

# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Attraction information

Sydney.....	2
Sydney - St. Mary's Cathedral.....	3
Sydney - Mrs Macquarie's Chair.....	4
Sydney - Hyde Park.....	5
Sydney - Darling Harbour.....	7
Sydney - Opera House.....	8
Sydney - Botanic Gardens.....	10
Sydney - Sydney Harbour Bridge.....	11
Sydney - The Rocks.....	12
Sydney - Sydney University.....	13
Sydney - Circular Quay.....	14
Sydney - Sydney Aquarium.....	15
Sydney - Cockle Bay Wharf.....	17
Sydney - Madame Tussauds.....	18
Sydney - Taronga Zoo.....	19
Sydney - Sydney Tower.....	20
Sydney - NSW Art Gallery.....	21
East Sydney - Rose Bay.....	23
East Sydney - Double Bay.....	25
East Sydney - Bondi Beach.....	26
East Sydney - Watsons Bay.....	27
Blue Mountains - Blue Mountains National Park.....	29
Blue Mountains - Wentworth Falls.....	30
Blue Mountains - Leura.....	31
Blue Mountains - Three Sisters.....	32
Blue Mountains - Echo Point.....	33
Blue Mountains - Scenic World Blue Mountain.....	34
Blue Mountains - Katoomba Scenic Railway.....	35
Blue Mountains - Jamison Valley.....	36
Blue Mountains - Hotel Blue Restaurant.....	38
South Sydney - Sea Cliff Bridge.....	39
South Sydney - Austinmer Beach.....	40
South Sydney - Kiama Town.....	41
South Sydney - Flagstaff Hill Fort.....	42
South Sydney - South Head.....	43
Central Coast - Norah Head Lighthouse.....	44
Snowy Mountains - Blue Lake.....	45
Information sources.....	46

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Sydney

Look hard enough in Sydney and you can still find evidence of Sydney's original inhabitants, who predated European settlers by at least 50,000 years. Traditional art can still be found on rock faces and traces of shell middens have been left behind by local Aboriginal people, who hunted, gathered and fished in the area's well-wooded surroundings and sheltered harbour.

Early contact with the outside world may have included sightings of ships from Portugal and China, but James Cook's arrival in 1770 changed Sydney forever. Captain James Cook claimed the east coast of the continent for Britain and 18 years later, Captain Arthur Phillip led the 11 ships of the First Fleet into Port Jackson on 26 January 1788.

The aim was not to build a great city but to establish a prison settlement for British convicts. Soldiers and prisoners worked to carve out a rough and ready settlement using European knowledge. They ignored the local people's skills, who had lived there for so long and who were now being decimated by new European diseases. On several occasions the new settlement came close to starvation.

Today, signs of these early years remain in the city, with some of the original tracks hewn through the bush now forming main roadways. The eastern 'official' side of the original settlement still contains the buildings that denote power and control – government offices, the governor's residence, the houses of parliament.

The western side of the town was altogether more unruly. Today, the crooked streets of The Rocks, which mark the early settlement's western extremity, evoke a different kind of society. Here, convicts made a life as best they could building rough cottages. Sailors who'd spent months at sea, then caroused in the numerous small public houses, some of which still serve drinkers today.

Some of the finest buildings of this early convict period were built during Lachlan Macquarie's tenure as governor (1810–1821). Macquarie wanted to build a city and got himself recalled to London for his troubles, accused of spending too much money.

But despite London's meddling, Sydney was becoming a city. Free settlers began to arrive, convicts earned emancipation and the economy evolved with schools, churches, markets, stores, theatres and a library appearing among the prison infrastructure. The post-penal economy was driven by industries such as whaling, sealing and the lucrative wool trade. The transportation of convicts from Britain ended in 1840.

In 1842, the City of Sydney was established with elections, offices and all the trappings of a free society. When gold was discovered in 1851 people began pouring into the city from Europe, North America and China. There was a flurry of building in the city, much of it shonky, as people improvised with scarce building materials and rudimentary skills. It was a more certain way of making money than digging for gold. Many did make fortunes and the history of the city at this time is rich in stories of wild parties and extravagant celebrations that would have been unimaginable a few years earlier.

Exuberance in architecture is a legacy of the prosperous decades that followed, with Victorian edifices being built to house a burgeoning society. The public symbol of this period of enthusiastic growth is the mellow golden local Sydney sandstone used to build places such as Town Hall, the General Post Office and the rapidly multiplying offices of the civil service in the eastern side of the city.

By the end of the 19th century Sydney was one of the largest cities in the western world, with a population of half a million people. While it did not maintain that position in the 20th century, the City's harbour, enhanced by the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, has made Sydney an instantly recognisable city worldwide.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - St. Mary's Cathedral**

St Mary's Cathedral is important to Sydney's Catholic community and is a significant landmark in Sydney.

The Cathedral has regular church goers, and also attracts thousands of tourists. This beautiful Cathedral Church is a historic building and an architectural wonder. The Catholic faith has played in an important role in Australian life from the first days of European settlement, and the cathedral is a magnificent tribute to the faith and commitment of generations of Catholics.

### Quick Facts

- Today St Mary's Cathedral is one of Australia's most beautiful and significant buildings but it did not happen overnight. The Cathedral evolved through a long and patient timeline following a fire which destroyed the first St Mary's Cathedral in 1865.
- In 1865 after the fire, Architect William Wardell was commissioned by Archbishop John Polding to design a new St Mary's.
- A letter from Archbishop Polding to Wardell dated 10 October, 1865, stated he wanted: "Any plan, any style, anything that is beautiful and grand. I leave it all to you and your own inspiration".
- Despite the building's European origins, Wardell used Australian native flora throughout as a decorative element to ground the Cathedral in its local setting.
- It took over 100 years to finally complete St Mary's Cathedral as we see it. The first stage was constructed between 1866 and 1900, and stage two between 1912 and 1928.
- However, the original Wardell design was only completed in June 2000 when the metal frames of the imposing southern spires were lowered into place by helicopter and then sheathed in Gosford sandstone.
- In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI visited Sydney. During his visit, Pope Benedict dedicated a new altar for the Cathedral.
- In 2010, Australian nun, Sister Mary MacKillop was canonised in Rome and given the title of St Mary of the Cross. She is Australia's first Saint. There is a statue of St Mary of the Cross inside the Cathedral, at the entrance opposite Hyde Park.
- In 2018, the Cathedral will celebrate 150 years since the laying of the foundation stone of the new Cathedral by Archbishop Polding.
- It is one of Australia's largest Cathedral building, and is of English, Gothic revival style, constructed of honey-coloured Sydney sandstone.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Sydney - Mrs Macquarie's Chair

This chair is a stone seat that was hand carved by convicts in 1810 for Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie. Mrs Macquarie loved the harbour and often took harbour side strolls, and this spot was her favourite place of relaxation. Folklore has it that she used to sit on the rock and watch for ships from Great Britain sailing into the harbour. It now commemorates Mrs Macquarie, the wife of Major-General Lachlan Macquarie, who was Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821.

In 1816, Governor Macquarie declared a part of his garden area a Botanic Garden, and a wall was constructed to protect the Garden. Much of the wall still exists today. Mrs Macquarie's Rd was built through the Garden, and above the chair is an inscription recording the completion of Mrs Macquarie's Road on 13th June 1816. Remnants of the road were discovered during excavations for the extension of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in the late 1990's. The Conservatorium is located within the gardens, just off Macquarie Street.

The Gardens' foundation day is 13th June 1816, when Elizabeth Macquarie's road to her Chair was completed. This road runs along the Garden wall, and if you walk along the harbour side of the wall you will be walking the route of the original Mrs Macquarie's Road.

### Quick Facts

- Elizabeth Henrietta Macquarie (1778-1835), was the youngest daughter of John Campbell of Airds, Scotland.
- Her sister married Maclaine of Lochbuy, a relation of the Macquarie family.
- At 26 she met Colonel Lachlan Macquarie and he was immediately attracted to her.
- Their marriage took place at Holsworthy in Devon on 3rd November 1807. He was 17 years older than her. The bride was 29, the groom 46.
- Within two years, Lachlan Macquarie was appointed governor of New South Wales and his wife accompanied him to the colony.
- The inscription above the Chair reads:

*"Be it thus recorded that the Road  
Round the inside of the Government Domain called  
Mrs. Macquarie's Road  
So named by the Governor on account of her having originally  
Planned it measuring 3 Miles, and 377 Yards  
Was finally completed on the 13th Day of June 1816"*

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## Sydney - Hyde Park

Hyde Park is 16.2-hectare or 40 acres, is the oldest public parkland in Australia, and is listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register. The Park is approximately rectangular in shape, squared at the southern end and rounded at the northern end. The streets around it are, on the west (Darling Harbour side) Elizabeth Street, on the east (Kings Cross side) College Street, on the north (Opera House end) St. James Road, and on the south (Central Station end) Liverpool Street.

The Park is divided in half by the east-west running Park Street. Hyde Park contains well-kept gardens and approximately 580 trees, including Fig Trees and Palms. It is famed for its magnificent fig tree lined avenues. A corner of the Park contains the Sandringham Gardens, near Park and College streets. This area was named in remembrance of the late English Kings, King George the fourth and King George the Sixth. The memorial gates, garden and fountain were designed by Lyndon Dadswell. Other work of his can be seen at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

### Quick Facts

- Hyde Park was originally part of the large tract of land earmarked by Governor Arthur Phillip for public recreation when he laid out the colony in 1788.
- During Sydney's first 22 years it remained virgin bush on the outskirts of town.
- Its use as parklands began when Lachlan Macquarie was Governor of NSW.
- Macquarie envisaged Hyde Park as a town common similar to those in English towns and cities, a parklands near the centre of town reserved for public recreation.
- On 13 October 1810, Governor Macquarie separated the area from the Domain to the north, named it Hyde Park and dedicated it for the "recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of the town and a field of exercises for the troops". He kept the Domain for his own exclusive use.
- He had the area cleared of most of the large trees and oversaw the development of a 10 furlong race track (the park's circular shape at its northern end is a reminder of this former activity).
- Macquarie opened Sydney's first ever Spring horse racing carnival, held at the newly completed Hyde Park Race Track in October 1810.
- It was here that, by accident, the tradition in NSW and Queensland of racing in a clockwise direction commenced.
- A young William Charles Wentworth thrilled spectators with his winning ride in the saddle of the bay gelding, Gig. Three years on, the William Charles Wentworth joined the first party to cross the Blue Mountains, and Wentworth Falls was named for him. He was also the son of Dr. D'Arcy Wentworth who helped establish the Sydney Rum Hospital in Macquarie Street. It is still open and running as a hospital.
- The race of 1810 was the first of many sporting events that would be held in Hyde Park over the years. Horse racing at the park continued until the late 1820s, by which time the park had become a regular venue for fairs, knuckle fighting, boxing and wrestling.
- On 17 June 1865 the first known rugby union match to be played in Australia took place in Hyde Park between members of Australia's first rugby union club, the Sydney Football Club, which had been established that month.

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- There are several monuments in Hyde Park north, the most notable of which is the Archibald Fountain, a gift from JF Archibald in honour of Australia's contribution to World War 1 in France. He also gave Sydney the Archibald Prize for portraits. The fountain is a big water feature dripping in ancient mythology. A bronze Apollo is surrounded by horses' heads, dolphins and tortoises.
- In Hyde Park south, there is the Anzac Memorial and the Pool of Reflection, among other monuments and statues.
- ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and was formation in which Australian and New Zealand soldiers in Egypt were grouped before landing in Gallipoli, Turkey, in 1915 during World War 1.

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## Sydney - Darling Harbour

Darling Harbour is a harbour alongside Sydney's city centre. Additionally it is a large recreational and pedestrian precinct that is located upon western outskirts of the central business district. Initially named Long Cove, the locality extends northwards from Chinatown, along Cockle Bay King Street Wharf 3 in the east, and to the region of Pyrmont to the west. Cockle Bay is just among the waterways that make up Darling Harbour, which opens north in to the larger Port Jackson.

Among Sydney's most popular recreation places, Darling Harbour has more than 1.3 million men and women visiting the sunny foreshore each year. The area has a vibrant history playing an integral part in Sydney's early days when it was used for gathering fresh produce and timber from Parramatta and the north coast.

