

Bondi to Coogee

BONDI | TAMARAMA | BRONTE | CLOVELLY | COOGEE



Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Whiling away the day on the golden sands of **Bondi Beach** (p158), periodically cooling off in the surf and cruising the promenade.
- 2 Revelling in the spectacular coastal scenery of the **Bondi to Coogee walk** (p160).
- 3 Coming face to face with the slippery and scaly locals on the **Gordons Bay Underwater Nature Trail** (p167).
- 4 Grilling up a storm (only figuratively, hopefully) at a **Bronte** (p159) beachside barbecue.
- 5 Waving at the winter parade of whales from the cliffs of **Waverley Cemetery** (p159).

For more detail of this area, see Map p261 and p262 →

Explore: Bondi to Coogee

Improbably good-looking arcs of sand framed by jagged cliffs, the Eastern Beaches are a big part of the Sydney experience. Most famous of all is the broad sweep of Bondi Beach, where the distracting scenery and constant procession of beautiful bods never fail to take your mind off whatever it was you were just thinking about... This is where Sydney comes to see and be seen, preferably wearing as little as possible (it's not an affirming place for those with body-image issues).

The unique flavour of Bondi has been greatly influenced by the Jewish, British and Kiwi immigrants who populated it before it became hip. Housing prices on Bondi's strangely treeless slopes have skyrocketed, but the beach remains a priceless constant.

South of Bondi, Bronte is a steep-sided beach 'burb, its bowl-shaped park strewn with picnic tables and barbecues. Further south is the concrete-fringed, safe swimming inlet of Clovelly, a great place to dust off your snorkel. Next stop heading south is Coogee, an Aboriginal word for rotting seaweed... But don't let that deter you: the beach is wide and handsome, and beery backpackers fill the takeaways and pubs.

Local Life

- ➔ **Beaches** People move to these suburbs to be near the beaches, so don't think they're just for tourists.
- ➔ **Brunch** On weekends brunchsters descend on the cafes from near and far. Once you step back from Bondi's Campbell Pde, Sydneysiders are in the majority.
- ➔ **Clovelly Hotel** A proper neighbourhood pub; most of the punters stroll here from the surrounding streets.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train** The Eastern Suburbs line heads to Bondi Junction, which is 2.5km from Bondi Beach, 3km from Bronte Beach and 4km from Coogee Beach.
- ➔ **Bus** For Bondi take bus 333 (express) or 380 via Oxford St, or 389 via Woollahra; all depart from Circular Quay. For Bronte take bus 378 from Railway Sq via Oxford St. For Clovelly take bus 339 from the Rocks via Central and Surry Hills. For Coogee take bus 373 from Circular Quay via Oxford St or bus 372 from Railway Sq via Surry Hills. Various routes start at the Bondi Junction interchange, including 381 and 382 to Bondi Beach, 361 to Tamarama, 360 to Clovelly, and 313, 314 and 353 to Coogee.
- ➔ **Car** Parking is difficult, especially on weekends – be prepared to park, pay and walk.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Bondi Junction, situated 2.5km from Bondi Beach and 6km from Circular Quay, is the transport hub for the Eastern Beaches. The Eastern Suburbs train line terminates beneath the main bus station, right next to the Westfield shopping complex. Although you can catch a bus all the way from the city to the beach, it's much quicker to catch the train to Bondi Junction and then head upstairs to finish the journey by bus.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Three Blue Ducks (p164)
- ➔ Icebergs Dining Room (p164)
- ➔ Lox, Stock & Barrel (p161)
- ➔ A Tavola (p164)
- ➔ The Shop (p161)

For reviews, see p161 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Neighbourhood (p165)
- ➔ Anchor (p165)
- ➔ North Bondi RSL (p165)
- ➔ Bucket List (p165)
- ➔ Coogee Pavilion (p166)

For reviews, see p165 ➔

Best Places To Swim

- ➔ Bondi Beach (p158)
- ➔ Bronte Beach (p159)
- ➔ Mahon Pool (p164)
- ➔ Clovelly Beach (p159)
- ➔ Coogee Beach (p161)

For reviews, see p158 ➔