



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



lemoncat1

City of Romance

Sydney, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Sydney Snapshot 9

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: A couple of days for couples - a lovely old-fashioned B&B, along with the top sites of Sydney, capped with dinner in a spectacular revolving restaurant. The next day, ghost your way across town in a hot-air balloon, before eating at one of Sydney's finest Vietnamese restaurants.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Sydney

DAY NOTE: First thing to do is check into your hotel. Simpson's of Potts Point is a lovely place for a couple. Potts Point is a character filled suburb nestled close to the harbour, with beautiful early 20th century architecture. The place itself is a nice old place, atmospheric and with all the thrills. After a little while settling in and getting comfortable, set out into the world. Stop 1: Yum Cha at Bodhi Restaurant. The Yum Cha here is superb, and the location even more enviable, with the restaurant located under the combined shadows of some large fig trees and St Mary's Catholic Church, and outdoor tables allowing you to make the most of Sydney's wonderful weather. Take your time - romance cannot be hurried, after all. Later, wander down through the beauty of the Royal Botanical Gardens, where there are wonderful views out over the Opera House and The Harbour Bridge. As it turns to dusk, either grab a cab or the train out across the bridge to Blues Reserve, from where you can watch the spectacular show as the sun sets over the city - the views are amazing. Perhaps the only place that can best the views from Blues Point Reserve are those from the Summit restaurant, hundreds of metres above street level. The food is good at this revolving restaurants, the cocktails expert, and it makes for a wonderful place to end you evening.

in breakfast, but around trendy Surry Hills, the suburb where it is to be found, there are any number of cafes that do breakfasts just as good. Afterwards, head off towards Parramatta, the geographic heart of Sydney, where you will find Balloon Aloft. A balloon trip is a wonderful way to see the city, quiet and whispering above to roaring metropolis. You will come down to earth with a whole other perspective on the place. Later on, wander through the buzzing Vietnamese metropolis within a metropolis of Cabramatta. A particularly good place to eat here is Thanh Binh - expertly prepared food that caters to a European palette.

	Simpson's of Potts Point Former mansion, luxurious hotel
	Sydney Harbour Bridge Dominating harbour structure
	Summit Restaurant (The) Revolving restaurant
	Bodhi Restaurant Vegetarian Yum Cha
	Royal Botanic Gardens Sublime parkland overlooking Sydney Harbour and Opera House
	Blues Point Reserve Great views

	Bills 2 Modern Australian Café Food +
	Thanh Binh Vietnamese with a hint of France
	Balloon Aloft Up in the air and over the moon in a hot-air balloon

Day 2 - Sydney

DAY NOTE: Make sure that you sleep in, of course. But a time comes when one must rise, and Bills 2 is as good a place as any to ease that pain - it is run by a local celebrity chef, and is popular. It does good alfresco modern Australian, and specialises

Day 1 - Sydney

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: First thing to do is check into your hotel. Simpson's of Potts Point is a lovely place for a couple. Potts Point is a character filled suburb nestled close to the harbour, with beautiful early 20th century architecture. The place itself is a nice old place, atmospheric and with all the thrills. After a little while settling in and getting comfortable, set out into the world. Stop 1: Yum Cha at Bodhi Restaurant. The Yum Cha here is superb, and the location even more enviable, with the restaurant located under the combined shadows of some large fig trees and St Mary's Catholic Church, and outdoor tables allowing you to make the most of Sydney's wonderful weather. Take your time - romance cannot be hurried, after all. Later, wander down through the beauty of the Royal Botanical Gardens, where there are wonderful views out over the Opera House and The Harbour Bridge. As it turns to dusk, either grab a cab or the train out across the bridge to Blues Reserve, from where you can watch the spectacular show as the sun sets over the city - the views are amazing. Perhaps the only place that can best the views from Blues Point Reserve are those from the Summit restaurant, hundreds of metres above street level. The food is good at this revolving restaurants, the cocktails expert, and it makes for a wonderful place to end you evening.

contact:

tel: 61 2 9356 2199

fax: 61 2 9356 4476

<http://www.simpsonspottspoint.com.au>

location:

