

TRAVEL INTEL

# AUSTRALIA'S DARLING: SYDNEY

OUR TRAVELLER'S REQUIREMENTS:

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TRIP  
EXPLORER OF NEIGHBORHOODS  
SCENIC WALKS  
LUX STAYS  
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GO ALL DAY, ACTIVE

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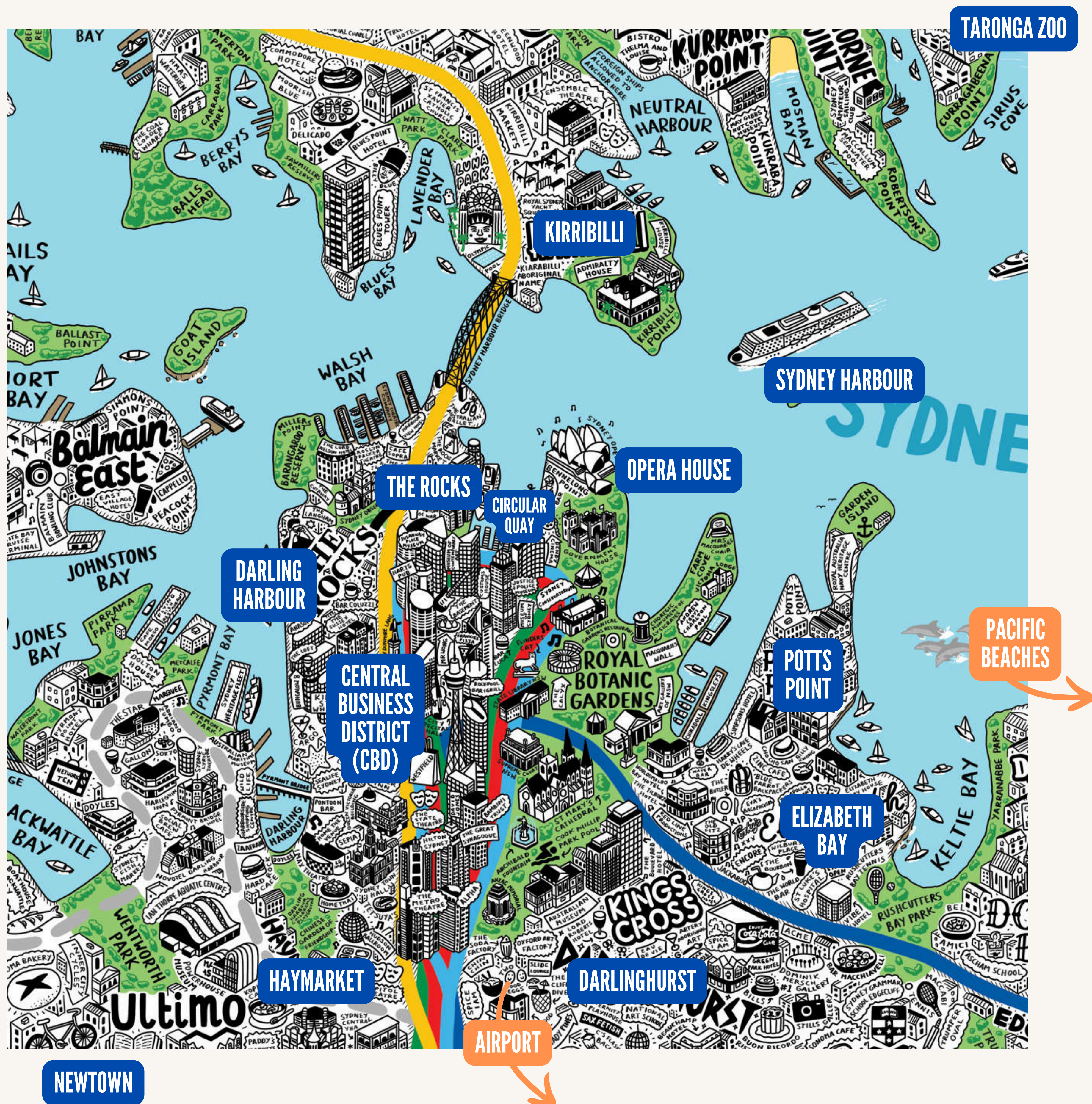
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# SYDNEY



