

# Surry Hills & Darlinghurst

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Eating your way around Sydney's gastronomic heartland, starting with the slow-cooked meat at **Porteño** (p127) and then returning again and again to sample the variety of tastes the neighbourhood has to offer.
- 2 Grabbing a cocktail at **Pocket** (p132) and then exploring Darlinghurst's thriving small-bar scene.
- 3 Examining the sobering displays and video testimonies at the **Sydney Jewish Museum** (p124).
- 4 Soaking up the atmosphere of **Oxford Street**, Sydney's gay strip – at its best around Mardi Gras.
- 5 Perking up at **Sample Coffee** (p125) or any of Surry Hills' numerous temples to the coffee bean.



For more detail of this area, see Map p254 ➔

## Explore: Surry Hills & Darlinghurst

Surry Hills bears absolutely no resemblance to the beautiful hills of Surrey, England, from which it takes its name. And these days it also bears little resemblance to the tightly knit, working-class community so evocatively documented in Ruth Park's classic Depression-era novels set here. The rows of Victorian terrace houses remain, but they're now home to a mishmash of inner-city hipsters, foodies and gay guys who keep the many excellent neighbourhood restaurants and bars in business.

The warehouses lining Surry Hills' moody lower canyons, near Central station, are the remnants of the local rag trade and print industry. They now contain coffee shops, art galleries, interior-design outlets and apartments.

Immediately east of the city, Darlinghurst is synonymous with Sydney's vibrant and visible gay community. The shabby lower end of Oxford St has traditionally been Sydney's sequinned mile, and while it's seen better days, it's still home to most of the city's gay venues and the Mardi Gras parade. Downhill from here, Darlinghurst morphs into East Sydney, with what remains of a tiny Italian enclave centred on Stanley St.

## Local Life

- **Brunch** The neighbourhood's cafes are popular at the best of times, but come the weekend, they heave.
- **Sunday sessions** Squeezing the last drop of drinking time out of a weekend is a cherished tradition in these parts. Pubs with beer gardens fill up on sunny Sunday afternoons and stay busy into the evening.
- **Eat streets** Restaurants cluster on Surry Hills' Crown and Holt Sts, Darlinghurst's Victoria St and East Sydney's Stanley St.

## Getting There & Away

- **Train** A train station is seldom more than a kilometre away. Exit at Museum for East Sydney and the blocks around Oxford St; Central for the rest of Surry Hills; and Kings Cross for the northern and eastern reaches of Darlinghurst.
- **Bus** Numerous buses traverse Cleveland, Crown, Albion, Oxford, Liverpool and Flinders Sts. Useful routes include 339 (the Rocks to Clovelly via Albion and Flinders), 355 (Newtown to Bondi Junction via Cleveland), 372 (Central to Coogee via Elizabeth and Cleveland) and 373/377 (Circular Quay to Coogee/Maroubra via Oxford and Flinders).
- **Car** Street parking is usually possible, but it's often metered and limited in duration. Don't leave valuables visible.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of the neighbourhood's hippest eateries – including Bodega (p127), Buffalo Dining Club (p130), House (p127), Lucio Pizzeria (p131), Porteño (p127) and Spice I Am (p125) – don't take bookings. To avoid a lengthy wait, turn up early (around 6pm). You'll need to have your whole party present to secure a table. Otherwise put your name on the list and wait at a nearby bar until called.

## Best Places to Eat

- Devonshire (p130)
- Porteño (p127)
- 4Fourteen (p130)
- Devon (p127)
- Bourke Street Bakery (p125)

For reviews, see p125 ➡

## Best Places to Drink

- Wild Rover (p131)
- Local Taphouse (p132)
- Pocket (p132)
- Hinky Dinks (p132)
- Shady Pines Saloon (p132)

For reviews, see p131 ➡

## Best Gay Venues

- Palms On Oxford (p133)
- Arq (p133)
- Midnight Shift (p133)
- Stonewall Hotel (p133)
- Oxford Hotel (p133)

For reviews, see p133 ➡