### Quick Facts

- For more than 7,000 years Darling Harbour was a frontline; a boundary between Wangal and Gadigal tribes of the coastal Eora aborigines who used the harbour for food and transport up the Parramatta Water.
- 'Tumbalong' is how the Eora people called it, meaning a place where seafood is found. The shores were full of fragments of oyster shells and other shellfish accrued over thousands of years; which led the Europeans to call the region Cockle Bay.
- The arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and the diseases like smallpox, measles, colds along with flu that came with it, have been distressing to the local aboriginal population. However the Eora tribe survived the arrival of Europeans and their ailments.
- Archaeological proof has shown that they were currently living a semi-traditional lifestyle on the peninsula at Millers Point until the 1840s. Today, the progenies of the first Native clans to live in close connection with the Europeans still reside in Sydney.
- In the younger years of the colony, the only Western guests to the shores of Darling Harbour were the lime-burners and hungry convicts and settlers searching for mussels and other shellfish.
- In 1800, the very first deputy surveyor-general of New Southern Wales, Charles Grimes, finished a Plan of Sydney that accurately describes the eastern shoreline. Badly fired bricks and insufficient lime for mortar affected early building in the colony. The massive amount of shellfish shells in Cockle Bay were the perfect source for lime.
- Darling Harbour was initially named Long Cove, however Cockle Bay was favoured until 1826 when Governor Ralph Darling enshrined his own name in the history of Sydney.
- In 1984 the Wran Government announced plans to rebuild the old wharves into a leisure, culture and business area for the people of Sydney.
- HRH Full Elizabeth II formally launched Darling Harbour on 4 May 1988. Sydney Aquarium was the first attraction to open and was soon accompanied by a host of museums, shops, dining places, hotels and bars, since the precinct became a different type of heartbeat for Sydney.
- In 1998, Darling Harbour's 10th birthday celebration, Cockle Bay Wharf had been constructed. The following year enormous works were undertaken in preparation for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.
- Darling Harbour hosted five sports activities during the 2000 Sydney Olympics and building of King Street Wharf was finished.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Sydney - Opera House

One of the most popular attractions in Sydney, the Opera House is not only one of the most recognised landmarks in the city, it's also one of Australia's most famous icons. The Sydney Opera House is built at Bennelong Point, a site sacred to the local Gadigal people for thousands of years.

In 1956 the New South Wales Premier, The Hon. Joe Cahill, announced an international competition for the design of an opera house for Sydney. It attracted more than 200 entries from around the world. Danish architect Jorn Utzon won the competition. His design is derived from shells. To work out how to build the shells, the engineers at Arup & Partners needed to express the shell shapes mathematically. Asked by the engineers in 1958 to define the curves of the roof, Utzon took a plastic ruler, bent it against a table and simply traced the curves. He sent these drawings to Arup & Partners in London, explaining these were the shapes he wanted.

### Quick Facts

- The land on which the Sydney Opera House stands was known to its traditional custodians, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, as Tubowgule, meaning "where the knowledge waters meet."
- Tubowgule's current name of Bennelong Point honours Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior Eora man at the time of the arrival of British colonisers in Australia in 1788.
- Kidnapped by the first Governor of New South Wales, Arthur Phillip, Bennelong served as a speaker between the Eora Nation and the British. He told Governor Phillip the names of the clans around Sydney as well as the Aboriginal name for Parramatta which Phillip had initially called Rose Hill. At his request, Governor Phillip had a hut built for him on the point that now bears his name.
- Bennelong later became the first Aboriginal Australia to travel to London. He spent more than a year in the British capital and attended museums, the theatre at Covent Garden, and Houses of Parliament before returning to his home at Sydney Cove.
- In 1817 the British Governor, Lachlan Macquarie, ordered a fort be built upon Bennelong Point under the direction of former convict and architect Francis Greenway.
- In 1879 a precursor to the Sydney Opera House – a 900 seat theatre for comic opera and vaudeville – opened in a warehouse on the corner of King and York Streets. It was condemned in 1900.
- Planning began in the late 1940s, when Eugene Goossens, the Director of the NSW State Conservatorium of Music, lobbied for a suitable venue for large theatrical productions.
- The normal venue for such productions, the Sydney Town Hall, was not considered large enough. By 1954, Goossens succeeded in gaining the support of NSW Premier Joseph Cahill, who called for designs for a dedicated opera house.
- An international design competition was launched by Cahill on 13 September 1955 and received 233 entries, representing architects from 32 countries. The criteria specified a large hall seating 3,000 and a small hall for 1,200 people, each to be designed for different uses, including full-scale operas, orchestral and choral concerts, mass meetings, lectures, ballet performances and other presentations.
- The winner, announced in 1957, was Jorn Utzon, a Danish architect. Apparently the Utzon design was rescued by noted Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen from a final cut of 30 "rejects". The grand prize was 5,000 Australian pounds.
- Utzon moved to Sydney to supervise the project.

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- Pressures piled upon Utzon, when the Minister of Works, Davis Hughes, began questioning Utzon's designs, schedules and cost estimates.
- Utzon withdrew as chief architect midway through construction, returning to Denmark. He never returned to see the building completed.
- The building was not constructed to Utzon's original specifications.
- In October 1973 the Sydney Opera House was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth. Utzon was not invited to the ceremony, nor was his name mentioned.
- In 1999, Utzon was re-engaged to develop a set of design principles. His son Yan Utzon came to Australia as his father was unable to make the trip.
- In 2003, on the 30th birthday of the Opera House, Jorn Utzon was awarded the Pritzker Prize for Architecture, architecture's highest award.
- Jorn Utzon died in 2008.

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## **Sydney - Botanic Gardens**

The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney's history is no ordinary tale, regardless of the name, it was only in 1959 it became 'Royal'. There is much more to the gardens than just flowers and stunning horticultural displays. Founded in 1816, it is the oldest scientific institution in Australia and also among the most significant historical botanical institutions in the world. It is open each day of the year and access is completely free.

The 30 hectares of gardens are home to more than a million species, a few of which were planted by early European colonists nearly 200 decades back. Inside the gardens you will discover The Fernery, Herb Garden, Rose Garden, Succulent Garden, the recently finished Oriental Garden and a section specializing in Rare and Threatened Plants of the World that comprises a specimen of one of the rarest plants on the planet, the newly discovered Wollemi Pine.

### Quick Facts

- Prior to the arrival of the First Fleet, the tidal flats of Farm Cove were utilized by the aboriginal tribes for their young men's initiation ceremonies.
- The gardens can be found within a large area set aside for public use in 1788 by Australia's first governor, Arthur Phillip which comprised all towns in the eastern ridge (Macquarie Street) into Woolloomooloo Bay in the Harbour south into the current Central Railway Station.
- Known to the aboriginal tribes as Wocanmagully, its colonial title was Farm Cove because it had been on 30 hectares of land cleared and cultivated from the first months of 1788 which was Gov. Phillip and his colony's main food source.
- Using this Farm Cove as food source lasted until the time of Gov. Lachlan Macquarie whose vision for Sydney involved the landscaping of the property round the Farm Cove plantation.
- Australia's first botanist, Charles Frazer, laid out the design of the Botanical Gardens as requested by Gov. and Mrs Macquarie in 1816. This included the damming of a small creek which flowed into the cove to form the gardens' ponds. The mud flats were filled in, however the seawall we see today was not built until much later (1848 - 1879).
- In 1848 Charles Moore, Director of the Botanic Gardens, developed and urbanized the gardens as it is today. He held this position for 48 years, from 1848 until 1896.
- Back in 1990 the Tropical Centre glasshouses was introduced to the general public.
- In 2003 the official title of this organisation had been changed from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney into the Botanic Gardens Trust.
- Nowadays, the Botanical Gardens remains laid out exactly the way Macquarie and Frazer proposed it, and showcases plant specimens collected by Joseph Banks and Captain James Cook on their epic voyage of discovery along the east coast of Australia in 1770.
- It features a Palm Grove, planted in 1862, which displays 180 species; a Tropical Centre in two glass pyramids; the National Herbarium of NSW which contains over 1 million dried plant specimens; a vegetable garden on the exact site of Gov. Phillip's garden containing vegetables similar to what Phillip planted; and a 290-metre section of Macquarie's Wall, which was constructed by Gov. Macquarie in 1810

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Sydney Harbour Bridge**

The Sydney Harbour Bridge, one of the city's iconic attractions, serves as both a transport hub and architectural landmark. However, locally, it's called 'the coat hanger'. In the time it had been constructed and till recently it had been the longest single span steel arch bridge in the world and remains in an overall sense the biggest. 33,600 litres of paint are required to provide the bridge one coat. It's in the continuous process of being painted to be able to fight corrosion. The truth is that you will find segments of this 52,000-tonne structure which haven't ever felt a paint brush for up to 3 decades. With close to 500,000sqm of all steelwork to be painted and maintained free of rust, a team of 15 employees is required to maintain what its builder, John Bradfield, called the "Blue arch of Heaven". The bridge owners, Roads and Maritime Services, even utilize two robots to burst off the old lead paint out of inner sections of this Bridge. Its visible surfaces have to be repainted every five years while some last 30 years with no new coat. \$20 million is the annual maintenance budget of this structure.

### Quick Facts

- The overall layout was prepared by Dr J.J.C Bradfield and officials of the NSW Department of Public Works, although the comprehensive design and critical erection process were undertaken by the builders consulting engineer Mr (afterwards Sir) Ralph Freeman of Sir Douglas Fox and Partners along with his colleague Mr. G.C Imbault.
- Dr Bradfield, the Chief Engineer, is seen as the "father" of the Bridge because it had been his vision, excitement, engineering experience and in-depth supervision of all elements of its structure which made Sydney's long held fantasy into reality.
- In February 1932, to test the Bridge, it was loaded with around 96 steam locomotives put in a variety of configurations.
- The official launch day on Saturday, 19 March 1932 was a momentous event, attracting audiences (estimated between 300,000 and one million individuals) into the city and the nearby harbor.
- Hon. John T. Lang, the NSW Premier, officially declared the Bridge open. It was rumoured that Captain Francis De Groot of the para-military group, the New Guard, slashed the ribbon with his sword, before the official ribbon-cutting.
- The one-billionth vehicle crossed the Sydney Harbour Bridge on June 1976. The initial 500 million crossings took about 33 years while the next 500 million took less than 11 years.
- For the first time since its launch in 1932, the bridge had been closed to most vehicles with the exclusion of vintage vehicles and pedestrians were granted access to participate in its 50th anniversary celebration in 1982.
- The bridge was embellished with the Olympic Rings and included in the Olympic torch's route to the stadium in the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Sydney - The Rocks

In a city now mainly the product of late twentieth urban redevelopment, The Rocks provides a chance to experience an environment in which buildings and public areas of the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth-century nevertheless stay.

Stories in the past, like the life of convict Families, publicans' expansion programs, the customs of sailors and wharf labourers, the shifting alignment of the waterfront, may nevertheless be read from archaeological evidence, written histories and oral testimony, and the very fabric and setting of a number of buildings themselves.

### Quick Facts

- The Rocks was established rapidly after the founding of the colony in 1788. It was recognised as Tallawoladah by the Cadigal people.
- The earlier buildings were first typical vernacular houses, of wattle and daub, with thatched roofs, and later of neighbourhood sandstone, from which the place derives its name.
- From the earliest history of the settlement, the location was infamous as a slum and the arriving convicts' facet of town, often visited by wandering sailors and prostitutes.
- The bubonic plague broke out in 1900, and the government resumed areas around The Rocks and Darling Harbour, with the intent to demolish and reconstruct them. More than 3,800 houses, buildings and wharves had been inspected and heaps demolished, however these plans were stopped due to the outbreak of World War I.
- During the 1920s, several hundred structures were demolished in the course of the development of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
- The nation authorities gave control of The Rocks to the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority in 1968, with the intention of demolishing all the original buildings, redeveloping them as high-density residential homes. The Rocks Residents Group was formed by local residents in February 1971 to oppose the plans. They felt that rents would increase due to the new houses, which would force out the original resident.
- The union had imposed the ban by 1973, and after negotiations with the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority, a 'People's Plan' was established. By October of the same year, it seemed that the redevelopment would proceed as planned, using non-union labour. Demonstrations by residents and unionists resumed for 2 weeks, with several arrests being made.
- Liberal Premier Robert Askin was in the middle of an election campaign, and used the protests as a way of conveying his law and order message to voters.
- However, the ban stayed in place till 1975, when the state union leadership was overthrown, and was ultimately fruitful, as apparent as the constructions that live to tell the tale today. The area was modified into a commercial and tourist precinct instead of demolishing The Rocks. Today the Rocks is a partly restored area, however still includes an enormous percentage of Housing Commission properties, and there is nonetheless a large problem of poverty and street crime in this district.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Sydney University**

The University of Sydney (informally known as USyd) is an Australian public research college established in 1850. It is Australia's first university and is considered as one of the world's foremost universities. The university is colloquially recognized as one of Australia's sandstone universities. Its campus is ranked in the top 10 of the world's most lovely universities via the British Daily Telegraph and The Huffington Post, spreading throughout the inner-city suburbs of Camperdown and Darlinghurst. The university consists of 9 faculties and university schools, through which it provides bachelor, master and doctoral degrees.

Five Nobel and two Crafoord laureates have been affiliated with the university as graduates and faculty. The university has schooled seven Australian prime ministers, two Governors-General of Australia, 9 state governors and territory administrators, and 24 justices of the High Court of Australia, which include four chief justices. Sydney has produced a hundred and ten Rhodes Scholars and a number of Gates Scholars.

