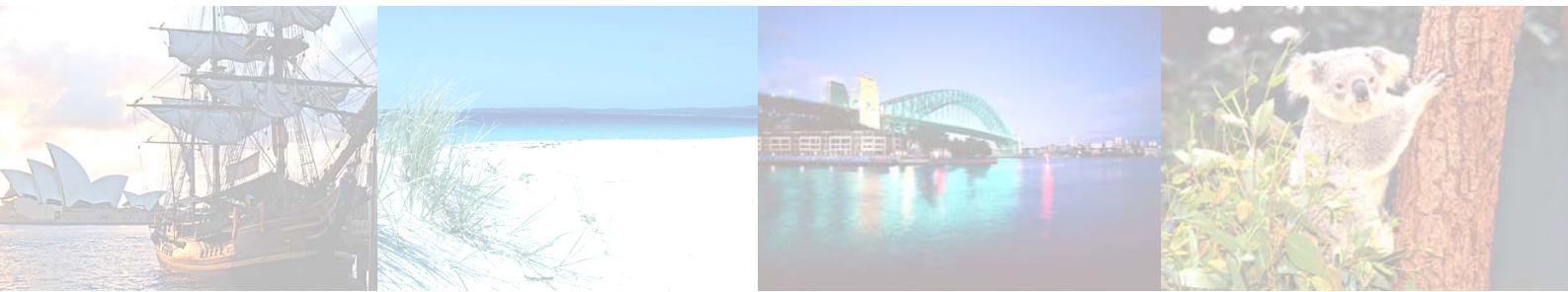


**Welcome to Sydney
New South Wales**

Taylor Coulter Relocation Guide 2010



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Welcome to Sydney, NSW

With its magnificent Harbour and imposing Opera House, the stunning city of Sydney welcomes you with its picture postcard views. The beach is never far away, so it's very easy to swap the challenge of the office for the challenge of the surf! The excitement of a big city with a friendly atmosphere and a laid back feel, Sydney is the perfect home away from home.

Visit the NSW tourism website at www.tourism.nsw.gov.au.

Art & Culture

Sydney has a wealth of cultural appeal for the artistically minded. Check out the following:

Art Gallery of NSW	www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au
Australian Museum	www.amonline.net.au
Power House Museum	www.phm.gov.au
National Trust of Australia	www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au
Museum of Contemporary Art	www.mca.com.au
Sydney Opera House	www.sydneyoperahouse.com.au
Sydney Theatre Company	www.sydneytheatre.com.au

Associations and Organisations

The following is a list of some associations and organisations based in NSW that may be of assistance.

American Society of Sydney	www.americansociety.com.au
Australian Business Women's Network	www.abn.org.au
Lions Club	www.lionsclubs.org.au
Rotary Club	www.rotary.org.au
Volunteering NSW	www.volunteering.com.au
Wildlife Rescue	www.wires.org.au

Buying Property

Private housing is purchased by either "private treaty" or at auction. The real estate agent receives a commission from the seller on the sale of the property. 'Stamp Duty' is a tax on the sale of the property and is payable by the purchaser.

The legal formalities of buying are handled either by solicitors or non-legal specialists. As well as looking at the sale contract they organise searches (e.g. for restrictions on land use, validity of title) and arrange inspections (e.g. pest and building inspections,). They also attend the final settlement to ensure all payments are made.

For further information visit the Real Estate Institute Website at www.reinsw.com.au.

For up to date information on current purchase prices, visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Car Hire

There are numerous car rental companies to choose from if you prefer to rent rather than buy a car. Try:

- Avis Australia Ph: 13 63 33 or visit www.avis.com.au
- Budget Ph: 1300 362 848 or visit www.budget.com.au
- Hertz Ph: 1300 132 607 or visit www.hertz.com.au
- Thrifty Ph: 1300 367 227 or visit www.thrifty.com.au

Driving in NSW

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) provide a Motor Traffic Handbook with full details of the road rules in NSW. For more information or to print a copy of the Australian Road Rules visit the RTA Website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au. The New South Wales Government previously released Road Safety 2010 as part of its commitment to making NSW roads the safest in the world.

Driving Licences

INTERSTATE LICENCE HOLDERS

If you come to live in NSW from another Australian State or territory and have a current licence (or one that expired less than five years ago) that is equivalent of a NSW provisional or unrestricted licence, you will be eligible to be issued with a NSW licence. There is a free transfer system for current interstate provisional and unrestricted licences. You are required to get a NSW licence within three months of making this State your home. The NSW licence will be issued to the expiry date of the interstate or territory licence up to a maximum of five years.

