

International Destination Guide
Sydney | Australia



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1. Introduction to Sydney

History of Sydney

The settlement of Sydney is said to have begun on the afternoon of 26th January 1788, when the 11 ships of the “First Fleet” dropped anchor at Sydney Cove, one of the loveliest harbours in the world. But the aim of the human cargo that arrived in those ships was not to build a great city but to establish a prison settlement for British convicts. Sydney may have begun life as a penal colony but it is now a vibrant, sun-soaked city, a city of diversity and ethnic blends, Australia’s premier city; the oldest settlement in Australia, the economic powerhouse of the nation and the country’s capital in everything but name.

Located on the east coast of Australia and built on the shores of Port Jackson, Sydney is now home to a almost 5 million people drawn from many cultures. Its magnificent beaches and parks, in addition to being the home of two world famous icons – the Sydney Harbour Bridge (built 1930’s) and the Sydney Opera House (built 1960’s), have contributed to making Sydney one of the most popular places to visit in the world.

The city is not a planned city (such as Canberra). Its layout is complicated by the surrounding hills and the numerous inlets of the harbour, with its centre being on the south shore, about 7 kilometres inland from the harbour heads. It is considered to be a safe city compared to its big city counterparts in the rest of the world. It is proud of its multicultural heritage, which is clearly reflected through the wide range of cuisine available in restaurants and many speciality shores.

Statistics

Population of Sydney	5,000,000 approximately
Population of NSW	6,657,400
Population of Australia	20,000,000 approximately
Land mass of Australia	7,682,300 square kms

Australia is approximately the size of mainland USA, excluding Alaska, and about 24 times the size of the British Isles.

Climate

Sydney’s climate is generally temperate with average summer temperatures of high 20’s although this can rise to mid 30’s with high humidity. However, torrential downpours often break the heat between October and March. Winters are mild compared to Europe or North America.

Summer	December, January, February	Can be very hot particularly in the late afternoon
Autumn or Fall	March, April, May	Crisp, cool mornings with many fine days
Winter	June, July, August	Can be cold (10 deg C) but never snows!
Spring	September, October, November	Can be changeable with sunny and rainy periods.

Dressing for Sydney’s Weather

You should plan to wear light, cool cloths in summer to combat the humidity. You should wear a sun hat and sun block-out cream at all times when in the direct sunlight. Children often wear UV suits at the beach to protect against sun damage and schools regularly enforce the wearing of hats at playtime during the summer months. In winter, most Sydneysiders wear warm winter clothes including a coat – it’s easy to become acclimatised!

Time Zones

Sydney operates on Eastern Standard time (EST) but changes to Eastern summer time during summer to take advantage of daylight savings.

Sydney is officially 10 hours in front of Greenwich Mean time, however, the time difference will vary from hours to 11 hours depending on whether the United Kingdom or Australia is on daylight savings time.

Time zones around the World are published in the front pates of your white Pages telephone directory.

Australia has three standard time zones;

EST Eastern Standard Time	Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania
CST Central Standard Time	South Australia and the Northern Territory
WST Western Standard Time	Western Australia

Note: That some townships in the far west of New South Wales, such as Broken Hill, actually operate on CST.

Daylight Savings

During the summer months some states of Australia practise 'daylight savings'. This involves moving clocks forward one hour to gain an 'extra' hour of daylight at the end of the working day. Daylight savings begins at 2am on the last Saturday in October. Daylight savings ends on the last Saturday in March, when clocks are put back one hour (again at 2am).

NSW does adopt Daylight Savings for the summer months. This is known as 'Eastern Summer Time'.

Newspapers and radio stations regularly broadcast reminders to change your clock when daylight savings begins and ends.

During summer months the state of Queensland usually remains on Eastern Standard time thereby creating a one hour time difference between Queensland and the other Eastern states for the summer period only.

Calendar Dates

Calendar dates in Australia, when abbreviated, are written with the day of the month preceding the month. For example March 4, 2000 would be written 4/3/2000.

Initially this can be confusing, especially if you come from North America where the month precedes the day of the month, so it is wise to confirm dates where there is potential for confusion.

Public Holidays in Sydney for 2007

New Years Day	Monday 1 January
Australia Day	Friday 26 January
Good Friday	Friday 6 April
Easter Monday	Monday 9 April
Anzac Day	Wednesday 25 April
Queens Birthday	Monday 11 June
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 August
Labour Day	Monday 1 October
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25 December
Boxing Day	Wednesday 26 December

Quarantine & Customs

Australia has strict quarantine and customs regulations. Your Crown Moving consultant will help you with any queries you have regarding quarantine and customs.

Currency

Australian currency consists of coins with values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and one and two dollars. Notes are issued at values of Five, Ten, Twenty, Fifty and One Hundred Dollars. This is based on the decimal system where one hundred cents equals one dollar.

2. Shopping

City Shopping

Whether you “shop till you drop” or simply like browsing, there’s no shortage of shops in Sydney. The main city shopping streets are George Street and Pitt Street. Part of Pitt Street has been closed to traffic creating an open-air mall and incorporating Centrepoint and Skygardens, two major shopping malls. Major department stores such as David Jones and Myers front onto this area. Nearby is the Strand Arcade and the Queen Victoria Building (QVB) with over four levels of food, fashion, art, jewellery and antiques. Within easy walking distance are Cockle Bay and Darling Harbour, which contain numerous restaurants and shops.

Standard Shopping Hours

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	9 am – 5.30pm
Thursday	9 am – 9 pm
Saturday	9 am – 5 pm
Sunday	10am – 4pm

Sunday Shopping

Sunday shopping is permitted in the city Centre. Contact individual stores for their Sunday trading hours – department stores are generally 10am – 4pm. Extended shopping hours apply for pre-Christmas shopping.