### Quick Facts

- When William Charles Wentworth proposed the plan of Australia's first university in 1850, he imagined "the opportunity for the child of every class to become great and useful in the destinies of this country".
- In 1852, the university's doorways open with a core focus on the classics, sciences and mathematics, as well as 'modern' subjects French, German and political thought.
- As early as 1881, the university admitted female students on an equal footing to male students. Oxford University didn't comply with it until 30 years later, and Jesus College at Cambridge University did not commence admitting female college students till 1974.
- Shortly after the University was established, distinguished Sydney figures started to contribute to the university's approach to education with donations, such as the equivalent of \$32 million from John Henry Challis in 1880.
- In 1928, The University of Sydney War Memorial Carillon was dedicated on Anzac Day to memorialize the 197 undergraduates, graduates and workforce who died in the First World War.
- In 1965, Charles Perkins led the Freedom Ride bus tour of western and coastal NSW to combat for the rights of Indigenous Australians.
- In 2014, The Charles Perkins Centre, a cross-disciplinary research and education hub, opens to uncover life-changing remedies to global health issues such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease and associated conditions.
- The centre was named after the first Aboriginal man to graduate from an Australian university and constructed upon the generosity of the university's alumni and others. The centre is a beacon of how they actively live the values set down by their forefathers.
- Also in 2014, the university had 33,505 undergraduate and 19,284 graduate students.
- In 2018-19, the QS World University Rankings ranked Sydney as the world's 25th most honourable university, and its graduates as the 4th most employable in the world and 1st in Australia.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Circular Quay**

Circular Quay is a harbour on the northern area of the Sydney central business district on Sydney Cove, between Bennelong Point and The Rocks. It is part of the local government area of the City of Sydney.

The Circular Quay area is a famous neighbourhood for tourism and consists of walkways, pedestrian malls, parks and restaurants. It hosts a range of ferry quays, bus stops, and a train station. Despite its name, the waterfront at the quay is roughly square in shape.

### Quick Facts

- Sydney Cove, on which Circular Quay is located, was the site of the initial arrival of the First Fleet in Port Jackson on 26 January 1788.
- The governor's temporary residence was erected on the east facet of the cove, whilst the western shore became the centre of the early settlement. It was the focal point from which the metropolis of Sydney grew.
- The first wharf on the shore of Sydney Cove possibly dated from around 1792.
- In 1802 it was changed with a timber framed wharf referred to as "Hospital Wharf", the first public wharf of the colony (later renamed King's Wharf and Queen's Wharf).
- Circular Quay was built in 1837-1844 by reconstructing the southern part of Sydney Cove with an artificial shoreline. The mouth of the Tank Stream, which flowed into Sydney Cove at the western end of Circular Quay, was in-filled.
- The harbour was initially regarded as "Semi-Circular Quay", this being the actual shape of the quay. The name was shortened for convenience.
- Circular Quay was also a tram hub. It was the focal terminal point of most electric tram services to the Eastern Suburbs. The first tram to function thru Circular Quay was horse-drawn, running from the old Sydney Railway station to Circular Quay along Pitt Street in 1861 permitting easy transfer to ferries.
- The Circular Quay railway station was opened on 20 January 1956 and the elevated Cahill Expressway was formally opened on 24 March 1958.
- A handful of Sydney's first skyscrapers were constructed around Circular Quay.
- The AMP Building on the southern shore used to be the tallest structure Sydney when finished in 1962.
- In 1973 the Sydney Opera House was constructed at the north-eastern end of Sydney Cove. Circular Quay gradually grew to be a tourist attraction in its very own right.
- Between 1971 and 1989, Colonial Mutual Life obtained land along Circular Quay for a large scale development. The initial, rather controversial design was revised after the intervention of Prime Minister Paul Keating.
- In return for lowering the height of the structure and including a colonnade to facilitate public access, the development was approved to extend further towards the foreshore, with the layout finalised in 1992.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Sydney Aquarium**

Sea Life Sydney Aquarium is a public aquarium positioned on the eastern (city) side of Darling Harbour to the north of the Pyrmont Bridge. It is a full institutional member of the Zoo and Aquarium Association and the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium.

Sea Life Sydney Aquarium's extraordinary freshwater and marine aquatic environments showcases an outstanding 13,000 animals from seven hundred one-of-a-kind species. Experience the world's first ride-through penguin experience and meet the colony of King and Gentoo penguins. Explore 14 themed habitats, which include the tropical Bay of Rays, Discovery Rockpool, Sydney Harbour and the world's biggest Great Barrier Reef display. Face your fears on Shark Walk by strolling along majestic sharks, and voyage into the depths of Shark Valley, home to skeletal whale remains, the tumbledown ruins of an ancient stone temple, and the widest range of sharks and rays. Along the way you'll come across some of the world's most amazing animals unique to each habitat, consisting of two of only six dugongs on exhibit anywhere in the world, plus big sharks, huge stingrays, turtles, penguins, heaps of tropical fish, and a lot more.

### Quick Facts

- The aquarium was designed by Australian architects to resemble a giant wave, to complement the underwater theme of an aquarium and the maritime theme of Darling Harbour, and took almost two years to build. The Great Barrier Reef complex which opened in October 1998 continues this same theme.
- The Sydney Aquarium was opened in 1988, in the course of Australia's bicentenary celebrations, and is one of the biggest aquariums in the world. It is considered as one of Sydney's premier tourist destinations with over 55% of its traffic every year coming from overseas.
- In December 1991, the first Seal Sanctuary was opened.
- Since then, Sydney Aquarium has upgraded the amenities and a new oceanarium to house seals opened in September 2003.
- The Seal Sanctuary showcases Australian sea lions, Australian fur seals, subantarctic fur seals, and New Zealand fur seals. In this floating oceanarium, the seals can be seen beneath the water's surface from underwater viewing tunnels, and from above on an open-air deck.
- The Seal Sanctuary is integrated into the Southern Oceans exhibit, which also features little penguins, the Open Ocean Oceanarium, and Sydney Harbour displays.
- In October 1998, the Great Barrier Reef complex opened comprising a tropical touch pool, a live coral cave, coral atoll, two circular gateway displays and a huge Great Barrier Reef oceanarium.
- Over 6,000 animals are housed in the oceanarium which carries 2.6 million litres (572,000 imp gal, 687,000 U.S. gal) of water pumped from Darling Harbour, filtered and heated before it flows into the Oceanarium and adjoining display tanks.
- The water is kept at a consistent temperature of 25 °C (77 °F).
- The Oceanarium is 33 metres (108 ft) long and 13 metres (43 ft) wide, with a total area of about 370 square metres (4,000 sq ft) and a water depth of 3.5 metres (11 ft).
- The final exhibit is a reef theatre where activity in a coral canyon can be watched thru a window 7 by 4 metres (23 by 13 ft) and 26 centimetres (10 in) in thickness.

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- In 2006, Wild Life Sydney opened adjacent to Sydney Aquarium, which is also owned by Merlin Entertainments.
- On 20 December 2007, the glass-bottomed boat, or Shark Explorer, started operating, giving visitors a tour of the Great Barrier Reef tank.
- A crocodile exhibit was introduced in 2008.
- Also in 2008, the seal sanctuary was closed and the seals were dispatched to Sea World, Gold Coast, Australia. The seal sanctuary was then renovated and reopened as Dugong Island in December 2008.
- Dugong Island is the new permanent home of Pig and Wuru, dugongs which were formerly kept at Sea World, Gold Coast. Dugong Island has above-water viewing areas as well as underwater viewing tunnels. Other animals kept in the oceanarium include a shark ray, shovelnose rays, zebra sharks, eagle rays and dozens of unique species of fish.
- In March 2012, Sea Life Sydney Aquarium's owners, Merlin Entertainments, announced that they would be spending \$10 million on the refurbishment of the facilities. As part of the process, the aquarium was rebranded as a Sea Life Centre and was relaunched on 24 September 2012.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Cockle Bay Wharf**

An iconic Sydney spot, located at the glistening harbour, just a few minutes away from the Sydney CBD and Chinatown is Cockle Bay Wharf, home to Sydney's premier dining and entertainment venues. Whether it be a catch up with buddies after work, a business luncheon, a weekend tour with the family or even a drop-in as a tourist to the metropolis – Cockle Bay Wharf is a place for exploration and the enjoyment of an array of culinary delights, thrilling experiences and entertainment. There are a range of restaurants and cafés encompassing all sorts of cuisines and tastes. From fresh seafood, and authentic Italian, to contemporary Australian – each venue provides without a doubt a unique experience.

### Quick Facts

- When the First Fleet reached Sydney Cove in January 1788, the convict transport Scarborough also carried 5,000 bricks and 12 timber moulds for making bricks.
- This token consignment sufficed for the first settlers to begin working on the colony's first buildings, till they could find an appropriate site for brick-making. Brick-making required a ready supply of clean water and an abundant source of clay.
- Brick-making required an abundant source of clay and a ready supply of clean water.
- Approximately a mile from the settlement, at the head of a long cove (and therefore so named), a perfect site for brick-making was located.
- This site was later named Cockle Bay, and still later, Darling Harbour.
- The history of the harbour has been exemplified in the ships which used it, the shipyards and wharves along its shores and the numerous factories and warehouses that grew up in the surrounding streets.
- The Market Street Wharf (where Sydney Aquarium now stands) was constructed in the 1820s and is the last remaining wharf from this era.
- In 1998, as Darling Harbour celebrated its tenth birthday, Cockle Bay Wharf was constructed. The following year massive repairs were made in preparation for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Madame Tussauds**

Madame Tussauds is a well-known wax museum in London with branches in a number of different major cities apart from Sydney. Step into the world of celebrity, with more than 70 of the world's famous personalities, Aussie stars, and a range of fun interactive experiences—all at Madame Tussauds Sydney. Get on stage with popstars, rub shoulders with the most powerful politicians, and even test your sporting competencies against the greats. With an entire host of stars, legends and interactive experiences, Madame Tussauds Sydney clearly does add up to a red hot trip where family and friends can meet, greet, chat up, debate, hug and sing with their well-loved celebrities.

### Quick Facts

- It was established by wax sculptor Anna Maria “Marie” Tussaud.
- Marie Tussaud was born as Marie Grosholtz in 1761 in Strasbourg, France.
- Her mom was a housekeeper for Dr. Philippe Curtius in Bern, Switzerland, who was a doctor knowledgeable in wax modelling. Curtius taught Tussaud the art of wax modelling.
- Young Marie’s first sculpture was Francois Voltaire. She made it at the age of 16.
- Tussaud was perceived as a royal sympathizer and throughout the French Revolution she was imprisoned for three months pending execution, but was released after the intervention of an influential friend.
- She inherited the doctor’s massive collection of wax models following his demise in 1794, and spent the subsequent 33 years journeying around Europe.
- By 1835, Marie had settled down in Baker Street, London and opened a museum. Since then, Madame Tussauds has been leaving tourists excited and star struck with the vast array of A-list celebrities featured in the wax museum.
- The first overseas branch of Madame Tussauds was opened in Amsterdam in 1970.
- Since opening its doors in 2000, Madame Tussauds New York has rapidly turn out to be one of the most famous Madame Tussauds locations in the world.
- There are presently 24 Madame Tussauds worldwide, consisting of seven in the USA, and museums in Beijing, Tokyo and Sydney, Australia.
- It used to be recognized as “Madame Tussaud’s”; the apostrophe is no longer used.
- Madame Tussauds is owned by a leisure corporation known as Merlin Entertainments, following the acquisition of The Tussauds Group in May 2007.
- Millions and millions of tourists have flocked through the doorways of Madame Tussauds since they first opened over 200 years ago and it remains just as famous as it ever was. There are many reasons for this enduring success, but at the heart of it all is good, old-fashioned curiosity.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Sydney - Taronga Zoo

Taronga Zoo is a 15-minute ferry trip from Circular Quay and is found on the shores of Sydney Harbour in the suburb of Mosman. It is managed by the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales, under the trading name Taronga Conservation Society, along with its sister zoo, the Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo.

One of Sydney's most popular attractions, the award-winning Taronga Zoo is home to over 4,000 animals, which includes Australian native wildlife, as well as rare and endangered exotic animals. Overlooking the extraordinary Sydney Harbour, Taronga Zoo is only 12 minutes away from the metropolis via ferry. Open every day of the year, admission includes daily keeper talks and shows, and access to the Sky Safari, Sydney's only cable car. Enjoy the QBE Free-Flight Bird Show overlooking Sydney Harbour, presenting some of the world's most marvellous birds and be delighted by the Daily Seal Show where Australian and Californian Sea-lions and the New Zealand Fur-seals will amaze you with their grace and skill. Challenge yourself on Taronga's thrilling new sky high adventure, Wild Ropes. Tackle obstacles, cross suspension bridges and leap through the trees while relishing the breathtaking views of Sydney Harbour.

