

Kings Cross & Potts Point

POTTS POINT | ELIZABETH BAY | WOOLLOOMOOLOO | KINGS CROSS

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Soaking up the sights, sounds and smells of **Darlinghurst Road**, Sydney's seediest strip.
- 2 Ducking into **Llankelly Place** for a coffee, a cocktail and a view of the passing parade.
- 3 Admiring the Georgian grace of **Elizabeth Bay House** (p138), a reminder of grander days gone by.
- 4 Harbour-gazing, fine-dining and celebrity-spotting at **Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf** (p138).
- 5 Kick-starting a night out you'll never forget (or won't remember) at the **Kings Cross Hotel** (p141).



For more detail of this area, see Map p257 →

Explore: Kings Cross & Potts Point

The beginning of Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, the city-fringe suburbs of Woolloomooloo, Kings Cross, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay are a world unto themselves.

Kings Cross is a bizarre, densely populated dichotomy: strip joints, tacky tourist shops and backpacker hostels bang heads with classy restaurants, boozy bars and gorgeous guesthouses. A weird cross-section of society is drawn to the bright lights: buskers, beggars, tourists, prostitutes, pimps, groomed metrosexuals, horny businessmen and underfed artists roam the streets on equal footing. Sometimes the razzle-dazzle has a side-show appeal; sometimes walking up Darlinghurst Rd is a little depressing. Either way, it's never boring.

Down McElhone Stairs from the Cross, Woolloomooloo has also cleaned up its act. Harry's Cafe de Wheels and the navy base are still here, but drunken sailors are in shorter supply.

Gracious, tree-lined Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay seem worlds away. Well-preserved Victorian, Edwardian and art-deco houses and apartments flank picturesque avenues.

Local Life

- **Cafes and pubs** Mainstays include Piccolo Bar (p140) and the Old Fitzroy (p143) but once you get off the Darlinghurst Rd strip, most places are well patronised by locals.
- **Parks** Residents of the apartment blocks of Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay can be seen spreading out towels in tiny Arthur McElhone Reserve (p139) or walking their pampered pooches in Embarkation Park (p139).
- **Potts Point boys** The subculture of well-heeled, well-groomed, gym-buffed gay men who frequent the local cafes and all of the big dance parties.

Getting There & Away

- **Train** Everywhere is within walking distance of Kings Cross station, although the western fringe of Woolloomooloo is closer to St James.
- **Bus** Route 311 hooks through Kings Cross, Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay and Woolloomooloo on its way from Railway Sq to the bottom of town. Routes 324 and 325 pass through Kings Cross (Bayswater Rd) en route between Circular Quay and Watsons Bay.
- **Car** The city council operates a 24-hour car park at 9a Elizabeth Bay Rd in Kings Cross (entry via Ward Ave; per hour/day \$8/40, more on weekends). Street parking is possible, but often metered and limited in duration. Clearways are ruthlessly enforced. Don't leave valuables visible.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Where exactly is Kings Cross? Although technically it's just the intersection of William and Victoria Sts, in reality it's more of a mindset than an exact geographical place. What most people call Kings Cross falls within the suburb of Potts Point; businesses tend to use a Potts Point address if they want to sound classy and Kings Cross if they want to emphasise their party cred. Either way, you'll know Kings Cross when you see it.

Best Places to Eat

- Ms G's (p140)
- Cho Cho San (p140)
- Apollo (p140)
- Otto Ristorante (p141)
- Room 10 (p138)

For reviews, see p138 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- Old Fitzroy Hotel (p143)
- Bootleg (p143)
- Waterbar (p143)
- Jimmy Lik's (p143)
- Sugarmill (p142)

For reviews, see p141 ➔

Best Places to Party

- Kings Cross Hotel (p141)
- Sugarmill (p142)
- World Bar (p142)
- Kit & Kaboodle (p142)
- Soho (p142)

For reviews, see p141 ➔