

TRANSPORT

Sydneysiders love to bitch about their public-transport system, but visitors should find it surprisingly easy to navigate. In fact, you'll find PT almost indispensable – a car will be more of a hindrance than an asset when you're exploring most of the areas covered in this book. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR Airlines

Virgin Blue (☎ 13 67 89; www.virginblue.com.au), Qantas and Qantas' budget alternative, **Jetstar** (☎ 13 15 38; www.jetstar.com.au), run frequent flights to and from other Australia capitals. **Regional Express** (Rex; ☎ 13 17 13; www.regionalexpress.com.au), **AirLink** (☎ 6884 2435; www.airlinkairlines.com.au) and **Aeropelican** (☎ 4928 9600; www.aeropelican.com.au) connect smaller centres.

International airlines flying into Sydney include:

Air New Zealand (Map pp64–5; ☎ 8248 0030; www.airnewzealand.com.au; 18th fl, Australia Square, 264 George St, City Centre; 🚗 Wynyard)

British Airways (☎ 1300 767 177; www.britishairways.com)

Emirates (Map pp64–5; ☎ 1300 303 777; www.emirates.com; 10th fl, 1 York St, City Centre; 🚗 Wynyard)

Japan Airlines (Map pp64–5; ☎ 1300 525 287; www.jal.co.jp/en; 14th fl, 201 Sussex St, City Centre; 🚗 Town Hall)

Qantas (Map p56; ☎ 13 13 13; www.qantas.com; 10 Bridge St, City Centre; 🚗 Circular Quay)

Singapore Airlines (☎ 13 10 11; www.singaporeair.com)

Thai Airways (Map pp64–5; ☎ 9251 1922; www.thairair.com; 75 Pitt St, City Centre; 🚗 Circular Quay)

United Airlines (Map pp64–5; ☎ 13 17 77; www.unitedairlines.com.au; 5th fl, 10 Barrack St, City Centre; 🚗 Wynyard)

Virgin Atlantic (Map p56; ☎ 1300 727 340; www.virgin-atlantic.com; 4th fl, 7 Macquarie Pl, Circular Quay; 🚗 Circular Quay)

For other international airlines, see www.sydneyairport.com.au (click on 'Flight Information').

Airport

Sydney's **Kingsford Smith Airport** (Map pp52–3; ☎ 9667 9111; www.sydneyairport.com.au), 10km south of the city centre, is Australia's busiest airport, handling flights from all over the country and the world. The international (T1) and domestic

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

GETTING INTO TOWN

The easiest way to get into the city from the airport is with a shuttle company, which will take you straight to your hotel or hostel. All go into the city centre; some reach surrounding suburbs and beach destinations. Operators include **Sydney Airporter** (☎ 9666 9988; www.kst.com.au; one-way \$13) and **Super Shuttle** (☎ 1300 765 635; www.supershuttle.com.au; one-way \$13) – both take online bookings.

AirportLink (☎ 8337 8417; www.airportlink.com.au; one-way \$15; 🕒 every 10-15min 5am-midnight) runs trains between city loop stations (Central, Town Hall, Wynyard, Circular Quay, St James and Museum) and the domestic and international terminals. You can also access AirportLink trains with a SydneyPass (see p237).

The cheapest (albeit slowest) option to Bondi is the 400 bus (\$5, one hour) from T1 or T3 to Bondi Junction, then the 380, 381 or 382 to the beach.

Taxi fares from the airport are approximately \$30 to \$40 to Circular Quay; \$20 to \$30 to Central Station. Alternatively, a slew of car-rental booths greets you after you exit immigration (see p237).

(T2 and T3) terminals are 4km apart on either side of the runway. Transfer between the two via **TBus** (☎ 9669 1899; www.carbridge.com.au; one-way \$5.50) shuttle or the **AirportLink** (☎ 8337 8417; www.airportlink.com.au; one-way with proof of transit \$5.60) train. Flights cease between 11pm and 5am due to noise restrictions.

Smarte Carte (☎ 9667 0926; storage@smartecarte.com.au; suitcase storage 24hr \$15) runs a left-luggage service in both the domestic and international terminals. There are ATMs and **currency-exchange bureaus** (🕒 6am-11pm) in both terminals.

BICYCLE

From the saddle of a bike (p187), Sydney traffic can seem intimidating. Off the roads, some of the best spots to set your spokes a-turnin' are **Centennial Park** (p86), **Sydney Olympic Park** (p121) and **North Head** (p115). Helmets are compulsory.

There's no charge for taking a bike on CityRail trains, except during peak hours (6am to 9am and 3.30pm to 7.30pm Monday to Friday), when you need to purchase a child's ticket for the bike. Bikes ride for free on Sydney's ferries, which usually have bicycle racks (first come, first served). Buses are no-go zones for bikes.

Hire

Many cycle-hire shops require a hefty credit-card deposit. See also Skater HQ (p189) and Manly Blades (p189).

Centennial Park Cycles (Map pp52-3; ☎ 9398 5027; www.cyclehire.com.au; 50 Clovelly Rd, Randwick; hire per hr/day/week \$15/50/110; 🕒 8.30am-5.30pm; 📞 339) Also has a stand in the middle of Centennial Park (Map pp88-9; 9am to 5pm) and at Sydney Olympic Park (Map pp52-3; 9am to 5pm).

Manly Bike Tours (Map p114; ☎ 8005 7368; www.manlybiketours.com.au; 2 West Promenade, Manly; 🕒 9am-6pm, closed Mon-Jun-Aug; hire per hr/day/week \$14/28/100; 📞 Manly) Also runs daily two-hour bike tours around Manly (\$55).

Inner City Cycles (Map pp104-5; ☎ 9660 6605; www.innercitycycles.com.au; 151 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe; hire per day/week \$33/88; 🕒 9.30am-6pm Mon-Wed & Fri, 9.30am-8pm Thu, 9.00am-4pm Sat, 11am-3pm Sun; 📞 431-434) A short wheel away from the city and Central Station.

BOAT

Ferries

Sydney Ferries (☎ 13 15 00; www.sydneyferries.info) are the most memorable way of getting around the harbour, and have a solid reputation as far as reliability and flotation go. Many locals use ferries to commute, so there are frequent connecting bus services. Most ferries operate between 6am and midnight, although ferries servicing specific tourist attractions keep shorter hours. Popular places accessible by ferry include Darling Harbour, Balmain and Parramatta to the west; Kirribilli, Neutral Bay, Cremorne, Mosman, Taronga Zoo and Manly on the North Shore; and Double Bay, Rose Bay and Watsons Bay in the Eastern Suburbs.

There are three kinds of ferry: regular, old-fashioned harbour ferries; RiverCats, which slink up the Parramatta River to Parramatta (one way \$7.70); and the new **Manly Fast Ferry** (☎ 9583 1199; www.manlyfastferry.com.au; one-way \$8.20). All ferries depart Circular Quay. The standard single fare for most harbour destinations is \$5.20; the slow boat to Manly (not the Fast Ferry) costs \$6.40.

If you plan on taking several ferry rides and want to save a few bucks, see the boxed text on p237.