### Quick Facts

- The Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales opened the first public zoo in New South Wales in 1884 at Billy Goat Swamp in Moore Park.
- Inspired by a 1908 trip to the Hamburg Zoo, the secretary of the zoo, Albert Sherbourne Le Souef, visualized a new zoo primarily based on the bar-less concept.
- After realising that the Moore Park site was too small, the NSW Government granted forty three acres (17 ha) of land north of Sydney Harbour. In addition, 9 acres (3.6 ha) had been later granted in 1916.
- The "Rustic Bridge" was opened in 1915 and was one of Taronga Zoo's earliest landscape features. It was the primary way in which tourists could pass the natural gully that it spans.
- Early pictures exhibit it as a romantic pathway secluded by plantings. The rustic effect was created by means of embedding stones in the wall and like the aquarium, its layout was reminiscent of Italian grottoes.
- Taronga is an Aboriginal word which means "beautiful view". The Taronga Zoo formally opened its doors on 7 Oct 1916. It is the city zoo of Sydney, Australia.
- In February 2003, it grew to become the 2nd zoo in Australia to breed the platypus.
- At 3:04 am on 4 July 2009, Thong Dee, an Asian elephant, gave birth to a male calf named Luk Chai. He is the first calf ever born in Australia. Thong Dee, and his father Gung, were two of the eight elephants imported into Australia to take part in the Australasian Conservation Breeding Program.
- On April 20, 2014, Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge alongside their 8-month-old son, Prince George of Cambridge, visited Taronga Zoo Sydney. They attended the unveiling ceremony at the Bilby exhibit, much to George's satisfaction and curiosity. Prince George received two small gifts, a stuffed Bilby and a "Wild Child on Board" vehicle sign. It is later verified that a Bilby was named Bilby George in honour of the little prince.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Sydney - Sydney Tower**

Sydney Tower is Sydney's tallest construction and the 2nd tallest observation tower in the Southern Hemisphere. The title Sydney Tower has grown to be common in day-to-day usage, however the tower has been regarded as the Sydney Tower Eye, AMP Tower, Westfield Centrepont Tower, Centrepont Tower or simply Centrepont. The Sydney Tower is a member of the World Federation of Great Towers.

Ranked as one of the safest buildings in the world, the striking design has made the tower capable of withstanding earthquakes and extreme wind conditions. The tower is open to the public, and is one of the most distinguished visitor attractions in the city, being seen from a handful of vantage points throughout town and from adjoining suburbs. Auckland's Sky Tower is taller but Sydney Tower's main observation deck is nearly 50 m (164 ft) higher than the observation deck on Auckland's Sky Tower.

### Quick Facts

- Designed by Australian architect Donald Crone the first plans for Sydney Tower were unveiled in March 1968.
- Construction of Sydney Tower Centrepont shopping centre began in the late 1970's with the first 52 shops opening in 1972. The office component was completed in 1974 and the final stage of the complex, the Sydney Tower, was opened to the public in August 1981.
- Prior to development of the tower, the height limit in Sydney had been set at 279 m (915 ft), to allow for the harbour's flying boats that were famous prior to the modern jet era.
- The whole cost of development was AUD\$36 million.
- The golden turret has a capacity of 960 persons and contains two levels of restaurants, a coffee lounge, an Observation Deck, two telecommunication transmission levels and three plant levels
- The height of Sydney Tower from the bottom to the very tip of the spire is 309 metres
- Three double deck lifts provide access to the Sydney Tower Eye Observation Deck and restaurants
- The 1504 fire-isolated sets of pressurised stairs, closely monitored by security, allow patrons direct access to street level, in case of an emergency
- The 420 windows of the tower are cleaned by a semi-automatic window cleaning machine name 'Charlie'. 'Charlie' recycles and filters 50 litres of water and takes two days to clean all the windows
- A 162,000 litre water tank, the tower's primary damping system also acts as a stabiliser for the tower
- 56 cables stabilise the tower, and if the strands of these cables were laid end to end, they would reach from Sydney to Alice Springs or from Sydney to New Zealand
- The spire located above the Tower is used for telecommunications and navigation purposes
- Contrary to popular belief, Sydney Tower was never officially named Centrepont Tower
- Sydney Tower is the first to see the Sydney dawn, and the last to see its final dusk
- Sydney Tower retains its original name today as simply 'Sydney Tower', with the Sydney Tower Eye being the name of the viewing attraction located on the upper level, providing the best views from the highest point in the city
- The SKYWALK experience was constructed at the top of Sydney Tower in 2005 at a cost of almost \$4 million.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Sydney - NSW Art Gallery

The Art Gallery of New South Wales is the most prominent public gallery in Sydney and one of the biggest in Australia. The Gallery's first public exhibition opened in 1874. Admission is free to the common exhibition space, which shows Australian art (from settlement to contemporary), European and Asian art. A dedicated Asian Gallery was opened in 2003.

One of the most famous art museums in Australia, visited by over 1 million travellers annually, the Gallery is far more than just a location for gazing at photos. It's also a location to revel in lectures and symposia, films, music and performances, meet mates for a meal or espresso in the cafe or restaurant, or browse in the Gallery Shop. Its variety of access programs and education programs is aimed at enticing various audiences with diverse needs.

### Quick Facts

- On 24 April 1871, a public assembly was convened in Sydney to set up an Academy of Art 'for the purpose of promoting the fine arts through lectures, art classes and regular exhibitions.'
- From 1872 till 1879 the Academy's primary activity was the organisation of annual art exhibitions.
- The first exhibition of colonial art, under the auspices of the Academy, was held at the Chamber of Commerce, Sydney Exchange in 1874.
- In 1875 Apsley Falls by Conrad Martens, commissioned by the trustees and bought for £50 out of the first government grant of £500, became the first work on paper by an Australian artist to be obtained by the Gallery.
- The Gallery's collection was first housed at Clark's Assembly Hall in Elizabeth Street where it was open to the public on Friday and Saturday afternoons.
- The collection was relocated in 1879 to a wooden annexe to the Garden Palace constructed for the Sydney International Exhibition in the Domain and was formally opened as "The Art Gallery of New South Wales".
- In 1882, the first Director, Eliezer Montefiore and his fellow trustees opened the art gallery on Sunday afternoons from 2 pm to 5 pm. Montefiore believed "... the public should be afforded every facility to avail themselves of the educational and civilising influence engendered by an exhibition of works of art, bought, moreover, at the public expense."
- The destruction of the Garden Palace by fire in 1882 posed strain on the government to grant a permanent home for the national collection.
- In 1883 private architect John Horbury Hunt was engaged by the trustees to propose designs. The same year there was a shift of name to "The National Art Gallery of New South Wales". The Gallery was incorporated by The Library and Art Gallery Act 1899.
- In 1895, the new Colonial Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon (1846–1914), was given the mission to sketch the new permanent gallery and two picture galleries had been opened in 1897 and another two in 1899.
- A watercolour gallery was introduced in 1901 and in 1902 the Grand Oval Lobby was completed
- In 1958 the Art Gallery of New South Wales Act was amended and the Gallery's title reverted to "The Art Gallery of New South Wales".

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- On 10 June 2007, a 17th-century work by Frans van Mieris, entitled A Cavalier (Self Portrait), was stolen from the gallery. The painting had been donated by John Fairfax and was valued at over AUD\$1 million.
- In 2008 the Gallery bought Paul Cézanne's painting Bords de la Marne ca. 1888 for AUD\$16.2 million – the highest amount paid by the Gallery for a work of art. In the same year the NSW Government introduced a grant of AUD\$25.7 million to build an offsite storage facility and a gift from the John Kaldor Family Collection to the Gallery was announced. Valued at over AUD\$35 million, it comprised some 260 works representing the history of international modern art. The refurbishment of the 19th-century Grand Courts was celebrated in the Gallery's inaugural 'Open Weekend' in 2009.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## East Sydney - Rose Bay

Rose Bay is a harbour side suburb placed seven kilometres east of the Sydney central business district, in the local government areas of Waverley Municipal Council (east of Old South Head Road) and Woollahra Council (on its western facet in the direction of the bay). Rose Bay has views of both the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge together. Lyne Park abuts Sydney Harbour on its west. Shark Island is positioned in Sydney Harbour, just north of Rose Bay.

### Quick Facts

- Rose Bay's aboriginal name is Banna`rong. It is one of simply a handful names established in the Sydney that has connections to the 1st Fleet of 1788.
- The title honours George Rose (1744-1818), a pal and mentor of 1st Fleet Governor Arthur Phillip, who was once joint Secretary to the British Treasury with Thomas Steele, after whom Steel(e) Point at Nielsen Park used to be named. He played an essential part in the institution of the colony and his position is remembered through these names.
- The name Rose Bay used to be recorded as early as 1778 via Captain John Hunter who did the first surveys of Port Jackson.
- Some years later, under the authority of the Governor, a team of convicts moved to Rose Bay and set up a salt works.
- In 1837, the oldest residence on the foreshore, Hermitage, was constructed by the explorer, businessman and statesman William Charles Wentworth. He named his property Hermitage, a wise corruption of the title of the close by Hermit Bay to bestow his property a name with a tinge of class.
- The small village which grew up around it retained its faraway rural ambience for most of the nineteenth Century, being a famous resting place for visitors on the New South Head Road and a centre for pleasure craft events on Sydney Harbour.
- The huge tidal mud flats had been reclaimed in 1902, and the seawall constructed 22 years later.
- Major residential developed commenced in the 1920s and nowadays Rose Bay is a sought-after address like its neighbour, Double Bay.
- HMAS Tingira, named after an Aboriginal phrase for 'open sea' was moored in Rose Bay from 1912 to 1927. It was once used to educate over 3,000 Australian sailors, many for dispatch in World War I.
- There is a small park on the Rose Bay waterfront which commemorates Tingira.
- From 1938, seaplane flights to and from London started and terminated in Sydney Harbour on Rose Bay, making it Sydney's first international airport, and what is now Rose Bay Water Airport.
- On 14 September 1945, nine Catalina flying boats landed and moored at the Rose Bay wharf, repatriating Australian prisoners of war who had been survivors of Japanese camps. Sydneysiders gazed on in silence, aghast at the emaciated kingdom of the returning soldiers. There is a close by restaurant referred to as Catalina, referencing the plane of the same name.
- From the 1950s, Ansett Flying Boat Services operated regular scheduled flights to Lord Howe Island from a small seaplane terminal and jetty on the Rose Bay foreshore. Later the flights were operated by way of four-engine Short Sandringhams.

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- The service was discontinued in 1974 when the island's new airport had been completed. Currently three distinct seaplane carriers, two of which are operated as trading names of Krug Agencies Pty Ltd, provide scenic flights around Sydney Harbour and up to Palm Beach. Also famous are lunch packages to numerous waterfront restaurants on the Hawkesbury River.
- The Wintergarden Cinema used to be a landmark edifice which housed the Sydney Film Festival from 1968 to 1973, but which was demolished to make way for private apartments in the late 1980s.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## East Sydney - Double Bay

Double Bay is a harbour side eastern suburb 4 kilometres east of the Sydney central business district. It is the administrative centre of the local government area of the Municipality of Woollahra.

Double Bay takes its title from the bay of Sydney Harbour and refers to the two geographical formations between Point Piper and Darling Point, which are interrupted by way of a miniature point in between. The eastern area is also recognised as Blackburn Cove. It has some of the most luxurious real-estate in Australia and is frequently referred to as "Double Pay", a word coined due to the excessive income of people living there, and the nature of the shopping area which showcases high-end fashion labels.

### Quick Facts

- Double Bay developed soon after preliminary European settlement in 1788. In the early years of the colony, Double Bay was once used as safe haven for fishermen who would frequently fish round the harbour.
- Farming mainly cattle and lettuce a farm had developed and in 1814 it had multiplied to envelop the valleys leading into Woollahra, Bondi Junction, Bellevue Hill, and Point Piper.
- Charles A. Messenger used to be the sculling champion of Victoria in about 1875, Rowing Champion of New Zealand in 1881, and a contender for the sculling championship of the world in 1887.
- Charles Amos also constituted the first boatshed on Sydney Harbour at Balmain, from where it was later transferred through flotation to Double Bay. The early existence of Double Bay revolved around the Messenger boatshed.
- In the 1960s, Australia was not really the most refined place to be. What was tagged as cuisine used to be a plate of over-cooked sirloin and two veg. And coffee usually came out of a jar.
- Then came the homesick Hungarian and Polish immigrants, keen to create a slice of the old country in Sydney. They gave Double Bay its cafe culture, introducing alfresco dining, schnitzel, veal knuckle and the kind of espresso that would keep you up for three nights.
- Throughout the following two decades, Double Bay was the place to be if you desired to taste a little slice of Continental Europe. It also grew to become the place to be if you were affluent and weren't afraid to flaunt it. Double Bay used to be Ferrari, Beluga, Bollinger, Rolex, shoulder pads, and ladies who lunched.
- The closure of the former Ritz Carlton Hotel at 33 Cross Street in 2009 was a huge blow to the bay. Before that it was a glittering palace for celebrities to park their Louis Vuitton: Princess Diana, Madonna, and INXS' Michael Hutchence who infamously died there in 1997.
- In fact, it was the hotel's rebirth as the InterContinental in 2014 – the sole five-star luxury hotel outside the CBD – that launched Double Bay's renaissance. Since the opening of the InterContinental, great things have been occurring in Double Bay, and the suburb has obtained its mojo back.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **East Sydney - Bondi Beach**

Bondi Beach is located 7 km (4 mi) east of the Sydney central business district, in the local government area of Waverley Council, in the Eastern Suburbs. "Bondi" or "Boondi" is an Aboriginal word meaning water breaking over rocks or noise of water breaking over rocks. The suburb includes many cafes, restaurants and resorts, with breath-taking views of the shore.

