



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



lemoncat1

Royal National Park

Sydney, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: A two day walk - not too strenuous - taking in wild scenery, rivers, pools and ocean swims. Beautiful.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Sydney

DAY NOTE: Australia is a wild place - and that is easy to forget when you're happily ensconced inside the Sydney city limits. A quick way to break the illusion: head off out to the Royal National Park (the Southern limits of the city) for a few days, though you might just as well visit the Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National park, to the North, or the Blue Mountains to the West. The Royal National Park is the largest in Sydney, and one of the oldest in the world - certainly it is the oldest in Australia. Although you can visit the park for the day, it is far more rewarding to visit overnight. As there is little in the way of accommodation at the park - a YHA at Gaerie Beach, or you can stay in the small township of Bundeena - you are probably best off camping, although this might mean hiring a tent. There are various ways of getting to the park. One is to catch a train to one of three stations that ring the park; another is to drive, and this is perhaps the most convenient, allowing great flexibility - there is a road through the centre of the park. Assuming that you do not have a car however, it is perhaps easiest to find your way to Bundeena, a cute little town that is reachable by public ferry only, and has a smattering of B&Bs and cafes. You can just hang around at the beach here, perhaps heading off for a day walk (there are plenty), but if you are at all adventurous, it might be worth trying your hand at the Coastal Walk - a 30km trek along a spectacular coastline that can be done in 2 or 3 days. Get a good map, look up proper instructions, and remember to prepare properly: always remember - the Australian bush can kill (and does, all the time). In particular, make sure that you have sufficient water. The walk is not particularly difficult, though novices who are not at least reasonably fit might want to think twice. However, if you have a reasonable level of general fitness you should be fine. Highlights of day one include some spectacular views out over the Pacific Ocean from various lookouts, as well as some nice views out over the forests and beaches of the Royal National Park itself. There are also plenty of opportunities to swim in ocean, stream and lake - whichever takes your fancy! The best place to camp is the North Era Bush Campground, which has toilets; however, if you wish you can stay at the YHA at Gaerie beach, which you'll pass. There is also a kiosk (with annoyingly varying hours - so do not rely on it!) where you can grab yourself a treat. At the end of the day, there is nothing so rewarding as relaxing by your tent as a kettle boils you up some tea, and no food tastes as good as that cooked after a long day tramping!

DAY NOTE: Waking in the morning, make yourself some billy-tea (Australian English for tea boiled in a campground), pack up your tent, and keep on tramping. Another day of spectacular views, swims and novel landscapes will finally bring you to Offord, where a convenient lookout gives you one final chance to look back across the 30+ kms of unspoiled wilderness through which you have just walked. From here it is only a few hundred meters to the Offord Train Station, which will usher you out of the park and back into the hustle and bustle - hopefully feeling restored!



Royal National Park

Sydney's largest National Park



Royal National Park

Sydney's largest National Park

Day 2 - Sydney

Day 1 - Sydney

QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: 61 2 9542 0648

fax: 61 2 9542 1420

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Royal-National-Park>

location:

Farnell Avenue
Sydney NSW 2232

1 Royal National Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Spending the night camping will give you plenty more time to soak in the nature.

DESCRIPTION: Covering almost 37,000 acres of the southern coastline, the Royal National Park is Sydney's largest national park by far. To visit the Royal National Park it is less than an hour out of the city. Prepare for a full days outing as they park is enormous and there is so much to see and do. Whether you want to explore surf beaches, water holes and waterfalls, wildlife, or rainforest hikes, the possibilities are endless. If one day just isn't enough you can hire camp sites and pitch a tent for the night, with more time up your sleeve you could even fit in a little canoeing or rowing which you can organise at the park centre. Explore the real Australian bush and rainforest with a full day or two of outdoor adventure and experience first hand Australia's native flora and fauna as well as some amazing untouched surf beaches.

Farnell Avenue, tel. 61 2 9542 0648

Trent van der Jagt, Sydney Local Expert



photo courtesy of 10000birds

Day 2 - Sydney

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Waking in the morning, make yourself some billy-tea (Australian English for tea boiled in a campground), pack up your tent, and keep on tramping. Another day of spectacular views, swims and novel landscapes will finally bring you to Otford, where a convenient lookout gives you one final chance to look back across the 30+ kms of unspoiled wilderness through which you have just walked. From here it is only a few hundred meters to the Otford Train Station, which will usher you out of the park and back into the hustle and bustle - hopefully feeling restored!

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Trent van der Jagt, Sydney Local Expert
© NileGuide



photo courtesy of 10000birds

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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