



Sydney & Around

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Hawkesbury River	135
Blue Mountains	135

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Quay (p113)
- ➔ Tetsuya's (p115)
- ➔ Mr Wong (p114)
- ➔ Ester (p116)
- ➔ Bourke Street Bakery (p116)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Sydney Harbour YHA (p107)
- ➔ QT Sydney (p108)
- ➔ Cockatoo Island (p110)
- ➔ ADGE Boutique Apartment Hotel (p110)
- ➔ Park Hyatt (p107)

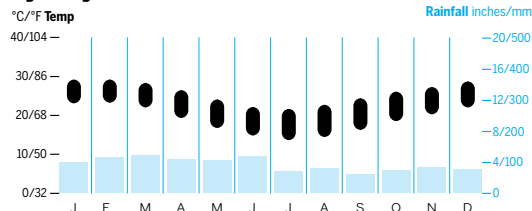
Why Go?

Chances are Sydney will be your introduction to the island continent and, quite simply, there isn't a better one. The city's spectacular harbour setting, sun-kissed beaches and sophisticated sheen make it unique in Australia, while it's outdoorsy population endows it with a confident charm that every city yearns for but few achieve. Surrounded on all sides by either water or national parks, there's literally a wild edge to the city.

It would be reasonable to assume that the areas neighbouring Sydney would be content to bask in the reflected and undeniably golden glow of the metropolis, but that's not the case. From Hawkesbury River deep to Blue Mountains high, each has its own delights. The mountains, in particular, offer magnificent bush-clad vistas and munificent opportunities to snuggle in front of log fires. In the Hawkesbury, the pace of life is as languid as the river itself.

When to Go

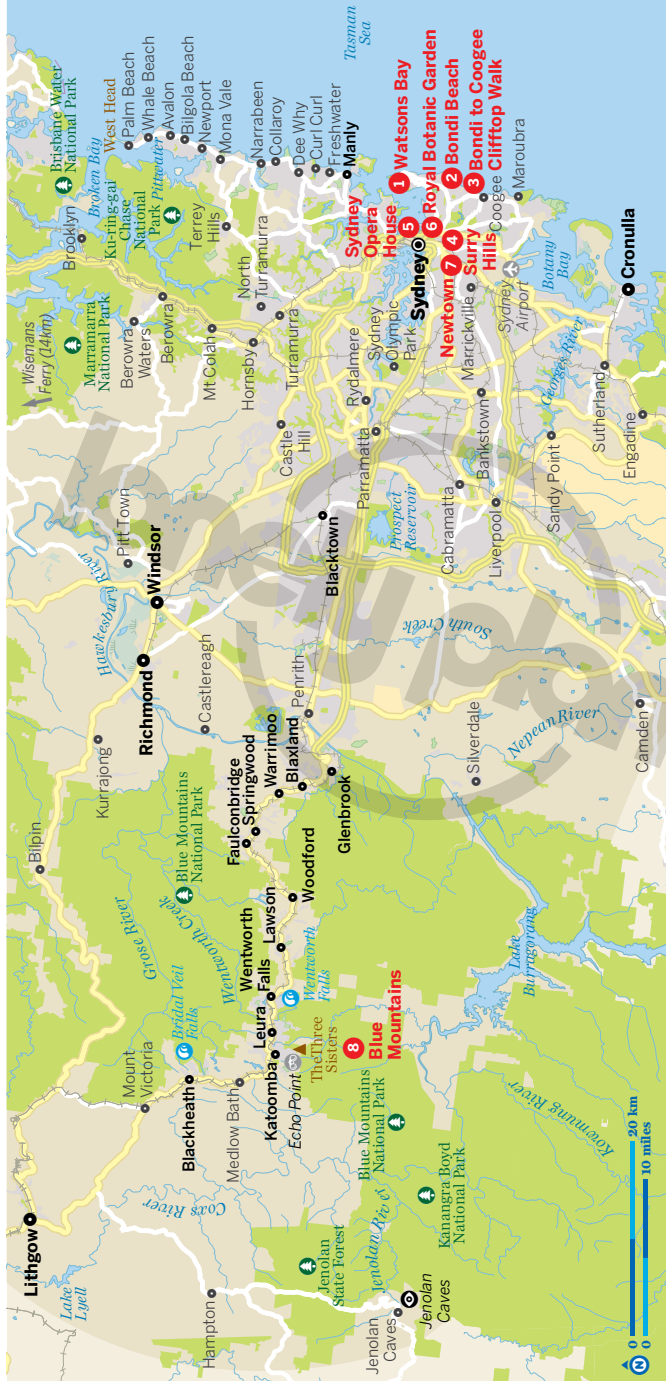
Sydney



Jan The year kicks off with a spectacular fireworks display over Sydney Harbour.

Mar Sydney's summer party season culminates with the Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Jul Enjoy wood fires, wine and winter menus in the Blue Mountains.



Sydney & Around Highlights

- 1 Hopping on one of Sydney's harbour ferries and heading to **Watsons Bay** (p93).
- 2 Whiling away the day on the golden sands of **Bondi Beach** (p93).
- 3 Enjoying the dramatic coastal scenery of the **Bondi to Coogee clifftop walk** (p96).
- 4 Eating and drinking your way through hip **Surry Hills** (p116).
- 5 Attending a performance at the **Sydney Opera House** (p127).
- 6 Strolling the leafy paths of the **Royal Botanic Garden**
- 7 Rummaging through the secondhand stores and eclectic boutiques of bohemian **Newtown** (p131).
- 8 Following a bush trail under dense and ancient forest canopies in the **Blue Mountains** (p139).