Interstate licences which are the equivalent of the NSW learner, provisional P1 or provisional P2 types of licences will be converted to NSW licences in line with the NSW Graduated Licensing Scheme for New Drivers.

If you have held your driver licence for less than 12 months, you will be issued a NSW provisional P1 licence. If you have held your driver licence for more than 12 months but less than three years, a provisional P2 licence will be issued. If you have held your motorcycle rider licence for less than 12 months, you will receive a NSW provisional P1 rider licence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

When you apply for a NSW licence, documentary proof of the first issue date of your interstate licence from the relevant issuing authority must be shown if it is not displayed on your licence. Before you first attend the motor registry, you may wish to obtain a letter from the interstate licensing issuing authority (on their letterhead) confirming your licence details (including first issue date) and status. Alternatively, the motor registry may obtain the first issue date from the interstate licensing authority, but, as the information may not be available immediately while you are at the registry, you may be required to return to the registry on another day.

You need to:

- Take your interstate or territory licence to an RTA Motor Registry or agency.
- Provide proof of identity.
- Provide proof of your residential address.
- Complete an application form.
- Pass an eyesight test.
- Have your photo taken.
- Pay a licence fee if you have an expired interstate or internal territory licence

You will then be given your NSW photo licence.

As you cannot have more than one Australian licence, the RTA will provide you with a receipt for your old licence and then destroy the licence before notifying the issuing State or Territory to cancel it.

If you have a current interstate or territory learner licence and you take up residence in NSW, you must pass the eyesight test and provide proof of identity before you can get a free NSW learner licence. You should discuss your licensing options with the motor registry staff, however, as you may be eligible to undertake a driving/riding test on your interstate learner licence.

Details of current fees can be accessed at <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/licensing/licensingfees.html>.

INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT VISA HOLDERS AND NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS

If you intend to stay in NSW and you hold a permanent visa under the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958, you are no longer considered to be a visitor. You are allowed to drive or ride in NSW on a current overseas licence for a maximum of three months after arriving in Australia. If you are a licence holder from New Zealand, you must obtain a NSW licence within three months of residing in NSW or stop driving.

If you wish to continue to drive you must get a NSW licence. To obtain a NSW licence you must be aged 17 years or older.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If your licence is written in English:

Go to an RTA motor registry and present your licence.

If your licence is not written in English, provide:

Your overseas licence and an official translation from the NSW Community Relations Commission. Eligible persons may be able to obtain a fee-free translation through the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Note: Requests for Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) fee-free translation of personal documents from eligible persons may be lodged at Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) service provider outlets which will then despatch them to a translation service provider.

Eligible persons are defined as:

- Persons who were granted Permanent Residence on first arrival in Australia, within two years of the date of the translation request being submitted to the AMEP service provider or were granted Permanent Residence in Australia within two years of arrival, prior to the date the translation request was submitted to the AMEP service provider.
- An applicant who is an Australian citizen.
- An applicant who is a provisional spouse or interdependency visa holder (subclasses 309, 820, 310 and 826).

For further information please go to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website at www.immi.gov.au.

If you cannot produce your overseas licence, provide:

- A letter from the overseas licence issuing authority confirming your licence details and status, or
- A letter from a relevant consulate or diplomatic office, based on information received from the overseas licence issuing authority, confirming your licence details and status.

You must also:

- Provide proof of your NSW address.
- Prove your identity.
- Pass an eyesight test.
- Pass a knowledge test for each class of licence required, unless exempt.
- Pass a driving or riding test, unless exempt.

EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENCE TESTS

You may not be required to pass a car/rider knowledge test or practical driving/riding test if:

You have previously held an Australian driver or rider licence which can be verified by the issuing authority.

You hold a current New Zealand driver or rider licence.

You are applying for a car or rider licence and you hold a current overseas licence, or one that expired within the last five years, from a country recognised as having comparable licensing standards to Australia.

RECOGNITION OF LICENCES FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES

The recognition of licences from certain countries was agreed nationally and commenced in NSW on 20 May 2002. Customers are exempt from the practical driving/riding test if they hold an acceptable licence from one of the recognised countries. The exemption only applies to applicants for Class C (car) and Class R (rider) licences.

As from 17 January 2005 customers are exempt from the car and rider knowledge test if they hold an acceptable licence from one of the recognised countries. It is recommended that these applicants read the Road Users' Handbook to familiarise themselves with the current road rules in NSW.

The RTA reserves the right to require customers to undertake a knowledge test or driving/riding test, and may not issue a licence until it is satisfied that the overseas licence is valid.