## SYDNEY

Australia's most populous and famous city is strategically situated along the world's largest and deepest natural harbour. It is Australia's gateway. A relatively new city by world standards, it juxtaposes both modernity and traditional civilizations, and an international aire while also being emblematic of all things "Australian." The Opera House--the icon that represents Sydney to the world--took 16 years to build and is a must visit on any first timer's itinerary. The adjacent Harbour Bridge is one of the longest steel arches in the world & dominates the skyline. Sydney is dynamically multi-cultural, with 1/3 of population born overseas. Arabic, Mandarin, and Cantonese are the dominant lingo of some neighborhoods, making some decentralized neighborhoods ripe for exploration given the variety of cuisines and experiences they offer. There are more Thai restaruants in the city than any other place in the world outside of Thailand, and nearly 22% of Sydneysiders identify as LGBTQ.



Opera House Nightly Projections



View from Sydney Tower Eye



Royal Botanic Gardens



## SYDNEY

## STAY

**Park Hyatt Sydney**

650usd / night, 156 rooms

The most luxurious property in Sydney, and a gem in the Hyatt portfolio. Rooms look directly at the Opera House (unless there's a cruise ship parked beside the hotel). 24-hour butler service. Day spa, rooftop pool, and sun deck. The hotel spa is a great way to relax with the steam, sauna, or a treatment. Rave reviewers call it "perfect" and "extraordinary."

**Capella Sydney** ✨

368us/night, 192 rooms

Well-located in the CBD, one block from Circular Quay. Housed in a historical brick building, with a focus on Aboriginal art. Spa, indoor pool and gym. Just opened 5 months ago, there maybe a few kinks to work out as with any hotel opening, but reviewers don't note many issues so far. "Flawless" "old fashioned hospitality."

**Ovolo Woolloomoolo**

260usd/night, 100 rooms

Ultra-hip and cutting edge Australian brand with rave reviews. Waterfront. Vegetarian food & beverage.

