Top 10 Places To Visit In Sydney

Sydney is Australia's gateway to the world. There are so many places to see in this cosmopolitan city, it's hard to decide which truly are the best places to go in Sydney. Here, you'll encounter a heady mix of sun, surf, culture, and cuisine, classical music recitals, climbing tours of the Harbour Bridge, indigenous art, and native wildlife. With so things to experience and see in Sydney, it's hard to decide what deserves a place on your Sydney bucket list!

1. Bondi Beach

The languidly sweeping crescent of white sand has made Bondi one of Australia's most iconic beaches. A people-watching paradise, Bondi's emerald waves exert a magnetic pull on surfers and hedonistic sun worshipers alike. Nearby, doughty locals swim year-round in the Icebergs ocean pool, while walkers and joggers make a beeline for the dramatic cliff top Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk, with its dramatic scenery and annual Sculpture By The Sea art installations.

Best time to visit: Spring and summer for fabulous sunshine, blue skies, and sublime surf.

Entrance fee: Access to Bondi Beach is free

2. Sydney Opera House

If you are wondering where to go in Sydney, start with the iconic Sydney Opera House. Truly one of the world's architectural marvels, it tops the list of things to see in Sydney. Danish architect Jorn Utzon's inspired design created a world-class performing arts complex, set against the Sydney Harbour seascape. As you explore this architectural masterpiece, you will discover the history and colorful stories that are Sydney's UNESCO World Heritage pièce de résistance.

Best time to visit: Anytime.

Entrance fee: A one-hour tour costs from $28.98 depending on the tour option. Tours depart approximately every 30 minutes, 9:00-17:00, 7 days a week

3. Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb

To Sydneysiders, the Bridge is more than an iconic landmark it is part of their heritage and a world-renowned symbol of Australia. Affectionately known as the "coathanger" the Sydney Harbour Bridge was opened in 1932. Today, visitors can see Sydney at its best by joining a bridge climb experience and experiencing one of Sydney's most photographed landmarks. As you ascend the Bridge's arches you will see an epic sweep of one of the most beautiful harbors on earth laid out before your eyes.

Best time to visit: Spring, summer or early autumn to enjoy the stunning views of Sydney Harbour.

Entrance fee: Sampler: Adults $163.00 Children $298.00. Day: Adults $298.00 Children $198.00. Twilight: Adults $363.00 Children $253.00. Night: Adults $258.00 Children $178.00. Dawn: Adults $383.00 Children $273.00.

4. Taronga Zoo

One of the world's great zoos, Taronga Zoo is a short 12-minute picturesque ferry ride from Circular Quay. With over 4,000 animals to see, daily live shows and twenty keeper talks complemented by lively tours, the animals are almost upstaged by the zoo's breathtaking views of Sydney Harbour. Taronga Zoo is a "must see" on any Sydney visit. You can even sleep over in the zoo's safari-style tents.

Best time to visit: The zoo and the harbor views are at their best in spring and summer.

Entrance fee: Adults $46.00, children $26.00 under 4 free. Prices reduced when pre-purchasing online. Open: 9.30 am to 4.30 pm (May to August), 9.30 am to 5.00 pm (September to - April), and 9.30 am to 4.00 pm (New Year's Eve).

5. Art Gallery of NSW

Home to a world-class collection of Australian masters spanning the early 19th century to the present, together with a treasure trove of Indigenous art connecting us to this continent's vast past. Complementing these treasures are collections of Western, Asian and Pacific art, which provide a captivating chronology of taste, style, and constantly evolving social, cultural and political values.

Best time to visit: Anytime

Entrance fee: Admission to the gallery and most major exhibitions is free. Open daily: 10:00 am until 17:00 pm, Wednesdays until 22:00 pm for Art After Hours. Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday (25 December 2017 and 30 March 2018)

6. Royal Botanic Garden

The green lungs of the city center, the Royal Botanic Gardens are an oasis nestled on Sydney Harbour. Home to world-leading botanical science and stunning horticultural displays set on 30 hectares (74 acres), the Garden is a large natural amphitheater, wrapped around the Sydney Harbour foreshore and the adjacent Sydney Opera House. It is a wonderful setting to explore the many plants on exhibition or simply enjoy the expansive lawns and greenhouses.

Best time to visit: Anytime, however, the gardens are at their best in spring and summer.

Entrance fee: Admission to the gardens is free. Open October: 7:00 am to 19:30 pm, November to February: 7:00 am to 20:00 pm, March: 7:00 am to 6:30 pm, April, and September: 7:00 am to 18:00 pm, May, and August: 7:00 am to 17:30 pm and June and July: 7:00 am to 17:00 pm.

7. Australian National Maritime Museum

Australia's national center for maritime collections, exhibitions, research, and archaeology, inside the museum displays Australia's maritime history, connecting the stories, objects, and people to this island continent's seaborne narrative. Outside, visitors will discover a replica of Captain Cook's HMS Endeavour, a flotilla of preserved small ships the ex-Navy destroyer HMAS Vampire, submarine HMAS Onslow and the patrol boat HMAS Advance.

Best time to visit: Anytime

Entrance fee: Adult $32.00 Children (under 4) Free, Children (4 to 15) $20.00, Family $79.00. Open daily 9:30 am to 17:00 pm. Closed Christmas Day 25 December.

8. The Rocks

The Rocks is a historic neighborhood of convict-hewn stone heritage architecture and narrow cobblestone lanes set in the shadow of Sydney Harbour Bridge. With the nearby Museum of Contemporary Art hosting local and international exhibits, The Rocks is emerging as a vibrant cultural precinct. The area is also home to some of Sydney's oldest pubs and fine dining restaurants featuring magnificent harbor views.

Best time to visit: Anytime

Entrance fee: Entrance to The Rocks area is free.

9. Cockatoo Island

Cockatoo Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located at the confluence of the Lane Cove and Parramatta rivers, in the beautiful Sydney Harbour. Jump on a ferry and spend the day exploring this islands rich history. A former shipbuilding site and naval base, Cockatoo Island have retained all its rich character and heritage from decades of use, spanning convicts to shipbuilders and naval personnel.

Best time to visit: Anytime but spring and summer offer the best weather for the ferry trip

Entrance fee: Entrance to is free aside from the ferry ticket. The visitor's center is open from 10:00 am to 16:00 pm.

10. Whale Watching, Sydney Harbour National Park

Sydney and its surrounding coastline offer many beautiful spots to watch the whales cavort on their annual migration past Australia's largest city. The scenic natural bushland also makes the National Park the perfect venue for bushwalking and picnicking or for surfing or swimming while you watch these majestic giants cruise past.

Best time to visit: The whales migrate annually from May to November.

Entrance fee: Entrance to is free, however, parking fees apply to the different National Park car parking areas.

There are so many great places to go in Sydney. Whether your passion is the beach and fun in the sun, art, and culture or fine cuisine, you there is so much for travelers to experience and do. Take the time to explore these evocative Top 10 sights, we guarantee you'll come away with memories that will stay with you forever!