



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



lemoncat1

# Live Love Sydney - the ultimate weekend

## **Sydney, 2 Days**

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# Guide Description

**AUTHOR NOTE:** All those those things you recognise from photos of Sydney? All the things you've heard of? They're all here in this mini guide to Sydney - and most of them are free.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Sydney

**DAY NOTE:** Harbour Heaven - spend the day around and about on the best - yes - the best, most beautiful harbour in the world.



### Sheraton on the Park

Be treated like a star



### Sydney Harbour Bridge

Dominating harbour structure



### Sydney Opera House

No building epitomizes a city like this breathtaking icon



### Taronga Zoo

Best view and zoo in the world



### Longrain

The best Asian fusion in Sydney

## Day 2 - Sydney

**DAY NOTE:** Bodacious Bondi - After the exhaustion of yesterday's tourist shenanigans, it's time to relax - just a little. Best way to do this day is to start at Bronte Beach and make your way back along the spectacular coastline to Bondi. That way you'll be in the right spot when the sun sinks a little lower and cocktail hour arrives. Until then, loll around on the sun and swim in the crystal clear blue waves - between the flags only!



### Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk

Spectacular coastal walkway linking two iconic beaches



### Bondi Beach

Famous Sydney beach

# Day 1 - Sydney

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Harbour Heaven - spend the day around and about on the best - yes - the best, most beautiful harbour in the world.

### contact:

tel: 61 2 9286 6000  
fax: 61 2 9286 6686  
[http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel\\_detail.html](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel_detail.html)

### location:

159-161 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

## 1 Sheraton on the Park

**DESCRIPTION:** Rising majestically alongside Hyde Park, this hotel is refined opulence with a whiff of Hollywood. You will be treated like a star as you step into the three-storey foyer, with dramatic marble pillars and grand sweeping staircases. Entertainment is all under the one roof and includes the Conservatory Bar, The Gallery Tea Lounge, Botanica Brasserie, Haris on the Park. The hotel also has private terraces, a very efficient multilingual staff, limousine service, and an indoor heated pool. The hotel also has an The Executive Lounge, to meet the needs of the discerning traveler. © wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** This 5 star hotel may not have harbour views but it's possibly superior to its water logged competitors, being close to central train lines as well as the funky shopping and restaurant districts of Oxford Street and Surry Hills.



Hotels.com

### 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

**MY NOTE:** You can walk over it for a price, catch a ferry under it for a few bucks or walk across it for free. Or none of the above, you still can't miss it.



**contact:**

tel: 61 2 9250 7111  
fax: 61 2 9251 3943  
<http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com>

**location:**

Off 2 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**hours:**

Tours daily 9am-5pm (every 30 min.), subject to theater availability

**3 Sydney Opera House**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Twilight in summer on the Opera House forecourt, with the sun setting, the bridge and city in silhouette, and a cool cocktail in hand, is probably about as good as it gets in this lifetime.

**DESCRIPTION:** Few cities have such an iconic building as Sydney's Opera House. Sure, New York has the Empire State, Rome the Pantheon, Athens has the Acropolis, but for out and out modernity, mixed with breathtaking geography, those off-white billowing sails perched on Bennelong Point have to be one of the great studies of architecture in the 20th century. Designed by the Danish architect, Jorn Utzon, after the NSW state government conducted a worldwide competition in the late 50s, the \$10m original budget soon blew out to more than \$100m when it finally opened in 1973. Utzon fell out with the political overseers of the day and quit the project, long before completion.

Though referred to as an opera house, it stages a host of different performance types, including, classical and pop concerts, drama, ballet, comedy, films, talks, and has an exhibition space.

Today it's the cities No 1 tourist draw card and probably the most photographed site in the country. Guided tours (in multiple languages) take you through the labyrinthine innards, including backstage glimpses of some of the theaters.

There are a host of fine eateries and outdoor bars along the forecourt. Twilight in summer, with the sun setting, the bridge in silhouette, and a cool cocktail in hand, is probably about as good as it gets in this lifetime. Seriously! © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +61 (0)2 9969 2777  
<http://www.zoo.nsw.gov.au>

**location:**

Bradley's Head Road  
Sydney NSW 2088

**hours:**

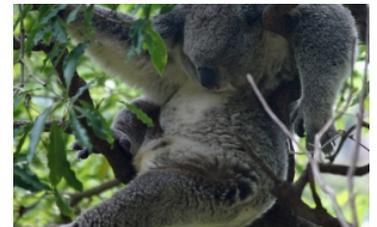
Daily 9am-5pm (until 9pm Jan)

**4 Taronga Zoo**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Come early, particularly in Summer, if you want to get close to the animals at all. And make sure you see the gorillas!