**The Fullerton**

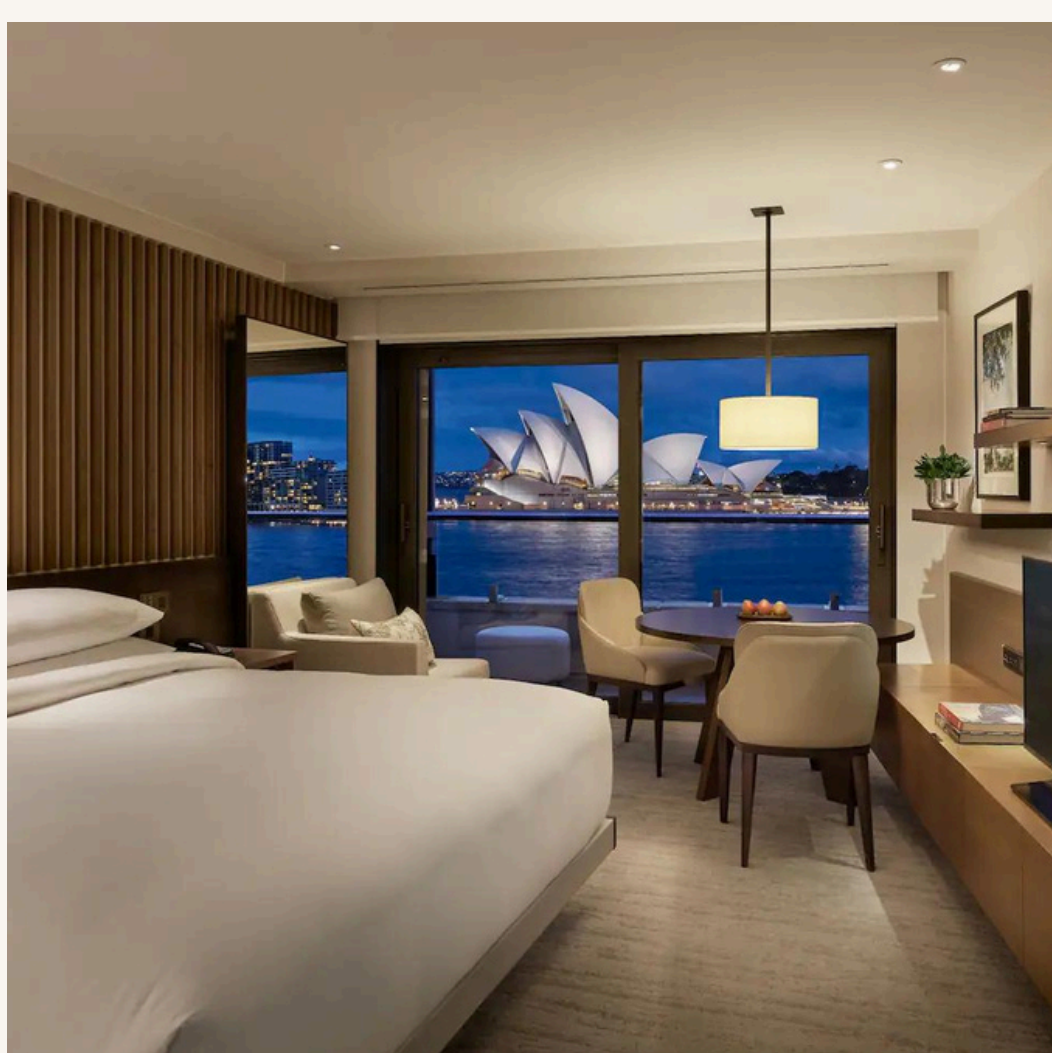
280usd/night, 416 rooms

Housed in the stately Old Post Office, this Singapore brand offers contemporary interiors with a taupe palette. Heritage rooms have high ceilings and tall windows in the old building, while modern rooms are in a separate tower.

**W Sydney** ✨

190usd/night, 588 rooms

Opened in late 2023, W Hotels ended its hiatus on the Australian market with this iconic, curve-shaped anchor by Australian architect Hassell at the terminus of Darling Harbor. The Michelin Guide calls it "only marginally less recognizable than Sydney's opera house." Part of a pearl of waterfront dining, urban strolling, and nightlife, this contemporary hotel celebrates Sydney's free spirited and daring personality. Billed as an urban retreat, sleek metallics contrast supple and bold velvetine furnishings in the Living Room lounge, a popular meeting point for cocktails. The 30 meter lap pool overlooks the harbor on the 29th floor, complimenting a second, indoor, pool with a similar view below, amounting to - perhaps - the best swimming in town. There's a full service spa and gym, plus BTWN restaurant. Like any W Hotel, a romantic spin on nightlife is core experience, so expect buzzing beats throughout the day and night. And true to the brand, guests are polarized in their reviews: many praise the design and energy, while others expecting more formal (not average) service relative to the price tag recommend other options.



Park Hyatt



Capella



Ovolo Woolloomoolo



Fullerton



## SYDNEY

### SEE

#### Sydney Opera House ✦

One of the world's most iconic buildings designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon, completed in 1973. It took 16 years to build and was more than 10x overbudget. Tours offered daily, including an architecture tour. See the nightly graphic shows projected on the side of the 'sails,' or catch a performance inside the concert hall.

#### Sydney Tower Eye

One of the tallest observation decks in the Southern Hemisphere, in the CBD with incredible views.

#### Royal Botanic Garden ✦

Australia's oldest botanical garden, and the grandest green space in Sydney. Free admission.

#### Sydney Fish Market

The largest market of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and the world's 3rd largest fish market.

#### Art Gallery of NSW

Classical, indigenous, and modern art collections. A current "clay" room exhibition allows you to sculpt and leave a ball of clay as part of the installation experience. A new, multi-level glass pavilion is by SANAA architects, and is adjacent to a landscape by architect Kathryn Gustafson.

#### Museum of Contemporary Art ✦

In the Rocks, a very modern art collection.

#### The University of Sydney

Traditional neo-gothic campus good for strolling.