RECOGNISED COUNTRIES

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark,
Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guernsey,
Ireland, Isle of Man (licences issued since 1 April 1991), Italy, Japan, Jersey,
Luxembourg,
Malta (licences issued since 2 January 2004), Netherlands, Norway, Portugal,
Singapore,
Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA.

The licensing authority in Victoria (VicRoads) is responsible for maintaining the national list of recognised countries.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you have held your driver or rider licence for less than 12 months, you will be issued a NSW provisional P1 licence. If you have held your driver licence for more than 12 months but less than three years, a provisional P2 licence will be issued.

You must provide documentary proof of the first issue date of your overseas licence if the period for which you have held the licence is to be recognised for the issue of a NSW licence. Before you first attend the motor registry, you may wish to obtain a letter from the licence issuing authority (on their letterhead) or from your relevant consulate or diplomatic office, confirming your licence details, including the first issue date. If the letter is not in English, an official translation as mentioned above is also required.

It is a legal requirement under Australian licensing laws that only one licence can be used for driving in Australia.

Before a NSW licence is issued, you must present your overseas licence so the details can be verified and recorded.

INTERNATIONAL LEARNER LICENCES

If you hold a car learner licence issued from an overseas licence issuing authority and you wish to obtain a NSW car learner licence you must be 16 years of age or older and:

- Provide proof of your NSW address
- Prove your identity

- Pass an eyesight test
- Pass a knowledge test.

For more information visit the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

Education

Schooling in New South Wales (NSW) is divided into Primary School (Kindergarten to Year 6) and Secondary School (Year 7 to Year 12).

Children begin primary school in the year of their fifth birthday as long as the birthday falls before 31 July of that year. Some private schools prefer the child to have turned five before March or April.

The school year begins in late January and is divided into four terms of nine to twelve weeks, with approximately two weeks holiday between each term. The summer or Christmas holidays begin in mid December and continue for approximately 6 weeks. Holiday time may be longer for private schools.

School hours in New South Wales are from approximately 9.00 am to 3.30 pm. Monday to Friday.

School uniforms are compulsory at most schools in NSW.

All schools offer extra-curricular activities, such as sport, music and performing arts.

The Public Health Act (1994) states that all children who enter preschool or kindergarten must produce proof of immunisation. You will need to have these papers available when enrolling your child (exceptions may be considered).

Students are entitled to free travel on rail and bus services from their home to and from school. The school will provide an application form.

FEES FOR STUDENTS ON TEMPORARY VISAS INCLUDING 457

Students holding Temporary Resident Visas (including long term Business Visa subclass 457) and Visitor Visas have the opportunity to study at a NSW government school. Students holding these visas enrol through the International Student Centre Temporary Visa Holders Unit (TVHU).

Fees for students who hold Temporary Resident Visas or Bridging Visas are payable 12 months in advance.

More information on fees can be found at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au>.

The Temporary Visa Holders Education Fee includes most tuition costs and access to student support services. It does not include the cost of excursions or the provision of school uniforms.

Each school may request voluntary school contributions and charge additional fees for certain subjects or optional extension activities. These charges apply to all students, including those who have paid the Temporary Visa Holders Education Fee.

Holders of the 457 visa **may apply for fee exemption** - individual applications for an exemption based on capacity to pay must be submitted in writing to the TVHU. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis in relation to an applicant's capacity to pay.

TERM DATES

2010

Term 1: 27 January – 1 April

Term 2: 19 April – 2 July

Term 3: 19 July – 24 September

Term 4: 11 October – 17 December

Events

January	Concerts in the Domain - free Opera, Jazz, Symphony & Country Music Moonlight Cinema Sydney Festival Australia Day Test Cricket
February	Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Chinese New Year Festival
March	St Patrick's Day Dragon Boat Races Festival (Darling Harbour) Autumn Racing Carnival
April	Royal Easter Show Anzac Day
May	Australian Fashion Week
June	A Taste of Manly Food & Wine Festival Sydney Film Festival Darling Harbour Winter Music Festival Feast of Sydney
July	Sydney Boat Show
August	City to Surf Fun Run
September	David Jones Spring Flower Show Spring Racing Carnival Rugby League Grand Final
October	Manly Jazz Festival Australian International Motor Show
November	Melbourne Cup
December	Carols in the Domain Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race New Years Eve Fireworks

Further Education

TAFE NSW is an organisation within the NSW Department of Education and Training. These institutions offer a wide range of vocational and non-vocational courses. The TAFE Handbook is available each August from local newsagents. For more information visit www.tafensw.edu.au.

