

# Sydney Harbour

HARBOUR ISLANDS | WATSONS BAY | VAUCLUSE | DOUBLE BAY | DARLING POINT | BALMAIN | NORTH SYDNEY | MOSMAN

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Catching a ferry to **Watsons Bay** (p71) and spending an afternoon exploring South Head and lying around Camp Cove before claiming a spot at the pub as the sun sinks over the city.
- 2 Gaining a glimpse into the busy world of the **Parramatta River** (p80) from a ferry's prow.
- 3 Sneaking down to secluded **Shark Beach** (p74) for a picnic and a swim.
- 4 Exploring the detritus of industry and incarceration on **Cockatoo Island** (p71).
- 5 Meeting the native critters at **Taronga Zoo** (p81) – the zoo with the view.



For more detail of this area, see Map p242 →

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

There's no need to shell out on a pricey cruise when you can see exactly the same sights from a ferry. Board a ferry to Watsons Bay and then back it up with the river service to Parramatta. You'll cover far more distance than the average cruise and all for a maximum of \$15 on an Opal transport card. Unless of course you prefer your views accompanied by commentary, cocktails, dinner or showgirls...

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Riverview Hotel & Dining (p82)
- ➔ Bathers' Pavilion (p82)
- ➔ Adriano Zumbo (p81)
- ➔ Tea Room Gunnars Barracks (p82)
- ➔ Kazbah (p82)

For reviews, see p81 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Watsons Bay Beach Club (p82)
- ➔ Golden Sheaf Hotel (p82)
- ➔ Welcome Hotel (p82)
- ➔ London Hotel (p82)

For reviews, see p82 ➔

### Best Beaches

- ➔ Shark Beach (p74)
- ➔ Camp Cove (p71)
- ➔ Balmoral Beach (p81)
- ➔ Parsley Bay (p74)
- ➔ Lady Bay (p74)

For reviews, see p71 ➔

## Explore: Sydney Harbour

Sure, it's a stretch to call this large, disparate area a 'neighbourhood', but the harbour is such an integral part of the Sydney experience that we felt it was worth highlighting in this way.

Catch a ferry at Circular Quay for a short hop around the lower North Shore, or allocate half a day to exploring Watsons Bay or heading upriver to Parramatta. Sydney's wealthiest homes are huddled around the harbour in exclusive nooks such as Vaucluse, Point Piper and Darling Point in the Eastern Suburbs and Mosman on the North Shore. Even former working-class bastions such as Balmain, west of the city, are now among the city's most desirable addresses.

Due to its military use, large chunks of the scrub-covered coast have been left much as the First Fleet would have found it. The navy still controls some of the land, but most has been turned over to Sydney Harbour National Park. If you fancy a wilderness walk in the heart of the city, pick a slice to explore and jump on a ferry.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Ferries** There are worse ways of getting to work than cruising on the harbour. For those living close to the water, this is the commute of choice.
- ➔ **Beaches** Many of the harbour beaches are local treasures, frequented only by those who live in the immediate surrounds.
- ➔ **Wharves** Dedicated fisherfolk congregate at their favourite spots to try their luck at hooking the big one.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Ferry** Most of the places around Sydney Harbour can be reached by ferries from Circular Quay, the major exceptions being Vaucluse and Balmoral.
- ➔ **Train** Useful stations include Circular Quay, Edgecliff (for Double Bay), Parramatta, Milsons Point, North Sydney and Waverton (for Balls Point).
- ➔ **Bus** Buses are the only public transport reaching Vaucluse and Balmoral. Useful routes from Circular Quay include 325 (Kings Cross–Double Bay–Rose Bay–Vaucluse–Watsons Bay), 380 (Darlinghurst–Paddington–Bondi–Watsons Bay). The following routes all head from Wynyard through North Sydney and Mosman: 176–180 (for Spit Bridge), 244 (for Obelisk and Cobblers Beach) and 245 (for Balmoral). Bus 229 (for Chinamans Beach) leaves from Milsons Point.
- ➔ **Parking** A car will come in particularly handy for getting to Vaucluse, Balmoral and Obelisk. Street parking shouldn't be difficult to find, but in busy areas it's often metered.