### Quick Facts

- William Roberts, the road builder, received a grant of land in the region in 1809.
- In 1851 Francis O'Brien and his father-in-law Edward Smith Hall, bought 200 acres (0.81 sq.km) of the Bondi area that included the beach frontage, which was named "The Bondi Estate."
- Eventually, between 1855 and 1877, O'Brien purchased his father-in-law's share of the property, renamed it "O'Brien Estate" and left the beach as well as the surrounding land accessible to the public for a picnic area and resort.
- O'Brien threatened to stop public beach access as the beach became more renowned. The Municipal Council thought that the Government had to intervene to establish the beach as a public reserve. Bondi Beach became a public beach on 9 June 1882.
- Five people drowned and more than 250 people were saved after a series of big waves struck the beach and pulled people back in the sea on 6 February 1938, a day that became known as "Black Sunday".
- Bondi Beach was long a centre for attempts to fight indecency in beach attire. The shore was a focal point of this 1907 Sydney bathing costume protests, organized to oppose proposed dress standards for beachgoers.
- While traveling in Australia during 1951, American movie actress Jean Parker made global headlines when she was escorted off the beach after the infamous beach inspector Aub Laidlaw determined her bikini was too skimpy.
- In the 1980s, topless bathing had become more mundane in Bondi Beach, particularly at the southern end.
- In 2007 the Guinness World Record for the greatest swimsuit photo shoot was set at Bondi Beach, with 1,010 participants – all women wearing bikinis.
- In 2008, Bondi Beach was inserted to the Australian National Heritage List.
- In 2011 Waverley Council effected free Wi-Fi for Bondi Beach visitors. Service is free but there are limitations on access periods and download rate. The Bondi Chamber of Commerce encouraged the concept as locals and visitors can connect with local business, events and other community and company events.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## East Sydney - Watsons Bay

Watsons Bay is a harbour side, eastern suburb situated eleven km north-east of the Sydney central business district, in the local government area of the Municipality of Woollahra.

Watsons Bay sits on the end of the South Head peninsula and takes its title from the sheltered bay and anchorage on its western side, in Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour). It offers views across the harbour to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Gap is an ocean cliff on the eastern side with views to Manly at North Head and the Pacific Ocean. Vaucluse is the sole neighbouring suburb, to the south.

### Quick Facts

- The first inhabitants of the place that is now regarded as Watsons Bay, were the Cadigal people. The Cadigal referred to the region as Kutti.
- Aboriginal Australians from the Cadigal people camped, fished and gathered shellfish around what is now Watsons Bay and there are several carvings of animals, fish and people on the rocks overlooking the ocean and harbour.
- The first European landfall in Sydney Harbour took place in Watsons Bay on 21 January 1788, when Captain Phillip and his troops came ashore and camped overnight at Camp Cove on their way to pick out the location for what is now Sydney.
- A lookout was constructed on the cliffs of Watsons Bay by colonists in 1790 before a signal station took over the job of notifying the town and local pilots of the arrival of ships in 1838.
- To the south of the signal station stood Macquarie Lighthouse, which was later substituted by a close to identical building.
- After the well-known 1857 wrecking of the Dunbar on the rocks beneath The Gap, the unique red and white striped Hornby Light was also constructed.
- Initial fortifications for the defence of Sydney Harbour were erected on the cliffs of Watsons Bay in 1854, although they were just armed in the 1870s.
- The First World War resulted in additional military installations on the cliffs, and an artillery battery was brought at some stage in the Second World War. Military training has long taken place in the area, and HMAS Watson was instituted in 1945 and is now Australia's main maritime warfare training base.
- In the early days of the colony, residences were built in Watsons Bay for authorities and officers working at the lookout, signal station and lighthouses, as well as in the military. Many early members of Sydney's elite also opted to live in the area, which includes two nineteenth century NSW premiers.
- Aside from government officials, fishermen, private pilots, tradespeople, shopkeepers and hoteliers made their home in Watsons Bay, with its populace increasing from three dozen in 1828 to 122 in 1841.
- In the 1850s the land around Camp Cove was subdivided into domestic plots and many of the weatherboard houses constructed around this time still stand.
- By 1880 the village of Watsons Bay comprised sixty four households, three churches, a school, grocers and a post office.
- Because of its remarkable splendour, sightseers have constantly flocked to Watsons Bay, with a regular ferry service commencing in the 1870s, leading to the institution of a variety of hotels as well as the tea rooms which later became Doyle's Restaurant.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

- A tram line to the Signal Station was built in 1903 and eventually extended to Watsons Bay before it stopped running in 1960.
- Ferries continue to be the most common way for Australian and tourists alike to see the natural beauty, ancient heritage and allure of Watsons Bay.
- When strolling up the steps to The Gap at Watsons Bay, there is flat ground in between two sets of steps. This continues for a fair way in each directions, and is the old tram right of way.
- The present-day State Transit route 324 follows the route of the former tram line as far as the point where the tramway turned off Old South Head Road into Gap Park. The bus and tram routes meet again close to the terminus in Military Road.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Blue Mountains National Park**

The Blue Mountains National Park is a protected country wide park that is found in the Blue Mountains area of Eastern Australia. Visitors come from around the world to explore the natural wonders of the Blue Mountains and discover the Blue Mountains National Park. Home to more than one hundred species of eucalypts, lots of bird species, dozens of reptile and amphibian species, and countless rare and ancient plants, this pristine wilderness is one of NSW's most well-known natural attractions.

The region has a rich colonial and Aboriginal past, and the park is part of the traditional country of Aboriginal tribes such as Daruk, Gundungurra, Wiradjuri and Dharwal.

### Quick Facts

- The genesis of the national park was a vision by early conservationist Myles Dunphy for a Greater Blue Mountains National Park in 1932.
- This covered large areas of what are nowadays the Blue Mountains National Park, and the Wollemi, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai, Gardens of Stone, and Thirlmere Lakes, along with other smaller nature reserves; all managed by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.
- In September 1959 the Blue Mountains National Park was gazetted covering 63,000 hectares (160,000 acres).
- In 2000 it was included as part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.
- The Blue Mountains National Park is the most central of the eight protected areas within the World Heritage Site and it forms part of the Great Dividing Range.
- In 1999, 37 walking tracks were added to the State Heritage Register, extending from Glenbrook and the Nepean River in the east; to Mount Tomah in the north; to Wolgan Valley and Newnes in the northwest; to Jenolan Caves and Oberon in the west; and in the south, several walks leading down the plateau from Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls.
- The 267,954-hectare (662,130-acre) national park is located at about eighty kilometres (50 mi) west of Sydney, and the park boundary is pretty irregular as it is split up by roads, urban areas and inholdings.
- Despite the name 'mountains', the area is an uplifted plateau, dissected by a variety of larger rivers.
- The highest point in the park is Mount Werong at 1,215 metres (3,986 ft) above sea level; whilst the low point is on the Nepean River at 20 metres (66 ft) above sea level as it leaves the park.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Wentworth Falls**

Wentworth Falls is a town in the Blue Mountains region, located about a hundred kilometres (62 mi) west of the Sydney central business district, and about eight kilometres (5.0 mi) east of Katoomba, Australia on the Great Western Highway, with a Wentworth Falls railway station on the Main Western line. The town is at an elevation of 867 metres (2,844 ft) AHD.

Wentworth Falls is a three-tiered waterfall fed by way of the Jamison Creek, close to the town of Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains area of New South Wales, Australia. The falls are reachable through the National Pass Walking Trail and the Overcliff/Undercliff Walk. The total height of the waterfall is 187 metres (614 ft). Near the falls, there is a rocky knoll that has a wide variety of grinding grooves created by rubbing stone implements on the rock to form and sharpen them. These marks have been decided to be signs of early human habitation nearby.

### Quick Facts

- Kings Tableland, a plateau positioned at the south-east nook of Wentworth Falls, consists of areas of major archaeological importance, which includes the Kings Tableland Aboriginal Site.
- This location is particularly important to the Gandangara, Darug and Wiradjuri people. Used as a gathering place for at least 22,000 years, the area includes a range of cultural features, such as engravings, axe-grinding grooves, modified rock pools and an occupation shelter.
- In 1813 Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Wentworth discovered a way across the Blue Mountains, arriving at what is now Wentworth Falls on Sunday 22nd May 1813.
- The job of constructing a path throughout the mountains was awarded to William Cox, in 1814. In six months he and his convict workers - who were rewarded with their freedom - constructed the road 4 metres wide and 170 kms long, from Emu Plains to Bathurst.
- Wentworth Falls was initially recognized as Weatherboard because of the weatherboard construction of the first structure in the area, Weatherboard Inn. This persisted till 1879 when the name grew to become Wentworth Falls due to other towns already having the name of Wentworth.
- In July 1867, the first railway ride to the Blue Mountains left Penrith and travelled through to Weatherboard Station, where the train ended.
- In 1879, the village took its title from a system of waterfalls close by, which in turn were named for William Charles Wentworth, one of the men that headed the exploration to cross the mountains in 1813 and a pal of John Jamison.
- On the north side of the town is Pitt Park. The Bathurst Traveller, later renamed Weatherboard Inn, was built here in 1826. The site, next to the railway station, is now the site of the village war memorial.
- Charles Darwin was said to have stayed there in 1836, taking walks from the inn along Jamison Creek to the cliff's edge, about which he wrote 'an immense gulf opens via the trees, with a depth of perhaps 1,500 feet'.
- The route he took was formally opened as the Charles Darwin Walk in 1986 and leads from Wilson Park across the School of Arts building to the northern escarpment of the Jamison Valley.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains – Leura (Loora)**

Leura is a scenic town located in the Blue Mountains. Lots of individuals flock to Leura in summer time to participate in festivals and experience the lovely scenery. The town of Leura offers a fantastic weekend getaway from Sydney. Shopping can be a highlight within this Edwardian-styled village, several shops have been converted out of older cottages into boutiques and clothing stores. There's even a shop in a church! Leura is not only referred to as being a tiny town within the Blue Mountain area, but it places itself apart with its own flair and cosiness that cannot be imitated.

### Quick Facts

- The original inhabitants of this area were all the Dharug people which dates back more than 12,000 years ago.
- Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth are the first Europeans to enter the Region in 1813.
- George Evans followed in November 1813 and the road-building party of William Cox in the succeeding year.
- A gatehouse (No 9) was erected in 1867-1868 where the line intersects with the Western Road near the current Sorensen Bridge. The first permanent European residents of the location were the gatekeepers.
- The discovery of coal at the Jamison Valley, under the current Leura golf course in the early 1880s, resulted in the establishment of a colliery.
- The first appearance of the name Leura was on a plan of subdivision, on January--March 1881, for property south of the railway line owned by Frederick Clissold. On his plan Clissold named a unique waterfall Leura Falls.
- There are many theories as to the origins of this name Leura, but the discussion has by no means been settled. In 1881, when the land was offered for sale as the Leura Estate, the name was well on its way to general acceptance.
- The Leura House, at the top of the northern side of the Western Road, was probably the first large home constructed in the late 1880s.
- A railway platform was built in 1891, and the Leura Coffee Palace followed on 1892 Christmas Eve.
- A brand new railway station was constructed in 1902.
- Majority of the town's commercial buildings from 1900 to the 1920s are found in Leura Mall, the town's central business district.
- In 2016, Leura was in the list of top 50 most underrated, exotic, very historical and postcard-worthy small towns in Australia.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Three Sisters**

The Three Sisters located at Echo Point Katoomba, around 2.5 km in the Great Western Highway, is visited by millions each year. It's a rare rock formation in the Blue Mountains, north of the Jamison Valley. The Sisters were formed by land erosion. The sandstone of the Blue Mountains was eroded over time by wind, rain and rivers, causing the seas surrounding the Jamison Valley to be slowly broken up.

Nearby is the Waradah Aboriginal Centre. Wander through the gallery that features prominent Aboriginal artists or enjoy the pretty wildflower display and traditional artefacts'. You can also explore the walking trails in Echo Point. Echo Point is also the gateway to a lot of fascinating nature walks.