Higher Education

The University Admissions Centre (UAC) is responsible for all university admissions. The UAC booklet provides admission and course information and is available at most newsagencies. For more information visit www.uac.edu.au.

The following lists the main universities in NSW:

Australian Catholic University - North Sydney, Strathfield and Castle Hill	www.acu.edu.au
Macquarie University - North Ryde	www.mq.edu.au
University of New South Wales – Kensington	www.unsw.edu.au
University of Sydney – Camperdown	www.usyd.edu.au
University of Technology Sydney - Ultimo and Lindfield	www.uts.edu.au
University of Western Sydney	www.uws.edu.au

Hospitals

There are both public and private hospitals throughout the Sydney region. Large hospitals with emergency facilities include:

St Vincent's Hospital	Victoria Street, Darlinghurst	9339 1111
Royal North Shore Hospital	Pacific Highway, St Leonards	9926 7111
Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital	Macquarie Street, Sydney	9382 7111
Prince of Wales Hospital	High Street, Randwick	9382 2222
Royal Prince Alfred	Missenden Road, Camperdown	9515 6111
Mona Vale Hospital	Coronation Street, Mona Vale	9998 0333
St George Hospital	Belgrave Street, Kogarah	9350 1111
Westmead Hospital and New Children's Hospital	Darcy Road, Westmead & Hawkesbury Road, Westmead	9382 2222

To avoid possible delays in the emergency departments of the major hospitals it is recommended that minor illness and injury be treated at a local medical centre which will be listed in the Yellow Pages telephone directory under "medical".

Markets

Sydney can also offer markets with goods available for purchase to suit every taste:

Sydney Fish Market
Blackwattle Bay Road, Pyrmont
Open 7 days per week 7.00am - 4.00pm
The freshest fish and seafood, plus, restaurants and a seafood cooking school
www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au

Paddy's Haymarket
Cnr Hay Street and Ultimo Road, Haymarket
Thursday 10am to 6pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4.30pm
Stalls offering everything from pets to souvenirs.
www.paddysmarkets.com.au

Paddy's Flemington
Parramatta Road, Flemington

Friday 10am to 4.30pm Sunday 9am to 4.30pm
Fresh food, flower and growers markets.
www.paddysmarkets.com.au

Parklea Markets
601 Sunnyholt Road, Parklea
Saturday and Sunday 8.30am - 4.30pm
Produce, clothing and home wares
www.parkleamarkets.com.au

Motoring Organisations

The NRMA offers a comprehensive range of services to NSW motorists. These include:

- 24-hour roadside assistance
- Technical advice
- Vehicle inspections
- Approved vehicle repairers
- Touring maps and information
- Used car information and approved dealers

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Include a new member joining fee plus an annual cost per vehicle per year, depending on level of protection and assistance required. For more information visit their website at www.nrma.com.au or telephone - 13 21 32.

Motor Vehicle Registration

The RTA (Roads and Traffic Authority) registers vehicles in NSW. Fees are based primarily on the weight of the car and a further charge is made for extras such as tow bars, electric windows and air conditioning. You will be issued with a one-year registration certificate to affix to the windscreen of the vehicle. For more information look at the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au or telephone - 13 22 13.

TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE

You will need to take the following documentation to your nearest RTA office. (You can find this either in your local telephone directory or online at www.whitepages.com.au.)

Pink Slip - required for vehicle over 3 years old. A Pink Slip is a certificate of roadworthiness and is available at Authorised Inspections Stations (service stations and motor vehicle repairers).

Green Slip - Compulsory Third Party Insurance - available from an insurer of your choice.

Registration papers.

TO TRANSFER THE REGISTRATION OF A VEHICLE

Take the following documentation to an RTA office. If the vehicle has been purchased from a licensed dealership they may offer to handle this transfer:

- Current registration documents with the transfer of registration section (on the back of registration certificate) signed by seller.
- Personal identification and proof of residency.
- Application for Transfer of Registration from any RTA office.
- Transfer fee and stamp duty.

If vehicle is purchased from a private seller a REV Certificate (see www.revs.nsw.gov.au) should be obtained to ensure there is no outstanding finance owing. This certificate costs

from \$13.80.