#### Darling Harbour ✦

Home to the W Sydney and a new metro hub, visitors must not miss Barangaroo Reserve landscape and King Street Wharf's new waterfront development including posh restaurants and condo complexes.

#### Taronga Zoo

From the Aboriginal word "beautiful view," Australia's largest zoo collection offers exceptional views of the Harbour while boasting Australia's most famous stars: its wildlife.

#### Harbour Bridge

Nearly 100 years old and nicknamed "the coat hanger," this bridge is one of Australia's most renowned landmarks - not just for its visual impact on the city, but also because many daring travellers now embark on the 1300-step, 3+ hour climbs led by expert guides.

#### Potts Point

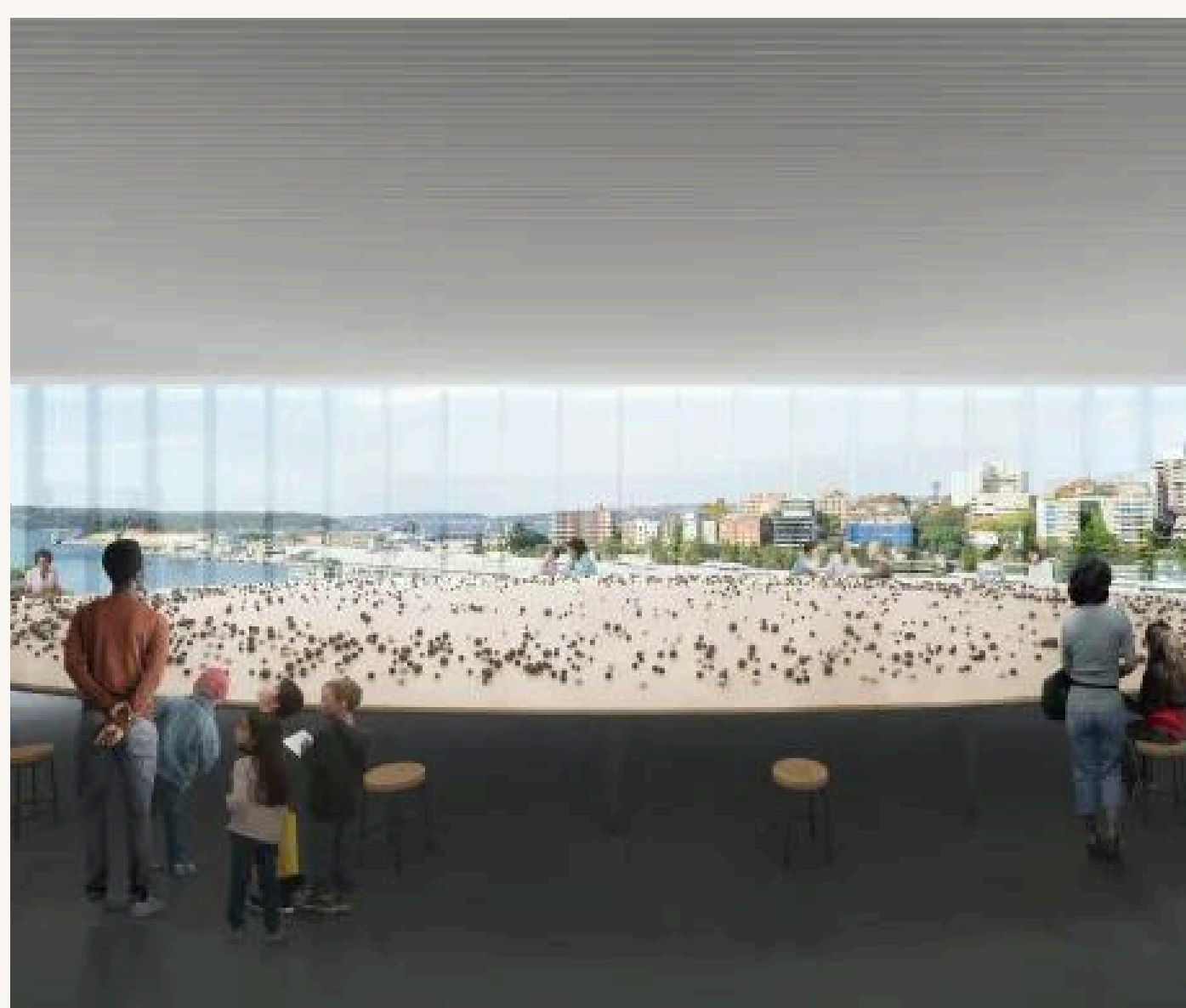
Cafes by day, bars and night life by evening. Excellent Saturday Farmer's Market.