### Quick Facts

- The Aboriginal dream-time legend has it that three sisters, 'Meehni', 'Wimlah' and 'Gunnedoo' lived in the Jamison Valley as members of the Katoomba tribe. These gorgeous young ladies had fallen in love with three brothers in the neighbouring Nepean tribe but tribal law prohibited them to marry.
- The brothers were not happy to accept this decree and so they decided to capture them away to be wed causing a major tribal battle.
- Since the lives of the 3 sisters were seriously at risk, a witch doctor from the Katoomba tribe decided to turn the three sisters into stone to keep them safe from harm.
- While he had planned to reverse the spell once the battle was finished, the witch doctor himself had died.
- As only he could reverse the spell to return the three sisters to their human form, the ladies stayed in their magnificent rock formation as a reminder of the struggle for generations to come.
- Dr Martin Thomas, in his work "The artificial horizon: imagining the Blue Mountains", obviously shows that the "aboriginal" legend is a fabrication created by some non-Aboriginal Katoomba local, Mel Ward, presumably to add interest to an indigenous landmark.
- The story started to spread in the late 1920s or early 1930s and is unfamiliar prior to that date.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Echo Point**

The Echo Point is a lookout located in the land of the Gundungurra and Darug People, about 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) south of Katoomba. It attracts an estimated 1.5 to 2 million visitors every year. The actual lookout offers a view to Three Sisters, Mount Solitary and the rock formation known as the Ruined Castle.

Covering acres of green mountains, valleys, and remarkable views, the Blue Mountains look they've stepped straight out of a storybook. Boasting some of Australia's most surreal ambience, they prove to be a well-known destination for tourists on the hunt for incredible scenery and jaw-dropping panoramic views. One of the best places to capture the surroundings in a panoramic shot is from this elevated hotspot, where you can gaze out across velvet-looking mountains towards the legendary Three Sisters monuments and the National Park as it unfolds beneath you.

### Quick Facts

- Originally named Tri Saxa ('three stones') Point by its colonial viewers – its Aboriginal title was not recorded – Echo Point did not specifically entice early scenic tourists.
- Between 1879 and 1925 it was part of an industrial site with mines for shale and coal running between Narrow Neck and Mount Solitary. Huge flying foxes and cliffside cable tramways transported ore and employees – who also had encampments in the valley – to the town above.
- While the Blue Mountains train line opened in 1876, the same year Katoomba (previously recognised as 'The Crushers') was formally named, the point remained part of Sir Frederick Darley's 'Lilianfels' property till 1908, that means that visitors had to negotiate non-public access.
- Nevertheless, there used to be enough activity in the area's points of interest for it to be renamed in 1890 as 'Echo Point', whilst the three stone pillars grew to be the 'Three Sisters'. In this way it used to be part of a common story, as an imported European romanticism embodying the 'grand dreams of elsewhere' modified sites in the mountains into 'sights'.
- Nearby lookouts were named Tarpeian Rock and Sublime Point, whilst the natural rock formation on Mount Solitary grew to become acknowledged as the 'Ruined Castle'.
- Tourists were very much part of this process, describing dawn, dusk and climate from the area's different lookouts in deathless prose, which they despatched to publications such as the Blue Mountains Echo.
- Echo Point's reputation has additionally made the place a site of excessive commercial activity. Since 1945 the Hammon family's Scenic World complex has drawn vacationers to the valley's western edge.
- In 1998 the Blue Mountains City Council commissioned plans for a primary redevelopment of the town with the intention of reducing site visitors and making the location more pedestrian-friendly.
- In 2003, the refurbished Echo Point opened. Its significant new drum lookout six meters above the historic projecting platform, presents a 270-degree view; new balustrade lighting, seating and interpretive signs intend to 'create a sense of anticipation' and enhance the 'climax experience'.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Scenic World Blue Mountain**

Scenic World Blue Mountains is a private, family owned tourist attraction found in Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, about one hundred kilometres west of Sydney. Scenic World is home to 4 attractions, the Scenic Railway, the Scenic Skyway, the Scenic Cableway and Scenic Walkway a 2.4 km elevated boardwalk through ancient rainforest. It holds a special place in Australian tourism and is the country's most visited, privately owned tourist attraction.

The company has gained numerous awards over the years, consisting of a Telstra Business Award and a Third Generation Family Business award from Family Business Australia. Scenic World has been certified as an Advanced Ecotourism organization through Eco Tourism Australia.

Journey on the world's steepest incline railway, drift between cliff tops on the glass-floored Skyway suspended 270 metres in the air, descend into the historic Jamison Valley through Cableway, discover Jurassic rainforest alongside the 2.4 kilometres walkway - the longest boardwalk in Australia.

### Quick Facts

- Celebrating 70 years in 2015, the Hammon Family constructed Scenic World in 1945, when Harry Hammon and his sister Isobel Fahey purchased the lease of the Katoomba Colliery Limited.
- The lease was formerly held by the estate of the original landholder John Britty North, who had opened up the coal and shale mines at Katoomba in the 1880s.
- Operating as a working mine since 1928, for many years Katoomba Colliery had supplemented its profits through carrying passengers on weekends and public holidays.
- For a sixpence a time, visitors ought to travel the incline in a purpose built 14-passenger vehicle named 'The Mountain Devil'.
- Upon buying the lease, Harry and Isobel resolved to operate the old incline railway entirely as a passenger vehicle. By that time, the vehicle been rebuilt to transport 28 passengers and was electrically hauled.
- To cater for this new clientele, the former Colliery site wanted substantial improvement. A souvenir shop and tea room were constructed and massive clean-up works completed.
- Subsequent decades saw many different considerable improvements. In 1958 the Scenic Skyway – Australia's first cable car – was constructed, traversing the Katoomba Falls amphitheatre.
- In 1960, Scenic World opened the first revolving restaurant in Australia.
- In 1974, the Scenic Railway upgraded to lift fifty six passengers, then again to eighty four passengers in 1994.
- In 2000 the Scenicender, later re-named the Scenic Cableway, was built. This segment of improvement covered the development of the Scenic Walkway – 1.8 kilometres of elevated boardwalk thru formerly inaccessible temperate rainforest in the Jamison Valley.
- The Scenic Skyway was rebuilt in 2004 to transport seventy six passengers. It boasts the world's only electrostatic glass floor, turning from opaque to transparent as it travels 270 metres above the Jamison Valley floor.
- The Scenic Walkway was expanded to 2.4 kilometres and the Hammon family has re-purchased the lease to all dining selections on the premises.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Katoomba Scenic Railway**

Discover the thrill of a fifty two degree incline (128% incline) riding the Scenic Railway. It's the steepest railway in the world (Guinness Book of Records), and initially part of the Katoomba mining tramways developed between 1878 and 1900. The steepest area of track is contained within a total distance of 310 metres (1,020 ft).

The world renowned Katoomba Scenic Railway used to be a part of a network of tramlines constructed to deliver coal and kerosene shale from mines up to the main railway. The funicular railway line descends through sandstone cliffs, through a rock tunnel beside Orphan Rock, then emerges to marvellous views and lush fern-filled rainforest.

### Quick Facts

- John Britty North registered "Katoomba Coal Mine" in 1872.
- In 1882, a loading platform known as North's Siding was opened close to Gundar St, and a network of tramways developed from there. These comprised what is now the Scenic Railway.
- Locating kerosene shale at Ruined Castle, he registered "Katoomba Coal & Shale Co. Ltd" in 1885. German engineers had been employed to assemble an aerial ropeway.
- Known as the "Flying Fox", it ran from the Ruined Castle, beyond the Jamison Valley, to the engine bank (near the upper terminus of the Scenic Railway). It collapsed just after six months; the wreckage is nevertheless strewn throughout the valley. The company quickly went into liquidation.
- The Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company took over the Glen Shale Mine in the Megalong Valley &, right after, the Ruined Castle mines. They were determined to focus their efforts on the Glen Shale Mine. A huge miner's settlement sprang up in Nellies Glen with general store, bakery, butchery & public Hall.
- A miner's track, now the Golden Stairs, ascended the eastern side of Narrow Neck from where a track of sorts led into Katoomba. Another precipitous descent, Dixon's Ladder, led down to the Nellies Glen hotel.
- By 1895 both mines had been winding down, & Katoomba's shale oil enterprise was deserted by 1903.
- In 1925, the Katoomba Colliery was registered, with the intention of re-opening the coal mine at the base of the cliffs. Coal was to be offered to the Katoomba Electric Power-house, and to hotels, residents etc. They set about rehabilitating the cable-haulage way from the cliff-top to the valley below; this would later grow to be the Scenic Railway.
- The first passengers, a team of weary bushwalkers, were carried in a coal wagon, in the late 1920's. Management realised the monetary potential, and had seats assembled onto some coal skips.
- The Depression, & the closure of the Katoomba Electric Power-house, spelt the demise of the coal mine. From about 1933, the company focused on the tourist trade, setting up a passenger car known as the Mountain Devil.
- Following the mining company's liquidation after World War 2, the part of the operation related with the cliff railway was bought by Mr Harry Hammon, the only person to post a tender. It was the late Harry Hammon, & his son Phillip, who turned the steam driven mining incline into present day computer-controlled tourist railway.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Jamison Valley**

Located amongst the velvet surroundings of the Blue Mountains, the Jamison Valley makes up a part of the Coxs River system, a complex structure of canyons and valleys that sprawl out in the region. You can journey there from Sydney, which is about 100km away, and the valley lies just a few kilometres from Katoomba, a well-known hotspot within the Blue Mountains. Jamison Valley proves to be a famous point for travellers because it boasts breathtaking views and green landscapes, as well as a rich history and a plethora of activities to do.

Thanks to its magnificent mountain scenery, the Jamison Valley is best-known for its variety of bushwalks that sprawl out thru the dense forests, past natural phenomena, and amongst awe-inspiring panoramas. Across the northern escarpment there are a wide variety of popular hikes, which include the Darwin walk, as well as a handful of unnoticed tracks that walkers have been trying to get restored for years. You can also discover a selection of easy, lovely walks that follow the cliffs near Leura and Katoomba, and then there's the Federal Pass, a busy route that flows past the foot of the mountains. Bushwalks around the Ruined Castle, Mount Solitary, Kings Tableland, and Wentworth Falls also prove to be widely infamous with active travellers. To make the most out of the experience, you can camp all around the area, which offers sheltered hotspots to set up your tent and soak up the scenery. Whether you decide to camp or not, though, Jamison Valley is the best place to get up close and personal with Australia's splendid natural landscape.

### Quick Facts

- The historical timeline of the Jamison Valley spans back thousands of years. It is concurred to have been owned by the Aboriginal Gundungurra peoples, who are rumoured to have resided in the vicinity for nearly 50,000 years.
- The Jamison Valley was named by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in honour of Sir John Jamison (1776-1844), a distinguished landowner and physician who visited the Blue Mountains with the governor in 1815.
- Later, as nearby towns were starting to develop, the British naturalist Charles Darwin toured the area. He stayed at the Weatherboard Inn in Wentworth Falls in 1836, and undertook a stroll along Jamison Creek to the escarpment of the Jamison Valley, where he was impressed by the views.
- His route is now memorialized as Darwin's Walk, beginning in Wilson Park, Wentworth Falls, and following Jamison Creek to the escarpment.
- Coal mining in the valley began at around 1872 by John Britty North, with large-scale infrastructure (Katoomba Scenic Railway) used to overcome the terrain.
- The only mountain in the valley is Mount Solitary, which sprawls throughout the south of the valley from west to east. It is joined to Narrow Neck Plateau by a low ridge which is also the site of the Ruined Castle, a rock formation that is famous with bushwalkers. Immediately east of Mount Solitary is a property referred to as Kedumba Farm, which is no longer used as a farm.
- The valley is densely forested, with eucalypt forest over most of its expanse and occasional pockets of semi-rainforest in gullies, where water is concentrated.
- The northern escarpment is deeply serrated, having been carved up by watercourses over thousands and thousands of years.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

- Watercourses consist of Jamison Creek, Valley of the Waters Creek, Gordons Creek, Leura Falls Creek, Kedumba River and Causeway Creek.
- There are also several waterfalls, which include Wentworth Falls, Empress Falls, Vera Falls, Gordon Falls, Leura Falls and Katoomba Falls.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Blue Mountains - Hotel Blue Restaurant**

Hotel Blue is the perfect setting... for a murder! Open fireplaces, ornate chandeliers and vintage flocked wallpaper evoke the allure and character of a bygone era... an era of mystery and intrigue, when wealthy uncles died and left fortunes to distant relatives....

If you are planning a one of a kind celebration, searching for something novel, something unique, something enjoyable and quirky that you and your friends will remember for years to come, a really memorable birthday bash or family gathering, an unforgettable school reunion or office Christmas party, or a stylish hens' night that you can absolutely invite your future mother-in-law to, then look no further!