TO REGISTER A VEHICLE FROM INTERSTATE

Take the following documentation to an RTA office:

- Blue Slip - this is a detailed road worthiness certificate
- Green Slip - Compulsory Third Party Insurance. Available from an insurer of your choice
- REV Certificate (see www.revs.nsw.gov.au) - to ensure there is no outstanding finance owing. This certificate costs from \$13.80.
- Proof of ownership
- Personal identification
- Payment plus stamp duty
- Vehicle registration plates
- Claiming a Refund

You will be given a receipt for the previous vehicle plates. Keep photocopies of your old registration papers and send these together with copies of your new registration documents and the receipt for the old plates to a Motor Registry in your home state.

Newspapers

The Sydney newspapers are The Sydney Morning Herald (www.smh.com.au) and the Daily Telegraph (www.news.com.au) and are published Monday to Saturday. The Sun Herald and Sunday Telegraph are published on Sundays. Saturday's Sydney Morning Herald has detailed sections on employment, housing, motoring, entertainment and travel as well as regular newspaper articles.

NSW residents can also purchase the national newspapers - The Australian and the Australian Financial Review, which are published Monday to Saturday.

There are also many suburban newspapers printed on a weekly basis and delivered free to homes in the area.

Public transport

Sydney has many forms of public transport including buses, trains, ferries, monorail and light rail. There are numerous frequent and affordable services covering all areas of the city.

City Rail Trains - www.cityrail.nsw.gov.au

Includes timetables for city services, nightrider buses, fare and ticketing information.

CountryLink Trains - www.countrylink.nsw.gov.au

For Interstate train travel timetables, destinations and fares, plus online reservation and booking.

Sydney Buses & Ferries - www.sydneybuses.nsw.gov.au

For journey planning, routes, timetables and fares.

Sydney Metro Light Rail and Monorail – www.metrolightrail.com.au

Tourist Attraction offering frequent services connecting central areas of the city. Sydney Metro Light Rail has been extended and now operates out into Sydney's Inner west. The website also offers Maps, Schedules, Attractions and Fares.

OTHER SERVICES

Sydney Explorer Bus (www.sydneypass.info/sydneyexplorer)

The Sydney Explorer is your passport to the sights of the city, offering unlimited travel in air-conditioned buses to Sydney's biggest and best tourist attractions. You can get on and off anywhere along the route, joining the bus again at any time. With a Sydney Explorer ticket, you have the ultimate in freedom and flexibility of travel, with the finest sights Sydney has to

offer. A total of 26 diverse stops offer spectacular sightseeing.

Bondi Explorer Bus (www.sydneypass.info/bondiexplorer)

For great sights, great shops and great surf, you can't beat the Bondi Explorer, which travels to the eastern harbour and bayside areas that have helped put Sydney on the map all around the world. Like the Sydney Explorer buses, this service allows you to make your own journey of discovery, with unlimited flexibility to get on and off the bus as you please for the duration of your ticket. You can stay as long as you like wherever you like along the way. The 19 stops along this route offer wonderful opportunities to take in some of the harbour and coastline's most unforgettable views and indulge in the relaxed and vibrant coastal atmosphere of this part of the City.

Radio

There are numerous radio stations:

AM BANDS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 576 | Radio National 2RN.
ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission) radio.
Quality, in depth news and reviews. |
| 630 | PNN - Parliamentary News Network
ABC Radio
Parliament and regular news updates. The BBC World Service is also broadcast on this band. |
| 702 | 2BL
ABC Radio. A lighter tone than Radio National. News, interviews and general interest items. Full sports coverage on the weekend. |
| 873 | 2GB
Commercial radio. News, talkback, interviews, traffic conditions during peak-hour, sports coverage and interviews. |
| 954 | 2UE
Commercial Radio. News, talkback, interviews, traffic conditions during peak hour, sports coverage and interviews. |
| 1107 | SBS Radio
Broadcasting in 68 different languages. |
| 1170 | 2CH
Easy listening commercial radio. News, talkback and chat shows. Middle of the road music. |
| 1386 | SBS
Radio Government funded radio broadcasting in different languages throughout the day. |

FM BANDS

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 92.9 | National ABC radio
Classical music, including opera and Jazz on Sundays |
| 97.7 | SBS Radio
Broadcasting in 68 different languages |
| 102.5 | 2MBS
Classical music |

- 104.1 2Day FM
Commercial radio, Contemporary music. Breakfast show with music, traffic and comedy.
- 104.9 2MMM
Commercial radio known as 'Triple M'. Popular with young people - latest music.
- 105.7 2JJJ
Known as 'Triple J' - again popular with young people, music ranges from alternative to dance and international.
- 101.7 2WS
Commercial radio, based in the western Sydney. Popular music from 60s onwards.
- 106.5 MIX FM
Commercial radio with music from 70s, 80s and 90s.

