sydney Architecture Walks

Sydney Architecture Walks are specially-designed, architect-led city walks that seek to explore ideas through architecture. Walks span architectural genres and seek out edgy, beautiful, provocative and daring local and foreign buildings to try to uncover unique meanings behind their construction. Four tours, Sydney, Utzon, Harbourings, and Public, explore varying buildings based on tour theme, with notable locations being the Sydney Opera House, Circular Quay and Aurora Place. Custom group tours are available.



Tours generally run Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 AM; additional tour times vary based on tour type. Tour tickets, which include the entrance to the museum of Sydney, cost AU\$25. *For more information: +61 2 8239 2211*

Blue Mountains Wildlife Day Tour with River Cruise

This Activity Tours day-long excursion starts with a visit to Featherdale Wildlife Park and offers participants the opportunity to feed kangaroos, pet koalas and visit with over 2,000 different types of other Australian animals including crocodiles, Tasmanian devils, wombats, dingoes and snakes. After another stop at the Sydney 2000 Olympic site, guests continue to the beautiful Blue Mountains National Park, one of the most popular parks in Australia featuring graceful waterfalls, steep cliffs and aromatic

eucalyptus trees. Guests can ride the Scenic Skyway or the steepest railway in the world before boarding an afternoon cruise down the Parramatta River from Homebush Bay to Sydney Harbour.

Private group charters are available. Tours pick up from various locations in the city between 7:30 and 8:10 AM and return to the city at 6 PM. Tickets are AU\$75 for children and AU\$75 for adults. *For more information: +61 2 9904 5730*

Sydney Convention Center Information

Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre is a comprehensive meeting and exhibition complex renowned for its ability to successfully manage events of any size, including the APEC 2007, a series of political meetings attended by many of the world's leaders including Australian Prime Minister John Howard, U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown and U.S. President George W. Bush. With the most extensive exhibition facilities in the southern hemisphere, the centre is easily accessible by car, [monorail](#), [Metro Light Rail](#), [bus](#) and [ferry](#), and is only a short 20-minute drive from the [airport](#). Set on the stunning, iconic waterfront of the Sydney Harbour, the facilities offer not only breathtaking views, but also a prime location within walking distance to 4,000 hotel rooms and countless attractions.



The centre has ample space for events, including five column-free, single-level exhibition halls, each nearly 54,000 square feet in size, providing a total area of almost 270,000 square feet that can be shaped, molded and utilized for the needs of any event. A total of 33 meeting and function rooms can be reconfigured to suit the needs of a specific event, and two auditoriums offer total seating for 3,500 people. The Link Building links the Convention Centre and Exhibition Centre and provides a great place for conference registration and tea and coffee breaks.

Full of amenities to better serve both attendees and event organizers, the complex includes an in-house audio visual department and a video production unit, which have the resources and expertise to take care of the lighting, sound and visuals, as well as a full range of services for film, television and video productions. A fully-equipped business center with high-speed, high-quality wireless Internet, networking and video services, in-house catering for all types of functions, on-site parking for 900 vehicles and on-site security services complete the list amenities.

Darling Drive
Sydney 2000
Australia
Phone: +61 2 9282 5000

Other convention centers in the Sydney region

Waterview Convention Centre

Sydney Olympic Park Authority
7 Figtree Drive
Sydney Olympic Park 2127
Australia
Phone: +61 2 9763 7833
Total Meeting Sq Ft - 4,000

Sydney Airport Information

Sydney Airport (SYD)

The world's oldest continually operating commercial airport, Sydney Airport, located approximately 10 miles south of downtown, is the busiest commercial airport in Australia and the 28th busiest in the world serving 31.9 million passengers in 2007. The airport has three runways and three terminals, T1, T2 and T3. T1 is separated from the other terminals by a runway and functions as the terminal for all international flights.

The airport offers over 150 shops, cafes and bars to help travelers pass the time while waiting for a flight. The Observation Deck Bar and Café, on level 4 with entry via the Esky Bar in the departure lounge of the international terminal, is a great place to relax among fantastic views of the runway, comfortable seating, and the Airport Art Works exhibition that features the work of some of Australia's leading contemporary artists. For some last-minute shopping, the airport has tax and duty free shops including Ralph Lauren, Omega Boutique and Purely Merino. Shops are located both before and after Customs.

The international terminal has previously undergone two large expansions since its original construction, and currently the entire airport is undergoing an AU\$500 million development program expected to last 20 years until 2025. The project includes expansion of both international and domestic terminals, construction of a multi-level parking garage and development of a high-rise office structure.