#### Newtown

24-7 bohemian neighborhood with international cuisine, bookshops, thrift shops.



Taronga Zoo

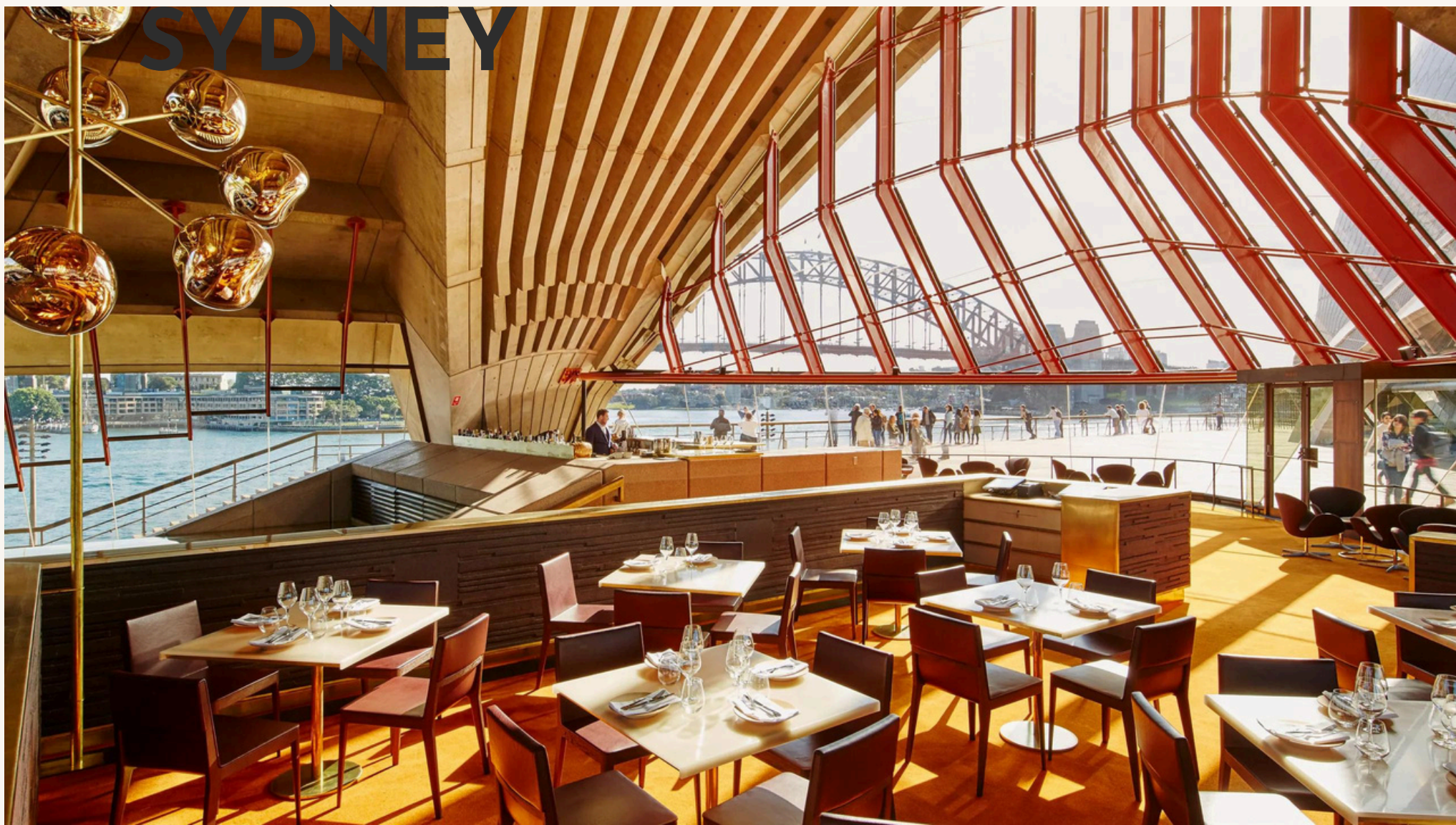


Art Gallery of NSW



Barangaroo





Bennelong



Potting Shed



Vogue Café

## EAT - SYDNEY

### UPSCALE

#### **Bennelong** ✨

Dine under the arches of the Opera House. Great for a celebratory meal.