Renting Property

When a home is selected to rent, the Real Estate Agent will ask for an Application Form to be completed. This form requires personal details and credit references. In order to secure a property a deposit may be immediately payable - this will be deducted from your first month's rent.

Real estate agents use a two-part form provided by the Real Estate Institute of NSW (www.reinsw.com.au). The document is a legal and binding contract. The tenant and the landlord sign the first part. Additional clauses may be added listing any special conditions (e.g. garden maintenance or replacement of a specific item). The second part of the Agreement is a Residential Premises Condition Report. This is completed by the agent and the tenant once the tenant has moved in. The tenant and landlord sign two copies of the Residential Tenancy Agreement and each party keeps one copy of the agreement.

There is a \$15.00 lease preparation fee payable to the leasing agent.

BOND

It is obligatory to lodge a bond with the Rental Bond Board. For unfurnished accommodation the bond is usually equivalent to four weeks rent. This amount is reimbursed at the end of the tenancy together with accumulated interest.

LOOKING FOR RENTAL PROPERTY

Real estate agents all have their own rent rolls, there is no multi listing and generally landlords select one agent to look after the property. The agent receives a fee from the landlord for finding a tenant and charges an ongoing management fee. Properties are advertised primarily on Saturdays and some during the week in The Sydney morning Herald. The local newspapers also carry advertisements on a weekly basis. These are delivered to homes for free but are also available in local newsagents.

You can also look online for rental properties at www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Residential Areas of Sydney

Eastern Suburbs and City

East of the city centre to South Head is the area commonly known as the Eastern Suburbs. This well-established area contains some of the most expensive properties in Sydney. Many of the suburbs have harbour views and access to the city and the airport is very quick. The beach suburbs of Bondi, Bronte and Coogee along the Pacific Ocean coastline offer a mixture of houses and apartments. There are a number of well-regarded private schools in the area. The suburb of Double Bay is renowned for its exclusive shops and boutiques, and Paddington for its terrace houses. The Eastern Suburbs has a good selection of apartments and houses. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Inner West

The area immediately west of the city is referred to as the Inner West. Suburbs such as Glebe, Annandale and Newtown are only five minutes away from the city and are close to Sydney University. There are Victorian style terrace homes and many good restaurants in these areas. The surrounding suburbs of Balmain, Drummoyne, Leichhardt, Haberfield and Strathfield are busy and interesting and the close proximity to the city makes this area very popular. Traffic however, can be congested as some of the main roads service the industrial areas to the west. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

The Greater West

The western region of Sydney stretches to the Blue Mountains. This area is fairly flat and contains lower cost housing, with industrial suburbs located in the region. The city of Parramatta is well serviced and has a large shopping complex and a full range of facilities. Parramatta has many buildings of historical significance dating back to the early settlement of Australia. The main residential housing areas are to the north of Parramatta. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Lower North Shore

The Lower North Shore is located north of the Harbour Bridge between Mosman, Lane Cove and Chatswood. Many of these suburbs have excellent water views and the housing can be expensive with a mixture of apartments and freestanding homes. Mosman has a village atmosphere with good boutique shopping and street cafes. The area has a number of well-regarded private schools. Chatswood is the major retail shopping and commercial centre with a full range of facilities available. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au.

Upper North Shore

This area includes all suburbs north of Roseville and extends to Hornsby. These residential suburbs follow the Pacific Highway, which is the main northern arterial road. Access to the city is by road or rail. There is a good selection of single dwelling homes in well-established neighbourhoods with many older style or character houses available. There are a number of well-regarded private schools in the area. Housing prices vary depending on location and style of home. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Northern Beaches

The Northern Beaches stretch along the eastern coastline from Manly to Palm Beach and include inland suburbs such as French's Forest, which is a very pleasant family orientated area consisting of free standing homes developed over the past 40 years. There are spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean above the coastal beaches. The suburbs of Manly and Fairlight have more apartment buildings. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Hills District

The Hills district located between Parramatta and Dural and overlooking Sydney's western basin, extends from Winston Hills to Kellyville and Glenhaven. Older homes do exist in this

area, but houses generally are newer. Single dwelling houses predominate which attract many families. The northern suburbs of this area tend to be more expensive. There are good regional shopping complexes with a full range of services. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

South

From the city south to the Royal National Park at Sutherland are many suburbs with differing characteristics. Those located close to the city contain a blend of high - medium density living and some light industrial areas. Suburbs close to the airport can be noise affected. Further south along Port Hacking and the Georges River many suburbs have water views. Housing is predominantly freestanding homes on 1/4-acre blocks and there are many different styles of homes. Prices vary according to the location, size of the property and style. To check approximate rental ranges for this area visit www.domain.com.au or www.realestate.com.au.