8 Challis Avenue
Sydney NSW 2011

1

Simpson's of Potts Point

DESCRIPTION: Steeped in history, this hotel began life in 1892 as Potts Point Mansion. Today, it is an excellent example of restored architectural heritage in quiet, leafy surroundings. Featuring small, yet luxurious boutique style, the rooms are well comfortable offering everything you need to relax and you will receive a warm and friendly welcome from the superb staff. From here you are within easy walking distance of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the city beyond. Offering an excellent location for exploring the delightful bays of the Eastern Suburbs, you will always plenty of atmosphere and tranquility in this beautiful area.

8 Challis Avenue, tel. 61 2 9356 2199
Trent van der Jagt, Sydney Local Expert
© NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +61 (0)2 9255 1788

fax: +61 2 9240 1122

<http://www.bridgeclimb.com>

location:

Cumberland St
Sydney NSW 2000

2

Sydney Harbour Bridge

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Head up one of the pylons for a (free) spectacular harbour view.

DESCRIPTION: Building the Harbour Bridge was a big deal back in the 20s and 30s, when it was being planned - half of Sydney's oldest and most historic area, the Rocks, had to be bulldozed, and that was just a start. Sydney needed its bridge: up til then it had gotten by with the dozens of ferries to-ing and fro-ing from the populous northside over to Sydney proper. And what a bridge it got, the spectacular 'Coat Hanger' (as the locals know it), as seen on a billion postcards.

© NileGuide



contact:

tel: 61 2 9247 9777
fax: 61 2 9251 2539
<http://www.summitrestaurant.com.au/>

location:

264 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

hours:

Lunch: Noon-3p Su-F, 6p
onwards M-Su

3 Summit Restaurant (The)

DESCRIPTION: For over thirty years the Summit has been a Sydney institution, officially opened by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1968. It was re-opened in November 1998 after a four-month refurbishment. Situated one hundred and sixty five metres above Sydney Harbour, as the world's largest revolving restaurant, it is the perfect place to view Sydney on a clear day. One can view the vista and sample the menu, which comprises a selection of 'Summit Classics' such as King Prawn Cocktail, Smoked Salmon Mousse and Duckling à l'orange. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 61 2 9360 2523
fax: +61 2 9360 1443

location:

2-4 College St
Sydney NSW 2000

hours:

9a-midnight daily.

4 Bodhi Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: Bodhi Resturant is the big sister of Bodhi café (which is to be found underneath Central Station). This is certainly a case of big-sister being cooler – Bodhi Resturant is a truly wonderful find, having a great menu and an even better location. The majority of the seating is outside, underneath shade canopies and while dinner is served, and is very good, yum cha is really the thing here, with friendly wait-staff bearing all kinds of tasty looking delicacies table to table. "Bring your own" wine, and there is a bar that does cocktails and beer. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: 61 2 9231 8111
fax: 61 2 9231 8054
http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/royal_botanic_gardens

location:

Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney NSW 2000

5 Royal Botanic Gardens

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The view from Mrs Macquarie's chair at sunset is unbeatable.

DESCRIPTION: The Royal Botanic Gardens makes up 30 hectares of parkland wrapping around Farm Cove. Ponds, walking paths, swimming pools, native plants and feature gardens make up most of this gorgeous parkland. Along the way you will also see a number of historic heritage listed structures and buildings which help add to the Sydney history and experience. Some other highlights include the Pyramid Glasshouse, Herb Garden, Fernery, and Rose Garden. It's impossible not to want to explore the park in its entirety as it offers so much. The view Opera House and Harbor Bridge from Mrs Macquarie's Chair is a site to behold. The park also offers free admission and guided walking tours daily.

