

# Paddington & Centennial Park

PADDINGTON | WOOLLAHRA | CENTENNIAL PARK | MOORE PARK

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Engaging in a seriously fashionable shopping spree, window or otherwise, in Paddington's boutiques. **Paddington Markets** (p153) is a good place to start.
- 2 Exploring the vast open space within the gated grounds of **Centennial Park** (p146).
- 3 Screaming yourself hoarse at a Roosters game at **Sydney Football Stadium** (p155).
- 4 Hopping between galleries, both commercial and altruistic, including the **Australian Centre for Photography** (p146).
- 5 Spreading out a picnic under the stars at **Moonlight Cinema** (p152).



For more detail of this area, see Map p258 ➔

## Explore: Paddington & Centennial Park

Paddington, also known as 'Paddo', is an elegant, expensive area of beautifully restored terrace houses and steep leafy streets where fashionable folks drift between designer shops, chic restaurants, art galleries and bookshops. Built over an ancient walking track used by the Gadigal people, the suburb's pulsing artery is Oxford St. The best time to visit is on Saturday, when the markets are at their most effervescent. Rugged bushland until the 1860s, Paddington was built for aspiring Victorian artisans, but following the lemming-like rush to quarter-acre blocks in the outer suburbs after WWII, it became one of Australia's worst slums. A renewed passion for Victorian architecture (and the realisation that the outer suburbs were unspeakably boring) led to Paddington's resurgence in the 1960s. By the 1990s real estate here was beyond all but the lucky and loaded.

In contrast to Paddington, Woollahra was never a slum. This is upper-crust Sydney at its finest: leafy streets, mansions, wall-to-wall BMWs and antique shops. Maybe this is your bag; maybe it isn't – either way, an afternoon here is socially enlightening.

South of Oxford St, the Centennial Parklands spread a giant green blanket over 360 hectares, from Surry Hills to Waverley, enclosing a cluster of famous sports venues.

## Local Life

- **Sports** The cheering, swearing hordes come out in force to support the local lads at the Sydney Football Stadium and Sydney Cricket Ground.
- **Five Ways** This five-way intersection north of Oxford St is the real heart of the neighbourhood.
- **Fitness** Sit in Centennial Park for long enough and it will seem like half the neighbourhood has passed by in one big jogging/cycling/in-line-skating blur.

## Getting There & Away

- **Bus** Buses are the main public-transport mode in these parts. Major routes include 355 (Bondi Junction to Newtown via Lang Rd), 373 (Circular Quay to Coogee via Moore Park), 378 (Railway Sq to Bronte via Oxford St), 380 (Circular Quay to Watsons Bay via Oxford St and Bondi) and 389 (Circular Quay to North Bondi via Glenmore Rd, Moncur and Queen Sts).
- **Train** Walk downhill from Kings Cross or Edgecliff station to Rushcutters Bay and the Paddington and Woollahra lowlands; or from Bondi Junction station to the eastern reaches of Centennial Park.
- **Car** Street parking is generally possible, although it's usually metered and limited in duration.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The street numbers on Oxford St reset themselves with each new suburb. Oxford St Darlinghurst becomes Oxford St Paddington east of Barcom St, which becomes Oxford St Woollahra at Jersey Rd. This can be extremely confusing; if you're looking for the Arts Hotel at 21 Oxford St, for instance, make sure you're in Paddington or you may end up ringing the bell of a private house in Bondi Junction or a gay newspaper in Darlinghurst.

### Best Places to Eat

- Four In Hand (p151)
- Chiswick Restaurant (p151)
- Vincent (p151)
- Sonoma (p150)
- Buon Ricordo (p151)

For reviews, see p150 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- Wine Library (p152)
- 10 William Street (p151)
- Royal Hotel (p151)
- Lord Dudley Hotel (p152)
- Four In Hand (p151)

For reviews, see p151 ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- Paddington Markets (p153)
- Ariel (p153)
- Capital L (p153)
- Corner Shop (p153)
- Dinosaur Designs (p154)

For reviews, see p153 ➔