Shopping in Sydney

Sydney has many large supermarkets, shopping centres and plazas. David Jones and Myer are the major department stores and are located in the city and most regional shopping centres. Retailers Kmart and Target sell a wide range of items including clothing, household goods, motor vehicle accessories and hardware. Prices are generally lower than the major department stores.

There are also many large shopping centres featuring a vast array of shops. To locate your nearest centre visit www.westfield.com.au.

Normal Retail hours are:

9.00am - 5.30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00am - 9.00 pm Thursday

9.00am - 5.00pm Saturdays

10.00am - 4.00pm Sundays

Woolworths and Coles are large supermarket chains providing groceries, meat and vegetables. Trading hours are usually from 8 am to 8 pm although many stores are open 24 hours. A home delivery service is often available. Visit www.woolworths.com.au and/or www.coles.com.au to locate your nearest store.

The main shopping precinct in Sydney is located in an area known as the Pitt Street Mall. David Jones and Myer are centrally located with easy access between Town Hall Station and the Queen Victoria Building, Sydney Central Plaza and Centrepoint.

Castlereagh Street and Chifley Plaza (2 Chifley Square) have a wonderful selection of international stores and both the central plaza and Skygarden (77 Castlereagh Street) features an excellent food court.

The beautiful Strand Arcade, built in 1892 has many fine fashion, jewellery and craft stores while the Queen Victoria Building, built in 1898 and restored in 1984 is home to 200 speciality shops.

The Rocks area near Circular Quay, and Darling Harbour at the western edge of the city, has a variety of shops, which include Australian artefacts and gifts.

Away from the main city precinct Oxford Street, Paddington offer shoppers an eclectic selection of fashion, home wares, cafes, pubs and good window-shopping. Double Bay and Mosman have a village atmosphere with designer fashion and boutiques.

Television

Sydney has five free-to-air analog television stations:

ABC TV
Channel 7
Channel 9
Channel 10
SBS

Between 2010 and 2013 analog free-to-air TV signals are being switched off and replaced with digital-only signals. For more information visit <http://www.digitalready.gov.au/>.

Foxtel supplies digital television to Sydney, however not all suburbs are connected. For information call 131 999, or visit the website at www.foxtel.com.au.

Tourist Information

The main tourist information centres in the city are:

The Rocks Sydney Visitor Centre

Housed in the heritage-listed Penrhyn House that forms part of The Rocks Centre, an exciting shopping and dining hub.

Cnr Argyle and Playfair Streets, The Rocks

Open from 9.30am to 5.30pm

Darling Harbour Sydney Visitor Centre

located on the way to Darling Walk, behind the LG IMAX Theatre and under the expressway directly opposite Palm Grove.

33 Wheat Road, Darling Harbour

Open from 9.30am to 5.30pm

National Parks and Wildlife Service Information Centre

Cadmans Cottage

110 George Street, The Rocks

Visit www.npws.nsw.gov.au or Telephone - 02 92478861

What to see in Sydney

There are plenty of sights not to be missed in the harbour city.

Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Botanical Gardens

In the heart of the city are the landmarks for which Sydney is so famous. Take a relaxing walk from the Rocks, past Circular Quay to the Opera House, and through the Botanical Gardens to Mrs. Macquarie's Point.

If you're feeling game, try the famous harbour bridge climb for spectacular views of the city.



On The Harbour

Sydney is a city that revolves around the harbour. There are numerous cruises on the harbour including sunset dinner cruises, lunch on board a paddle steamer and even a trip on the replica tall ship the 'HMV Bounty'. Regular ferry services leave Circular Quay and travel to a number of destinations and tickets can be purchased from a booth or machine at the wharf.

The Rocks

The historical Rocks area is located just west of Circular Quay beneath the bridge. The Argyle Cut was built in convict days and the area now houses many restaurants, shops and art galleries.

Macquarie Street

Macquarie Street named after Governor Macquarie is one of Sydney's most historical streets. Running north- south from the Opera House to Hyde Park, it is the location of the NSW State Parliament, Hyde Park Barracks, The Mint and The State Library.

Darling Harbour

This area was re-developed in 1988 for Australia's Bicentenary. It is a modern area just west of the city and includes shops, restaurants, Star City Casino, Sydney Aquarium, the Power House Museum, and the IMAX cinema. There is also has a large convention centre and exhibition facility. Alongside Darling harbour are the relaxing Chinese Gardens, and the large undercover Paddy's Markets are a short walk or monorail ride away. Darling Harbour is a comfortable walk from Town Hall station or is easily reached by bus, monorail or a ferry from Circular Quay.