**DESCRIPTION:** Catching the ferry over from Circular Quay for a day at the Zoo is one of the delights of living in Sydney. For surely there is no urban zoo with quite as spectacular a setting as this one, sited on a headland that juts out into the harbor. Catching that ferry can be one of the delights of visiting Sydney, too. For a starter, the collection of Australian animals here is great: all the critters you'd expect - kangaroos and koalas and so forth. And that's just to start, because the zoo also homes all the excellent international beasts a soul could hope for : the elephants and the zebras and the lions and the hippos and turtles and snakes and the weird legless lizards and lemurs and gorillas (they're SO big)...



iansand

It's simply a splendid place to bring kids. Or adults.  
© NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Try to take in one of the 'shows' while you're at the zoo, bird, seal etc - they're well worth it. But bring your own picnic lunch, the food is terrible!

**contact:**

tel: 61 2 9280 2888  
fax: 61 2 9280 2887  
<http://www.longrain.com.au/>

**location:**

85 Commonwealth Street  
Sydney NSW 2010

**hours:**

Lunch: noon-2:30p M-F,  
Dinner: 6p-midnight M-Sa  
(kitchen closes at 11p)

**5 Longrain**

**DESCRIPTION:** Longrain is seriously hip, located between happening Surry Hills and the CBD. With very modern decor, and long tables (don't expect private tete-a-tete!) it boasts some of the best Thai in Sydney. The food is not the cheapest that you will find, but it is impeccable – the best and freshest ingredients prepared expertly and with love; it is widely considered to be one of the best Thai restaurants outside of the Kingdom of Thailand itself. There are no dinner bookings, and diners are asked to wait at the bar. It all happens in a large airy renovated space and is as cool as Sydney comes. Bookings are available only for lunch. And if are in Melbourne and want a touch of Longrain, step in at 44 Little Bourke Street; yes it is yet another Longrain sibling for you! © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Longrain

# Day 2 - Sydney

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Bodacious Bondi - After the exhaustion of yesterday's tourist shenanigans, it's time to relax - just a little. Best way to do this day is to start at Bronte Beach and make your way back along the spectacular coastline to Bondi. That way you'll be in the right spot when the sun sinks a little lower and cocktail hour arrives. Until then, loll around on the sun and swim in the crystal clear blue waves - between the flags only!

### contact:

tel: +61 (0)2 9130 5311

fax: +61 2 9265 9222(Tourist Information)

[http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/things\\_to\\_do/local\\_walks/bondi\\_to\\_bronte\\_coastwalk](http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/things_to_do/local_walks/bondi_to_bronte_coastwalk)

### location:

Start from Bondi Icebergs Club  
Sydney NSW 2026

## 1 Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk

**DESCRIPTION:** If one activity epitomizes Sydney, this could be it. A 4-mile walk on the wild side that literally traverses the rocky cliffs, golden beaches, pristine bays and grassy knolls between two iconic beaches. Doesn't cost a cent; just a few hours of free time. And it's not strenuous; more gently undulating than roller-coaster terrain, but highly exposed in windy weather because you're on the edge of the continent for much of the way. Start at Bondi, behind the Icebergs Club, head south and keep the Pacific Ocean on your left. Joggers and all manner of humanity pass this way. After rounding MacKenzie's Point and Bay, the path rises towards Tamarama Beach. Look out for signs of ancient Aboriginal occupation, including rock carvings depicting migrating whales. Bronte Beach then beckons, with its 1880s ocean baths (Sundays and public holidays were originally reserved for men back then, but times have changed). Many café options along the way can turn the walk into a full day out.

After slicing through a sandstone cutting beyond Bronte, cross the Calga Reserve and tread carefully through Waverley Cemetery, where many notable literary luminaries were laid to rest.

Clovelly comes next. The very narrow inlet and concrete formwork on either side make it look more like a large swimming pool than a beach, though there is plenty of sand stretching inland. Great place to swim and perhaps catch a glimpse of the famous Clovelly Blue Groper that's made its home here for ages.

Finally (or sadly) you reach Coogee, one of the city's safest swimming beaches, and far more laid-back and down market compared to Bondi (which beach isn't, come to think of it?). © NileGuide



Wikimedia Commons

### contact:

tel: +61 (0)2 9130 5311

<http://www.sydney.com.au/bondi-beach.htm>

### location:

Bondi Beach  
Sydney NSW 2026

## 2 Bondi Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** A visit to Bondi should be on every visitor to Sydney's itinerary. It's Australia's most famous beach, and for a reason. Bondi is a massive quarter moon of sand, wedged between two rocky headlands, endlessly pounded by huge ocean waves, its sand draped with sun-lotion slick bodies in various states of undress, kids running around on the sand, the



old guys in their speedos (trans: Australian for male swimming briefs).

When you're tired on the beach, then head in for the hippy cafes, cool kids, boho locals and tourists tourists tourists of the colourful and so, so Sydney streets immediately behind the beach. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Most tourists head straight for the middle of the beach in front of the Bondi Pavilion but if you want to live it like a local head down to the north end where the waves are smaller and the crowd is way way cooler.

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# 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.

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