Mrs Macquaries Road, tel. 61 2 9231 8111
Trent van der Jagt, Sydney Local Expert
© NileGuide



Wikipedia Commons

contact:

tel: +61 (0)2 9255 1788
<http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/2986-blues-point-reserve.asp>

location:

Blues Point Road
Sydney NSW 2060

6 Blues Point Reserve

DESCRIPTION: Come here at dusk with a bottle of wine, and watch the sun set over [erhaps the finest view of Sydney city, from under the shadows of teh bridge, across the harbor, taking in the towers, the sails, and the Opera House. There is a lovely little village behind where you can grab a bite to eat before you head down to the grass. Best access: the McMahons Point Ferry stop - grab a ferry from Circular Quay. And take the chance to develop a view on one of Sydney's most notorious developments: the oddly monolithic residential tower that sits right on the point.
© wcities.com



Sports

Day 2 - Sydney

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Make sure that you sleep in, of course. But a time comes when one must rise, and Bills 2 is as good a place as any to ease that pain - it is run by a local celebrity chef, and is popular. It does good alfresco modern Australian, and specialises in breakfast, but around trendy Surry Hills, the suburb where it is to be found, there are any number of cafes that do breakfasts just as good. Afterwards, head off towards Parramatta, the geographic heart of Sydney, where you will find Balloon Aloft. A balloon trip is a wonderful way to see the city, quiet and whispering above to roaring metropolis. You will come down to earth with a whole other perspective on the place. Later on, wander through the buzzing Vietnamese metropolis within a metropolis of Cabramatta. A particularly good place to eat here is Thanh Binh - expertly prepared food that caters to a European palette.

contact:

tel: 61 2 9360 4762

<http://www.bills.com.au/restaurants/surry.htm>

location:

359 Crown Street
Sydney NSW 2010

hours:

Mo to Su from 07:00 AM
to 04:00 PM, Mo to Su from
06:00 PM to 10:00 PM

1 Bills 2

DESCRIPTION: The eponymous Bill is a well known cooking writer in Australia, known for his casual style, and mastery of al-fresco dining. Bills 1 is nearby, in Darlinghurst and is well known for breakfasts, and it is worth seeking out too. Bills 2 is a little more expensive than the average café, but then the food has a little more effort put into it too... Regulars swear by the signature ricotta hotcakes and corn fritters, not to mention the creamiest scrambled eggs in Sydney. This is a great spot to people watch – in the heart of bohemian/trendy Crown Street - and eat Sydney's most celebrated breakfast. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Bills 2

contact:

tel: 61 2 9727 9729

<http://www.thanhbinh.com.au/>

location:

52a John Street
Sydney NSW 2166

hours:

9a-9p M-Su

2 Thanh Binh

DESCRIPTION: Owner Angie Honh was one of the first restaurateurs to venture from noodle soup to offering a full Vietnamese menu. Habitually busy, especially on weekends, people come from all over the city to sample these dishes. The staff is friendly and the service excellent. The menu includes Barbecue Beef with Vermicelli, Prawn Salad, and Fried Pancake, and some French-style dishes such as Frog's Legs and Quails. © NileGuide



Thanh Binh

contact:

tel: Toll Free: 1800 028 568

fax: +61 2 4655 5757

<http://www.balloonaloft.com/>

location:

Camden Airport, Macquarie
Grove Rd
Camden NSW 2570

3 Balloon Aloft

DESCRIPTION: Hot air ballooning. Nothing compares to it. The eerie silence, the pre-dawn murkiness, the increasing altitude, the awakening day, the privileged perspective, and the sense of earthly release. An hour's drive west of Sydney, before the undulating hills grow steep and turn 'blue', the weekend sky can be littered with giant, elongated spheres of colour seemingly suspended in the crisp country air.

You need to get to Camden airport, or be picked up at your city hotel. Either way it's an early start. Before dawn. Tea and



Photo courtesy Balloon Aloft

coffee. Depending on your lung capacity, you can help with the inflating or stand back and be carried away to another world. You're aloft for about an hour or so, reaching 1,500 feet. On clear mornings, you might be the first person to see the sun hit the continent. Then as day breaks, the landscape emerges; Blue Mountains to the west, rolling rural pasture beneath, and looking east, fringes of Sydney and even outlines of the city's skyline.