Beaches

Sydney's most famous beach, Bondi, is close to the city and easily accessible by public transport. Coogee, Bronte and Tamarama are further south and are well worth a visit. To the north, Manly with its seaside holiday atmosphere is reached by ferry from Circular Quay. A drive north from Manly to Palm Beach, with a stop on the Long Reef peninsular, is a spectacular introduction to some of Sydney's most beautiful beaches. Most are patrolled by surf lifesavers and offer great coastal walks, surfing spots and snorkelling.

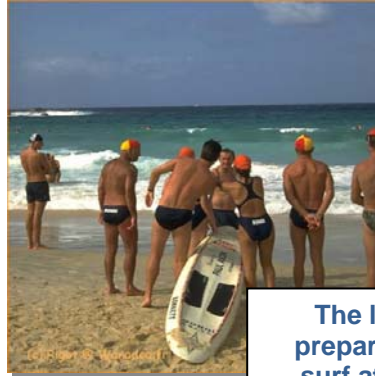
Sydney Olympic Park

Take a tour of Stadium Australia, the Sydney Aquatic Centre and Sydney SuperDome and visit the State Sports Centre's Hall of Champions. Or hop on a ride up to Novotel's 17th floor Observation Centre for a panoramic view of the entire Park. Explore the 40km of bike and walking trails, play tennis, see the unique bird life, learn about Olympic heroes, discover the area's rich history and much more. And if the pace gets too much you can chill out by the

many fountains, rest in the shade of the fig trees, stop for a cool drink and enjoy a sizzling barbecue at the Homebush Bay Brewery. Olympic Park is easily reached by train, bus and ferry, and parking is plentiful.



A glorious New Years Eve in Sydney



The lifesavers prepare to hit the surf at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach

The Bounty drops anchor in Sydney Harbour



What to see in NSW

The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains lies two hours west of Sydney. The National Park contains a spectacular sandstone range providing visitors with extensive views of the recently listed World Heritage Park. Rising to a height of more than 1300 metres, these richly forested hills are a supreme example of Australia's diversity. The network of mountain tracks offers an exhilarating terrain for bush walkers. The villages of Leura, Katoomba and Blackheath have a variety of accommodation, restaurants, coffeehouses, galleries and boutiques. The area is renowned for its beautiful gardens, which are open to the public during the year.

The Hunter Valley

The Hunter Valley wine-growing district is situated two hours north of Sydney. The area has many fine vineyards and wineries, which offer an opportunity to sample award winning wines as well as some excellent dining. Walking, cycling, tennis and golf can also be enjoyed.

The Country

The regional centres of Bathurst, Orange and Mudgee are situated in some of NSW's finest grazing country. Approximately three to four hours from Sydney this area offers farm holidays,

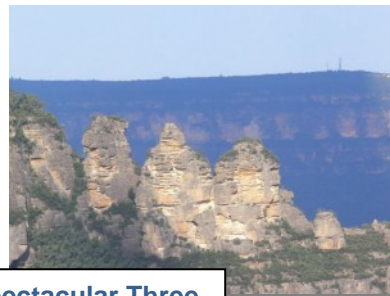
fishing and horse riding. The Barrington Tops National Park is one of the great wilderness areas of NSW. You could also try your hand at panning for gold in Sofala or Hill End, small community villages close to Bathurst.

Beaches, Rivers and Waterways

The Central Coast is just two hours north of Sydney and is a popular holiday destination. Avoca and Terrigal have excellent beaches and further north, Port Stephens has both a natural harbour and surf beaches. Boating and fishing can be enjoyed at Lake Macquarie and Myall Lakes where there is an abundance of bird life. The south coast of NSW has a variety of scenery including beautiful beaches and lakes. Jervis Bay is home to several pods of dolphin and the surrounding national parks provide a secluded holiday area. It also has a good claim to have the whitest sands in the world.



The pristine white sands of Jervis Bay



The spectacular Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains

Further Afield - The ACT

Canberra

The national capital, Canberra, is 300 km from Sydney. Canberra is situated on Lake Burley Griffin and surrounding the lake are many visitor sites such as the High Court, the National Gallery, the War Memorial, the National Science and Technology Centre and the Australian Museum. Parliament House occupies a commanding position overlooking the lake and is renowned for its impressive architecture and collection of Australian contemporary art.