#### **Cafe Sydney**

Upscale Modern Australian dining near Opera.

#### **Tetsuya's**

One of the finest restaurants in Sydney.

#### **Saint Peter**

Trendy and small culinary gem in the Paddington neighborhood just outside the CBD.

### CASUAL

#### **Bar Totti** ✨

CBD Italian, open late, with notable crab pasta.

#### **Ragazzi**

Boutique Italian bistro.

#### **Lookout Cafe**

Waterfront, casual cafe in Potts Point.

#### **Potting Shed**

Cafe in a beautiful garden with a theatrical atmosphere; reviewers note a tad pricey.

#### **ChatThai**

Downtown Thai eatery with an atmosphere.

#### **AtomThai Newtown**

Near the university and lively immigrant / bohemian community of Newtown.

#### **Otto**

Vegetarian dining in the uber-hip Ovolo hotel.

#### **The Butler**

Ibero-American in a plant-filled room.

#### **Vogue Café**

Chic waterfront bistro co-branded with the namesake fashion magazine.

#### **Midden**

The new alfresco restaurant adjacent to the Opera House by Mark Olive, one of Australia's most celebrated aboriginal chefs, offers a menu that showcases native ingredients. Note reservations are hard to come by.

#### **Clam Bar**

Mid Century, slightly retro cafe serving oysters and caviar in the CBD.

#### **Le Foote**

A new brasserie on George Street that feels a century old, with wood-fired dishes.

#### **Jimmy's Falafel**

Uber casual CBD diner with a cool 70s casbah feel, live DJ, and Middle Eastern plates.

#### **a'Mare**

Al fresco spot on the Barangaroo waterfront with trendy seafood, but be warned for spotty service.

#### **Ms. G's**

Funky and popular Potts Point cafe with Asian fusion.



## SYDNEY



The Bearded Tit



W Living Room



Marble Bar

## SIP

### DRINKS

#### W Living Room ✦

Ultra swank bar and lounge in the W Hotel.

#### Opera Bar

Al fresco drinks and bites beside the Opera House.

#### Blu Bar on 36 ✦

Heralded cocktails on the top of the Shangri-La hotel with incredible views of the harbour.

#### Saga Bar

Underground, hip speakeasy.

#### Stitch Bar

A bit of a dive, hidden burger and drinks joint.

#### The Rover

Surry Hills cocktail bar and brunch bistro.

#### Palmer & Co.

Speakeasy with a vintage feel and live music.

#### Hickson House Distilling

Chic cocktails in the Rocks.

#### The Barbershop

Bar hidden by a barbershop.

#### The Imperial Erskineville

Lively bar for drag and burlesque made famous in the film 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert.'

#### Marble Bar

Gourmet cocktails in an ornate, Victorian arcade.

#### Smoke Bar

Chic King Wharf lounge in modern architecture, also serving meals.

#### The Bearded Tit

Sydney's most funky LGBTQ+ bar, south of the city in Redfern.

### SNACKS & COFFEE

#### Pie Face

Australian meat pies in CBD.

#### Uncle Tetsu's

Japanese style cheesecake eatery.

#### Black Star Pastry

Chinese-style sweet cakes and pastries.

#### Mecca Coffee

Considered the best coffee downtown.



A high-angle, aerial night photograph of Sydney, Australia. The Sydney Tower, a tall, yellow, cylindrical structure with a spiral staircase, dominates the left side of the frame. The city's lights are visible in the background, with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House visible on the right. The sky is dark with some clouds.

HAPPY TRAVELS!

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