On coming back down to earth, breakfast is served. It's amazing what adrenaline does to your appetite. Offers of optional champagne are often taken up, even by non-drinkers. Hot air ballooning. Nothing compares to it. © NileGuide

Sydney Snapshot

Local Info

What's the definition of envy? Sydney. Come to think of it, a few other deadly sins might equally apply. Is it sinful to be greedy? Not here. If you lust after one of the most desirable environments or fancy consuming fine wine and diverse foods, this is your town. After such gluttonous, ravenous and lustful behavior, does lazing on a beach, a boat, a bench or a hotel balcony equate to sloth? Never. Sydneysiders call that 'balance'. And the only wrath you'll likely experience is that of family and friends jealous as hell for not having joined you living it up in Sydney.

Is it any wonder Sydney is often referred to as 'Sin City'? So come prepared. It's such a physical place too. From craggy sandstone cliffs and golden surf beaches, to hidden harbor bay, verdant green gardens and wild national parkland hugging the foreshore, few cities demand as much active, outdoor immersion.

Take a dip in North Sydney pool in the shadows of the Harbor Bridge, watch whales frolic in a secluded inlet, hop on a ferry to Manly, then finish with a surf in the Pacific just in time for lunch. Iconic landmarks- that levitating bridge, that beach, that Opera House with its wings spread like a giant white swan taking flight- make you feel like you've arrived in the most exciting city on earth.

But it's hard to escape that harbor. Why would you want to? Even many of the museums and art galleries have water views. As one of the deepest, largest urban expanses of water in the world, the interlocking fingers of land and sea are

the cultural, historical and spiritual heart of the city. This sleek, sinuous, yacht-flecked waterway somehow never seems far away. "It's beautiful, of course it's beautiful- the harbor," said Mark Twain. "But that isn't all of it, only half of it. Sydney [the physical city] is the other half, and it takes both of them together to ring the supremacy bell. God made the harbor, and that's all right, but Satan made Sydney."

Elsewhere, Sydney looks and feels like an open air museum: the city's complex multicultural history, whether indigenous, colonial or migrant, is evident everywhere: in the sandstone alleyways of The Rocks or facades of stately Victorian buildings, in the Aboriginal rock carvings near Bondi and Manly, in the Vietnamese or Italian restaurants not far from Lakemba mosque.

The wild summer storms that come thundering in from the south generate only some of the city's spark and verve. The fireworks extravaganza of New Year's Eve is hard to equal- anywhere. There is a flourishing arts scene. Hot on the fiery heels of New Year's Eve is the Sydney Festival, a month long cultural feast culminating on Australia Day, 26th January. There are music festivals, short and feature film festivals, the biggest Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in the world, plus a writers' festival. And it's not yet the end of May. With winter comes an avalanche of football codes and other sports. But Sydney doesn't really 'do' winter, at least not in the northern hemisphere sense. July, the coldest month, averages 55-60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Before long, spring blooms, daylight saving looms, bodies begin to tan, the water warms, light brightens and that brash

Sydney persona is back. Call it pretentious, call it brazen, some call it vain; that air of confidence the city exudes. Call it what you like; locals might call it pride. Spend a bit of time here and you'll understand why. What was that definition of envy, again?

© NileGuide

Fun Facts

Sydney State: New South Wales

Country: Australia

Sydney By The Numbers:

Population: 164,547(city);
4,085,578(metropolitan area) Average
Summer Temperature: 22 °C/ 72 °F
Average Winter Temperature: 12 °C/ 53
°F Most Precipitation: 1130 mm/ 44.5 in
Elevation: 6 m/ 20 ft

Quick Facts:

Electricity: 240 volts, 50Hz, angled two or three-pronged plugs Time Zone: GMT/UTC +10 Country Dialing Code: 61 Area Code: 02

Did You Know?

Sydney was first settled by the British in 1788 when 400 settlers and 750 convicts arrived on the First Fleet. The convicts were sentenced to Australia for crimes as small as stealing food.

The name of the Aboriginal people that inhabited Sydney, prior to European settlement, were the Cadigal, who in turn are part of the Darug Nation or language group.

©