### Quick Facts

- Hotel Blue & Conference Centre, in partnership with Host A Murder, holds Murder Mystery events as a one-of-a-kind entertainment solution for group events. Choose from a selection of cleverly written, themed murder mystery games, full of thrills and intrigue, and entire with some of the most hilarious characters you've ever come across! Get into the spirit and show up in costume – you would possibly be a rich heiress, a debonair gangster or a saucy flapper girl! While you savour a luxurious banquet in Hotel Blue's elegant, in-house Sisters Blue Restaurant, your host will set the scene of the murder, introduce the different characters in the game and drop tantalising clues to slowly lead you to the identity of the murderer. Each of your guests will be assigned a character to play, and everyone's a suspect! By the end of the evening, one of your guests will be exposed to be the killer, so trust no one – not even yourself!
- The minimum group size is 10 people and the price is \$90 per person inclusive of a banquet dinner.
- Not feeling so adventurous? Mr Jin's Chinese Restaurant at Blue Hotel serves authentic Chinese cuisine and is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try the House specialities which include spicy Taiwanese-style Kungpao chicken and mapo tofu (spicy tofu stew with beef & pork mince and fresh chilli). Old favourites like cashew chicken, Mongolian beef, sweet-and-sour pork and honey prawns are also on offer, as well as western favourites like Scotch fillet, chicken schnitzel and fish & chips.
- Accommodation is also available at the hotel as well as space for group function booking. Enjoy traditional oriental flavours served with down-to-earth mountain style hospitality.
- Enjoy free live jazz or blues in the Parlour Bar & Lounge at Hotel Blue every Friday and Saturday evening, a local loved for its lively and inviting ambience. Graze on snacks from the bar or pop by for authentic Chinese food at Mr Jin's Chinese Restaurant. The Parlour Bar at Hotel Blue celebrates local produce from the food to breweries and regional vineyards with cider from Bilpin, Orange's Badlands pale ale and award-winning wines from nearby Orange and Mudgee. The decor of the hotel is modelled on the classic art deco period with timber panelling and ornate antique features like the chandelier and furniture.
- Set in an understated building close to the A32 highway, this lively hotel is 1 km from Katoomba train station and 2 km from the Three Sisters rocks featured in an Aboriginal legend.
- The comfortable rooms provide free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minibridges, and tea and coffeemaking facilities
- Complimentary breakfast is available. There's a luxurious lounge bar serving 1920s-inspired cocktails and hosting regular live music events, plus a casual restaurant specialising in Chinese food, and a cafe playing silent movies.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## South Sydney - Sea Cliff Bridge

The Sea Cliff Bridge is a balanced cantilever bridge positioned in the northern Illawarra vicinity. The AUD\$52 million bridge connects the coastal villages of Coalcliff and Clifton. Featuring two lanes of traffic, a cycleway and a walkway, the bridge is a highlight of the scenic Lawrence Hargrave Drive. The bridge is positioned just south of Sydney on the New South Wales South Coast and forms part of the Grand Pacific Drive that runs 138-km from the Royal National Park at Loftus in South Sydney to Nowra on the South Coast.

The 665m bridge runs out over the water away from the rock face and is held up by concert pylons that are buried deep in the sea bed below. The bridge twists and turns around the cliff faces presenting brilliant views looking up, north in the direction of Bald Hill and out to the sea. About three quarters of the way along is an information board telling the story of the area, the original road and its dangers and the construction of the new bridge.

### Quick Facts

- The drama that led up to the advent of the bridge began in July 2002 when the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) announced a six-week closure of the street to clear loose rocks.
- Things were by no means the same after this closure - which would be the first of many over the next few years.
- By the end of 2002, the RTA felt the road posed a great deal of a danger in the wet and developed an ordinance that it would be closed any time 25 millimetres of non-stop rain fell. They even mounted boom gates on both ends to prevent people from passing through.
- Between December 2002 and June 2003 rain had forced the road closed no fewer than 10 instances - usually for several days at a stretch.
- In mid-2003, Roads Minister Carl Scully closed the road for two-and-a-half years whilst the government was coming up with a solution.
- A two-and-a-half year closure was devastating news to establishments on the southern side of the closure, who had been losing money hand over fist each time the road was blocked off. By the time the bridge was opened, some businesses would go broke, whilst others changed hands.
- It was also an inconvenience for parents south of the closure who had kids attending school on the other side of the 900-metre divide.
- In December 2005, the long-term dismay at the closure of Lawrence Hargrave Drive turned to excitement as the Sea Cliff Bridge eventually opened.
- Schoolgirl Makenzie Russell – who won a contest to come up with the title of the bridge – cut the ribbon on December 11th with NSW Premier Morris Lemma.
- Then 10,000 people who had received the right to walk over the bridge in a widely famous Mercury competition started crossing from north to south.
- Since then, many, many humans have made that drive, locals, tourists and even ad makers.
- A decade later, the bridge still pops up in advertisements for cars, petrol and whatever else that needs a captivating location. The bridge is a well-known area for love padlocks.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **South Sydney - Austinmer Beach**

Austinmer is a northern village of Wollongong that sits in the northern Illawarra region, south of Stanwell Park and straight away north of Thirroul. The town's foremost beach is Austinmer Beach, a patrolled surf beach and a famous tourist beach. A second smaller and unpatrolled beach lies directly to the north of Austinmer beach.

Austinmer Beach is just a 25-minute drive up north of the central business district. It is positioned off Lawrence Hargrave Drive, with stores lining the western side and a giant car park and park between the beach and the Drive. The Surf Club and other facilities occupy the southern half of this 250 metre long beach. The fairly small beach is wedged between two low headlands and their massive rock platforms. Two huge rock pools lie on the southern rock platform. It receives waves averaging 1.4 metres, which result in two strong permanent rips against the rocks at each end. The beach is surrounded by majestic Norfolk Pines which makes it not just beautiful but gives shade over patches of grass and over a few picnic tables. Enjoy a little picnic beneath one of the pines before hitting the cool and invigorating waves.

### Quick Facts

- The title Austinmer was formally used in 1895. Originally this location was referred to as Sidmouth.
- It was referred to as Sidmouth after the name of the residence constructed there by Robert Marsh Westmacott 1837. Sidmouth used to be the name of Robert Marsh Westmacott's hometown, in Devon, on the Channel coast of England. The place grew to be a seaside resort like its counterpart in England.
- By the 1860's a small rural settlement had developed in the vicinity and was known as North Bulli.
- The name was modified to Austermere with the opening of the North Illawarra Coal Company's mine.
- As Sir John Leckey's estate at Moss Vale was also recognized by this name, the spelling Austinmere was adopted by the local newspapers in 1887.
- The name linked to Henry Austin, one of the three Directors of the Board of the Illawarra Mining Company.
- When the railway platform was constructed in September 1887 the name Austinmer was placed upon it, omitting the last 'e'.
- Fifty years ago Austinmer was one of the many coastal coal mining villages which lay to the north of Wollongong. With the decline of coal in the town and the arrival of a regular electric train service to Sydney it rapidly acquired a certain elegant charm. Commuters decided it was within their price range and still near enough to Sydney.
- Austinmer lies between an amazing coastline and astonishing backdrop of the Escarpment. It is framed by rocky headlands to the North and South, and surrounded by aromatic Norfolk Pines.
- The pines are found at Austinmer beach. They are a group of Araucaria heterophylla about forty years old and they provide a landmark and fortify the identity of beaches.
- The vegetation consists of mixed eucalyptus forest association, sup-tropical rain forest, Canary Island Palm trees, smaller trees, open shrubbery understorey, predominantly of the family Proteaceae, Epacridaceae and Papilionaceae.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## South Sydney - Kiama Town

Kiama is a coastal town one hundred twenty kilometres south of Sydney in the Illawarra. One of its predominant tourist spots is the Kiama Blowhole. Kiama presents numerous well-known surfing beaches and caravan parks, and several alfresco cafes and restaurants. Its proximity to the south of Sydney makes it an eye-catching vacation spot for a wide range of day-trippers and tourists looking to stay for a couple of nights.

### Quick Facts

- The region around Kiama was initially occupied by the Wodi Wodi tribe of the Tharawal Aborigines who knew this area of the coast as 'Kiarama-a' or 'Kiar-mai'. No one is certain what the phrase meant. Meanings including 'where the sea makes a noise' (an apparent reference to the blowhole) exist but so too do 'fertile area', 'mysterious spirit' and 'plenty food: good fishing ground'. It is regarded that the Wodi Wodi referred to the blowhole as 'Khanterintee' which may have implied 'mysterious noise'.
- Kiama used to be the site of two sturdy volcanic flows, known as the Gerringong Volcanics, which came out of Saddleback Mountain, now a collapsed volcanic vent.
- The Kiama Blowhole is part of an erosion process on the more recent rock, formed into columnar basalt, or latite.
- During the early settlement of eastern Australia, the Kiama region was settled by wheat farmers, because the soil was volcanic and rain-swept not like most of Australia.
- Early Jamberoo was the population centre from about 1830 to the 1860s and when the wheat failed to grow, the farmers switched to dairying. Kiama was one of the birthplaces of the Australian dairy industry with the first Dairy Factory (The Kiama Pioneer Factory) and first Dairy Co-operative in Australia.
- During this period Kiama grew to be the perfect example of 'chain migration' in Australia as many assisted migrants came from Northern Ireland on clearing leases and subsequently half of the marriages in the Kiama Anglican Church in a hundred years had Northern Irish Protestant ancestry.
- Kiama's subsequent population growth was powered by its quarries, which increased hastily in the early years of the 20th century. Many Irish Catholics laboured in the Kiama quarries.
- The Kiama Pilot's Cottage, now a local history museum, was completed in 1881 and the Kiama Lighthouse in 1887.
- Kiama truly hit its growth time in this period, from 1890 till the Great Depression in 1927, when many of the quarries closed.
- Over time tourism and housing growth turned Kiama into a dormitory suburb (where people travelled away to work) and summer tourist spot.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **South Sydney - Flagstaff Hill Fort**

Flagstaff Hill Fort is a former military fortress at Flagstaff Point, Wollongong. Constructed between 1890 to 1891, the fort was constructed with a disappearing gun emplacement. The fort was dug-out of the hill by face brick walls and then earth was placed over the tunnels. The citadel was meant to supersede a battery of sixty eight pounders to supply a deterrent to a potential Russian attack upon Wollongong Harbour.

The Wollongong Head Lighthouse was not only the first new lighthouse in New South Wales since 1903 but also the first to set up fully automatic flashing lights. The tower is built of reinforced concrete to withstand the strong winds and splashing waves where it stands on the eastern side of Flagstaff Point.

### Quick Facts

- In 1879 the steamship 'Havilah' landed these 4.6 tonne, 68 pounder cannon as part of Wollongong Harbour defences in opposition to the risk of possible Russian attack. The cannon were designed to fire a shell weighing 68 lb (31 kg) up to 1.60 km. They lay unused by the harbour for 18 months without mountings and ammunition. They were ultimately positioned near this site by the local volunteer artillery group. Endeavour Drive now covers the original position.
- The gun was commissioned and first fired in 1892. The gun emplacement was supplied with two range finder positions.
- However, by the mid-1880s it became apparent that enemy cruisers could bombard the port out of range of these outdated guns.
- In 1890 a larger gun was placed in a concrete pit close to the summit of Flagstaff Hill. Underground rooms sheltered the ammunition and the gunners.
- By 1893 further fortifications were carried out on Smith's Hill west of Harbour.
- The Wollongong Head Lighthouse was built close to the fort in 1938. It is also recognized as Flagstaff Lighthouse or Flagstaff Point Light, is an active lighthouse positioned adjacent to the heritage-listed Wollongong Harbour precinct in Wollongong, a coastal city south of Sydney. It overlooks the Tasman Sea from the top of Flagstaff Point, directly east of the city centre.
- Wollongong is the only area in the east of Australia to have two lighthouses placed in close proximity of each other, the other one being Wollongong Breakwater Lighthouse.
- Due to its vantage point, it is a famous picnic-come-scenic spot by locals, tourists and college students from the nearby University of Wollongong.
- The light is coloured white and red. White with a 4.5 second duration is seen through a hundred degrees, whilst red is seen through eighty degrees. The latter indicates the presence of shallow water.
- On 7 January 2000, the Wollongong Head Lighthouse was listed as a local government heritage building for being the first fully automatic electric lighthouse in Australia.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## South Sydney - South Head

The Sydney Heads (also regarded as the Heads) are a series of headlands that form the 2 km (1.2 mi) broad entrance to Sydney Harbour. North Head and Quarantine Head are to the north; South Head and Dunbar Head are to the south; and Middle Head, Georges Head, and Chowder Head are to the west and within the harbour. The Heads are contained within the Sydney Harbour National Park.

Some attractions found on the heads are heritage-listed on the Australian National Heritage List; such as the Hornby Lighthouse, positioned on South Head, Australia's third-oldest lighthouse; Macquarie Lighthouse, Australia's first lighthouse, positioned 3 kilometres (1.9 mi) to the south on Dunbar Head; and the former Quarantine Station on North Head.

