



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



lemoncat1

Blue Mountains

Sydney, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Take a few days breather in the bohemian, laid back Blue Mountains.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Sydney

DAY NOTE: Sydney's West is a wonder of multiculturalism, with people from literally hundreds of nations jostling against each other. Amongst the most vibrant communities is that of the Vietnamese, who've brought far more than just food to the country. This is a great tour through Sydney's most Vietnamese suburb, a place where there are plenty of signs that the locals haven't bothered translating into English, and where there is scrumptious fare around every corner. Later on, you could either head back into the city, if that's where you're based, or continue on your way up into the lovely Blue Mountains, to be explored tomorrow. You'll have a full belly, trust us!



Day Trips to Asia

Explore Sydney's Cabramatta district

Day 2 - Sydney

DAY NOTE: The Blue Mountains are about 2 hours drive from Sydney, a majestic range named for the distinctive colour they take from a distance. The way is studded by little towns and communities. At the foot of the mountains is the forgettable service center of Penrith, but further up into the mountains are wonderful towns filled with quaint little B&Bs, such as Katoomba (an old time hippy capital, and certainly the cultural hub of the area) and Blackheath (a quieter town packed with lovely old places). What to do? It depends on your inclination, but the area, being for the most part national park, is bristling with wonderful walks. For the less adventurous, it is possible to drive to the Three Sisters, massive rocks of great importance to the local aboriginal people. From here there are awe inspiring views. If it's raining there are plenty of cafes and curio stores to keep you busy.



Rock Lookout (The)

A taste of the Blue Mountains

Day 1 - Sydney

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Sydney's West is a wonder of multiculturalism, with people from literally hundreds of nations jostling against each other. Amongst the most vibrant communities is that of the Vietnamese, who've brought far more than just food to the country. This is a great tour through Sydney's most Vietnamese suburb, a place where there are plenty of signs that the locals haven't bothered translating into English, and where there is scrumptious fare around every corner. Later on, you could either head back into the city, if that's where you're ba*ed, or continue on your way up into the lovely Blue Mountains, to be explored tomorrow. You'll have a full belly, trust us!

contact:

tel: +61 2 9437 4362

location:

Cabramatta
Sydney NSW 2166

1 Day Trips to Asia

DESCRIPTION: Established by a former school teacher and chef who also holds a degree in Asian Studies, this tour provides the opportunity to explore one of Sydney's most vibrant, multi-cultural precincts. After boarding a bus at either North Sydney or Central Station, participants proceed to Cabramatta where they are divided into small groups headed by a guide with local knowledge. Highlights include a tour of the diverse, local Asian shops selling everything from food to kitchenware, clothing, textiles and jewellery as well a sumptuous lunch. **Cost:** Regular tour (including disabled access) AUD90 per person. © wcities.com

Day 2 - Sydney

QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +61 2 9255 1788

<http://www2.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/parks.nsf/ParkContent/N0004>

location:

Fairlight Road
Sydney NSW 2745

hours:

24 hrs

1 Rock Lookout (The)

DESCRIPTION: Not far from Penrith, the Rock Lookout is in the historic Mulgoa Valley. Part of the Blue Mountains National Park, it was given as a gift to the people in the 1900s. For superb views of the Nepean River simply follow the short track 200m to the Rock Lookout. For the more adventurous, a longer track leads from the car park to Rileys Mountain. Although a little rough at times, the 2.5 kilometer path is fairly easy to tackle. It passes through Eucalypt Forest and swampy heath with some breathtaking views of the Nepean Gorge. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +61 2 4782 2014

fax: +61 2 4782 5787

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

location:

166b Katoomba Street
Sydney NSW 2780

hours:

8:30a-5:30p M-Su

1 Australian School of Mountaineering

DESCRIPTION: If you are interested in abseiling, rock climbing, canyoning, mountaineering or bush survival, this is for you. AMS has been running courses since 1981. Try the Abseiling Adventure, -a one-day beginners course, the two-day Rock climbing course or the Indoor/Outdoor Rock Skills Conversion course. In winter, there are Snow Mountaineering and off-piste Skiing adventures and a week-long Bush Survival and Navigation course. © wcities.com



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?

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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.

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