Under the 1995 Sydney Airport Curfew Act, take offs and landings are not allowed between 11 PM and 6 AM at Kingsford Smith International. Guests can travel to and from the airport through the Airport Link underground rail line, with International and Domestic stations located below their respective terminals. The airport also offers a short-term and long-term parking.

Airline carriers serving Sydney Airport

- Aerolíneas Argentinas
- Aeropelican Air Services
- Aircalin
- Air Canada
- Air China
- Air Mauritius
- Air New Zealand
- Air Niugini
- Air Pacific
- Air Tahiti Nui
- Air Vanuatu
- Asiana Airlines
- British Airways
- Cathay Pacific
- China Airlines
- China Eastern Airlines
- China Southern Airlines
- Eastern Australia Airlines
- Emirates
- Etihad Airways
- Garuda Indonesia
- Hawaiian Airlines
- Japan Airlines
- Jetstar Airways
- Korean Air
- LAN Airlines
- Korean Air
- Malaysia Airlines
- Norfolk Air
- Philippine Airlines
- Qantas
- QantasLink
- REX (Regional Express)
- Martinair Holland
- Royal Brunei Airlines
- Singapore Airlines
- Thai Airways International
- United Airlines
- Vietnam Airlines
- Virgin Atlantic
- Virgin Blue
- Pacific Blue
- Polynesian Blue
- V Australia (Los Angeles) [begins December 15 2008]
- Viva Macau

Sydney Train Information

Central Station

The CityRail network combines three different types of passenger railway: a metro-style underground railway system, a suburban commuter rail system and an interurban rail system. The entire network includes over 300 stations that cover suburban Sydney and extend to Hunter Valley in the north to the

Southern Highlands in the south. Within the city, stops include Kings Cross, [Circular Quay](#) and the airport. Most trains run from 4 AM or 5 AM to midnight or later. Day, commuter and leisure tickets are available and vary in price based on type and distance.

Sydney Public Transportation

Sydney Buses

Sydney's comprehensive bus network extends to most suburbs with frequent and numerous routes servicing all the major downtown areas including the central business district, [Darling Harbour](#) **Darling Harbour** and Circular Quay. Number 333 pre-pay bus runs every 10 minutes from downtown to Bondi Beach. Regular buses run daily from 5 AM to midnight. Fares are based on distance traveled, as routes are divided into several one-mile sections. A single bus fare ranges from AU\$1.80 for up to two sections traveled to AU\$5.80 for 16 or more sections traveled. TravelTen bus tickets are available for 10 single trips ranging from AU\$14.40 for 10 trips of up to two sections each and AU\$46.40 for 10 trips of 16 or more sections each. TravelTen tickets are pre-pay only.

Sydney Ferries

Sydney's ferries are the most enjoyable way to get around the harbour. Guests can take one of three types of ferry: regular STA ferries, an extensive network connecting 39 destinations from Circular Quay including Balmain, Darling Harbour, Manly, Taronga Zoo and North Sydney; JetCats, quick shuttles to Manly; and RiverCats, operating between Sydney and Parramatta. Ferries generally operate between 6 AM and midnight, although ferries servicing tourist attractions are open for shorter hours. Regular single harbour fare is AU\$5.20 and a single ride to Manly is AU\$6.40.



Metro Transport

Sydney Metro Transit owns and operates Metro Light Rail and the Sydney Monorail.

Metro Light Rail

The Metro Light Rail travels between Central Station and the inner west suburb of Lilyfield via Darling Harbour and Chinatown. Trains make 14 stops, including two interchanges to the Metro Monorail line and [Star City Casino](#). The Metro Light Rail runs 24 hours a day. A single ticket within one zone is AU\$3.20 and an unlimited ride ticket is AU\$9.

Sydney Monorail

The Sydney Monorail circles Darling Harbour linking it to the city center. Trains make stops every three to four minutes, with a full loop lasting about 14 minutes. Stops include Chinatown, Paddy's Markets, Sydney City and the Convention and Exhibition Centre. A single fare is AU\$4.80 and an unlimited ride fare is AU\$9.20.

Rental Cars

Rental car companies Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz, Thrifty and Red Spot Rental operate at the Sydney Airport. Rental desks are located on the arrivals level of terminals.

Taxis

Taxis are plentiful in Sydney so travelers should have little trouble flagging one down. Fares start at AU\$3.50 and increase at a rate of AU\$1.83 per kilometer. Travellers should expect surcharges for heavy luggage and road tolls. The average price for a cab to the airport is AU\$40, depending on time of day.

Distance to...

- **Chatswood, NSW** **7 miles**
- **Hornsby, NSW** **15 miles**
- **Wollongong, NSW** **85 miles**
- **Canberra, ACT** **178 miles**