### Quick Facts

- South Head is the peninsular and sandstone headland that marks the entrance to Port Jackson.
- Before 1788 it was intensively used by Aboriginal tribes as a base for settlement, fishing, shellfish collection, art and related rituals.
- From the first European settlement onwards, the cliffs of South Head had been the landmark for arrival at Sydney.
- A lookout and later a signal station were installed to notify the early colony of arriving ships, and over time a flag staff, stone tower, night cauldron and the Macquarie lighthouse were constructed to signal to incoming ships.
- The history of South Head was marked by shipwrecks (leading to the erection of a 2nd lighthouse) and over a century of fortifications to protect the harbour, before the region grew to become a national park and recreation area. It has long been one of the city's most visited places.
- The area extends from Outer South Head (where the Macquarie lighthouse is) to Inner South Head (where the Hornby lighthouse is), a region which consists of The Gap and HMAS Watson and is wrapped around the village and suburb of Watsons Bay. The title South Head is nowadays frequently used to describe Inner South Head.
- In 1790 Outer South Head was chosen by the European settlers as the best site to signal incoming ships, and to signal news of their return to Sydney.
- By August 1790 Governor Phillip had decided a more noticeable marker was necessary to direct arriving ships to the new settlement, and a brick column on a base of locally quarried stone was erected on the high land adjacent to the flag staff and just south of the shelter of the lookout staff.
- After World War I, the focus shifted further to South Head. In 1927, of ten guns installed to shield Sydney harbour, one was at the signal station and two at Inner South Head, with additional two installed in reserve. The military acted to close South Head to fishermen. The School of Artillery close to The Gap from 1895 to 1938 had its own practice batteries.
- The region between Inner South Head and Camp Cove, wrapped around HMAS Watson, grew to become part of the Sydney Harbour National Park in 1977 which allowed its conversion into a leisure area. This area includes entry to Hornby light and the remnant fortifications, Lady Bay (a nudist beach), as soon as 'Lady's Haul'. Outer South Head is a series of parks with a coastal path and plaques which attest to the importance of this small stretch of land in the history of Sydney.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## **Central Coast - Norah Head Lighthouse**

Norah Head Light is an active lighthouse found at Norah Head, a headland on the Central Coast, close to Toukley. It is the final lighthouse of the James Barnet style to be built, and the last remaining staffed lighthouse built in New South Wales. Perched on a headland, the lighthouse takes in mind-blowing ocean vistas and is the Central Coast's most dazzling icon. A walking track skirts around the side of the lighthouse and leads to stairs which climb down to the rock platform beneath and to Lighthouse Beach.

The Latin motto etched on the door glass at the entry to the tower translates to Once Perilous, Now Safe. The tower stands 27m high and there are ninety six stairs to the top. The stairs are in 4 stages (the first three stages are the same grade and the last stage is a bit steeper and narrower). The structure is made of pre-cast concrete blocks made on-site and local aggregate. The ground floor is tiled and there is a bluestone balcony and gunmetal railings.

### Quick Facts

- In the late 18th Century, transport between Sydney and Newcastle used to be perilous. Thick fog, fierce gales, jagged rocks and black-out conditions frequently encountered along the coast, claimed the lives of many seamen.
- Edward Hammond Hargraves, a distinguished Norville resident (credited with initiating the first Australian Gold Rush in 1851) commenced the impetus for a lighthouse after witnessing a number of shipwrecks along the coast such as the coal-carrier Esperanza in 1868. The loss of the steamer Gwydir in 1884 hardened the resolve of maritime officials to build a light at Norah Head.
- The light station was officially designed by Charles Assinder Harding but credit for the architectural style was taken by James Barnet, considered by some as the father of colonial architecture in NSW. Barnet designed the Sydney GPO and more than 1400 other public structures in the Colony.
- The lighthouse was the third to be developed using new standardised building techniques for remote light stations. Some credit these new practices for paving the way for the construction of other remote lights around Australia.
- Barnet modelled the light station on the first Macquarie Lighthouse at South Head, Sydney. He designed the building with the concept of utilizing pre-cast concrete blocks made on-site and local aggregate. Hallmarks of his layout can also be seen in the tiled floors, bluestone balcony and gunmetal railings.
- Construction of the Lighthouse building started out on the 26th February 1901 by day labour and the Public Works Department, below the authority of C.W. Darley and C.A. Harding. The building was finished in 1903 at a cost of about 24,000 pounds.
- The Lighthouse was opened on 15th November 1903 by the Department of Harbours and Rivers Superintendent. Also in attendance were the Principal Engineer and Branch Officer, the Public Works Department Architect, Photographer and Inspector.
- The light was first illuminated at 7.10 p.m. pm the 15th November and the first keepers were W.H. Williams (Principal Keeper), H. Hanson (1st Assistant) and Soloman Kells (2nd Assistant).
- Norah Head Lighthouse celebrated its Centenary on 15 November 2003. Apart from the electrification of the light, few modifications have been made to the lighthouse ever since it was established. Buildings on the headland contain the Lighthouse, Flag Locker, Head Keepers Quarters and the first and second assistant light keeper's quarters as well as stables.

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# APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS (ADS) SCHEME

## Snowy Mountains - Blue Lake

The Blue Lake is in Kosciuszko National Park and is one of the 4 cirque lakes on mainland Australia. Features such as cirque lakes and moraines are shaped with the aid of glaciers. Cirques are moulded at the head of a glacier on the highest, most sheltered mountain faces, when the glacier digs out a semicircular basin as it pushes down the slope. These basins might later fill with water when the glaciers recede, forming a cirque lake. Blue Lake, Lake Cootapatamba, Albina Lake and Club Lake are the only cirque lakes on mainland Australia. The biggest of these is Blue Lake, which is sixteen hectares in size and 28 metres deep and it boasts the freshest water in mainland Australia due to its low salt content. The other three, Cootapatamba, Albina, and Club, are shallower and are held completely by terminal moraines.

Blue Lake's valley includes the best-developed glacial features in the alpine region of New South Wales. It was regarded as a wetland of international significance on 17 March 1996 when a 320-hectare (790-acre) area, comprising the lake and its surrounds, consisting of nearby Hedley Tarn, was designated Ramsar Site 800 under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. The lake lies amidst the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves.

### Quick Facts

- The last predominant geological event that formed the Australian Alps was the Great Ice Age, which ended about 10,000 years ago, though glaciation (the overlaying of the land by permanent ice) was not widespread in the Australian Alps - proof of it is constrained to the southeast facing slopes above about 1500 metres on the main range of Kosciuszko National Park.
- A wide variety of landscape features in this vicinity had been made by the effects of the ice lying on, and moving over, the land.
- The lake was shaped when glaciers flowing from the Great Dividing Range converged and carved out a basin in the granite bedrock.
- It receives water from Blue Lake Creek, originating from Mount Twynam and from snowmelt.
- The floor of the lake is frozen for about 4 months of the year; it overflows in spring with the melting of the snow while, all through the remainder of the year, the water level remains stable.
- Blue Lake is sixteen hectares (40 acres) in area and 28 metres (92 ft) deep.
- Its floor is completely open water, with boulders extending towards the shore in the east and north east, and the other shores being pebbly.
- It lies about 28 kilometres (17 mi) west of Jindabyne and 3.5 kilometres (2.2 mi) north of Charlotte Pass at an altitude of 1,890 metres (6,200 ft) above mean sea level, in a glacial landscape.
- The lake is surrounded with alpine herb field, heaths, bogs and fens home to a wide variety of native flora and fauna, which include rare, vulnerable and endangered species, as well as various types of invertebrate confined to the alpine zone.
- Rare or threatened plant life discovered within the Ramsar site consists of the branched carraway, wedge oschatzia and snow-wort, as well as the endangered ecological community of Montane Peatlands and Swamps.
- Threatened animals found there comprise the mountain pygmy possum and broad-toothed rat.

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Sydney - NSW Arts Gallery <a href="https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/about-us/">https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/about-us/</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_Gallery_of_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_Gallery_of_New_South_Wales</a>
East Sydney - Rose Bay <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_Bay,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_Bay,_New_South_Wales</a>
East Sydney - Double Bay <a href="https://www.sydney.com/destinations/sydney/sydney-east/double-bay">https://www.sydney.com/destinations/sydney/sydney-east/double-bay</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_Bay,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_Bay,_New_South_Wales</a>
East Sydney - Bondi Beach <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bondi_Beach">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bondi_Beach</a>
East Sydney - Watsons Bay <a href="https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/watsons_bay">https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/watsons_bay</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watsons_Bay,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watsons_Bay,_New_South_Wales</a>
Blue Mountains - Blue Mountains National Park <a href="https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/blue-mountains-national-park">https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/blue-mountains-national-park</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Mountains_National_Park">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Mountains_National_Park</a>
Blue Mountains - Wentworth Falls <a href="https://www.bluemts.com.au/info/towns/wentworth-falls/">https://www.bluemts.com.au/info/towns/wentworth-falls/</a> <a href="https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/wentworth-falls-track">https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/wentworth-falls-track</a> <a href="https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/wentworth-falls-20040208-gdkq9t.html">https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/wentworth-falls-20040208-gdkq9t.html</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wentworth_Falls,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wentworth_Falls,_New_South_Wales</a>
Blue Mountains - Leura Town <a href="http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/leura">http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/leura</a> <a href="https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/the-town-of-leura-in-the-blue-mountains">https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/the-town-of-leura-in-the-blue-mountains</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leura,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leura,_New_South_Wales</a>
Blue Mountains - Three Sisters <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Sisters_(Australia)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Sisters_(Australia)</a> <a href="https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/dream-time-story-of-the-3-sisters-in-the-blue-mountains">https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/dream-time-story-of-the-3-sisters-in-the-blue-mountains</a>
Blue Mountains - Echo Point <a href="https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/the-best-walks-from-echo-point">https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/the-best-walks-from-echo-point</a>
Blue Mountains - Scenic World Blue Mountain <a href="https://www.scenicworld.com.au/explore-our-world/heritage/">https://www.scenicworld.com.au/explore-our-world/heritage/</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katoomba_Scenic_World">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katoomba_Scenic_World</a>
Blue Mountains - Katoomba Scenic Railway <a href="https://www.scenicworld.com.au/experience/scenic-railway/">https://www.scenicworld.com.au/experience/scenic-railway/</a> <a href="https://www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/rail/ksr/kat_tram.htm">https://www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/rail/ksr/kat_tram.htm</a>
Blue Mountains - Jamison Valley <a href="https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/history-and-hiking-in-the-jamison-valley/">https://bluemountainstoursydney.com.au/blog/history-and-hiking-in-the-jamison-valley/</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamison_Valley">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamison_Valley</a>
Blue Mountains - Hotel Blue Restaurant <a href="http://hotelblue.com.au/dining-bar/">http://hotelblue.com.au/dining-bar/</a>
South Sydney - Sea Cliff Bridge <a href="https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/3555254/a-history-of-the-sea-cliff-bridge-in-photos/">https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/3555254/a-history-of-the-sea-cliff-bridge-in-photos/</a> <a href="https://thetrustedtraveller.com/walking-sea-cliff-bridge/">https://thetrustedtraveller.com/walking-sea-cliff-bridge/</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Cliff_Bridge">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Cliff_Bridge</a>
South Sydney - Austinmer Beach <a href="http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/onlineresources/suburbprofiles/Pages/Austinmer.aspx">http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/onlineresources/suburbprofiles/Pages/Austinmer.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/austinmer-nsw">http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/austinmer-nsw</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austinmer,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austinmer,_New_South_Wales</a>

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South Sydney - Kiama Town <a href="http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/library/explore-kiama/local-history-articles/kiama-a-brief-history">http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/library/explore-kiama/local-history-articles/kiama-a-brief-history</a> <a href="http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/kiama-nsw">http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/kiama-nsw</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiama,_New_South_Wales">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiama,_New_South_Wales</a>
South Sydney - Flagstaff Hill Fort <a href="https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Flagstaff_Hill_Fort">https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Flagstaff_Hill_Fort</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flagstaff_Hill_Fort">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flagstaff_Hill_Fort</a>
South Sydney - South Head <a href="https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/south_head">https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/south_head</a> <a href="http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/visit">http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/visit</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sydney_Heads">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sydney_Heads</a>
Central Coast - Norah Head Lighthouse <a href="http://www.lighthouses.org.au/lights/NSW/Norah%20Head/Norah%20Head.htm">http://www.lighthouses.org.au/lights/NSW/Norah%20Head/Norah%20Head.htm</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norah_Head_Light">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norah_Head_Light</a>
Snowy Mountains - Blue Lake <a href="http://www.geomaps.com.au/scripts/bluelakeglacial.php">http://www.geomaps.com.au/scripts/bluelakeglacial.php</a> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Lake_(New_South_Wales)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Lake_(New_South_Wales)</a>

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