Metropolitan Shopping

Oxford Street, Paddington features specialist boutiques, multicultural food stores and great restaurants. Double Bay and Woollahra are known for their exclusive designer wear and antiques, Mosman for an eclectic range of boutiques. Leichhardt is home to Sydney’s Italian community and has some of its best Italian restaurants.

Most suburbs have a local shopping centre or strip mall, which often consists of a row of stores along a street or road.

Mall Shopping

Large shopping complexes or malls, with multiple stores under the one roof and free parking, are:

Westfield Shopping Centre

Victoria Avenue, Chatswood. Tel: 9412 1555

Macquarie Shopping Centre

Herring Road, North Ryde. Tel: 9887 3011

Warringah Mall

Pittwater Road, Brookvale. Tel: 9905 0633

Centrepoint Shopping Centre

Pitt Street, City. Tel: 9231 9300

Food Shopping

Major supermarket chains for grocery shopping are Woolworths, Coles and Franklins. Trading hours will vary but, in some areas, large supermarkets are open 24 hours a day from Monday morning to Saturday night.

Local, suburban shopping centres may also have small supermarkets and local corner stores known as ‘milk bars’. Delicatessens supply specialist foodstuffs, meats and cheeses from local producers and many countries around the world.

Tipping

Tipping is not as widespread in Australia, as it is in North America, as full wages are paid to employees working in the hospitality and service related industries. You can tip a taxi driver, waiting staff at restaurants, a hotel porter and other service staff in first class hotels. The recipient will generally appreciate your tip. Ten percent is a fair tip and recognises excellent service.

3. Banking

Banks

Normal banking hours are:

9.30 am to 4pm – Monday to Thursday

9.30 am to 5pm – Friday

Banks in the Sydney Central business District have more liberal trading hours and Automatic Teller Machines (ATM's), are also available for after hours withdrawals and deposits. The major banks have offices in the Sydney CBD and local branches in the suburbs. Many different types of savings and cheque accounts are available.

Opening a bank account

To open a bank account in Australia you need to provide "100 points" of identification. Items such as your passport, driver's licence, Medicare card etc. can all contribute to the '100 points'.

If you currently hold a bank account in another state of Australia you may simply transfer your account to a local branch, of the same bank, in your state.

If you have arrived from overseas and wish to open a bank account you can open an account with only your passport as identification providing you do so within 6 weeks of your arrival in Australia. After the 6 weeks you will need to provide '100 points' of identification and should therefore take your passport and drivers licence with you when you go to open the account.

ANZ	131 314
Citibank	132 484
Commonwealth Bank	132 221
National Australia Bank	132 265
St George Bank	133 330
Westpac	132 032

ATM – Automatic Teller Machines

ATM's allow you to deposit and withdraw cash sums during and after bank trading hours. You will find ATM's in front of most bank branches and increasingly they are being positioned in shopping malls, airports, hotel lobbies and other convenient locations. On request your bank will issue you with an ATM card, which will be linked to one of your accounts.

Do not write your PIN (personal identification number) in your wallet or purse and notify your bank immediately if you lose your ATM card. Many banks ATM's are interchangeable, i.e. you can withdraw cash from a commonwealth Bank ATM with a Westpac card, but you may incur an additional fee for this type of transaction.

EFTPOS – Electronic fund Transfer Point of Sale

EFTPOS allows you to pay for goods and services by making a direct transfer from your bank account to the service provider. EFTPOS is a convenient and increasingly common way to pay for groceries, petrol and a wide range of retail products.

Credit Cards

Visa, Mastercard, Bankcard and American Express credit cards are widely accepted in Australia. Many credit cards are linked to loyalty systems where you can accrue frequent flyer points and other awards.

Cheque Accounts (Check Accounts)

Many savings accounts offer a cheque account option, although cheques will attract additional bank fees. Cheque cashing privileges may be arranged at some grocery stores. To '**cross a cheque**' means to make a cheque '**not negotiable**'. This measure prevents any person, or company, from cashing the cheque at a bank counter. The cheque must be paid into a bank account. Two lines and/or the words 'not negotiable' are written across the face of the cheque. Cheques should always be made 'not negotiable' are written across the face of the cheque. Cheques should always be made 'not negotiable' for safety purposes unless you wish to exchange the cheque for cash at the bank. When you deposit a cheque to your bank account the funds are typically not available to you until the cheque has been processed or 'cleared'. This takes three business days.

Telephone Banking

Many banks provide telephone-banking facilities that allow you to transfer funds between accounts, pay bills and pay credit cards by telephone. Contact your bank for details.

Bill Pay (Bpay)

Is a telephone banking service that allows you to pay bills by direct transfer from your bank account. Bpay is a convenient method for paying utility bills such as telephone, power, gas and water.

4. Driving and Motor Vehicles

Road Regulations

Australian cars are right hand drive and travel on the left side of the road. Generally speed limits are 50 or 60 kilometres per hour in built up areas and up to 110 kilometres per hour on highways and freeways. All local speed limits, and other traffic indicators, are well sign-posted. Suburbs and freeways are also sign posted. Directions to tourist attractions are displayed on signs with brown backgrounds.

Road rules specific to Australia

In NSW it is legal to overtake on the inside lane as well as the outside lane, which can often confuse international drivers. It is also legal to turn left at some traffic lights when the lights are red, providing the way is clear and there is a sign permitting you to do so.

It is compulsory for a driver, and all passengers, to wear seat belts whenever the vehicle is in motion. Children must be suitably restrained at all times. Children's seats and baby capsules must be correctly attached to the vehicle and must conform to Australian Safety Standards.

'On the Spot' fine

Police Officers will issue an 'On the Spot' fine for minor traffic infringements such as speeding. You do not pay the policeman, however you are expected to pay the fine to the relevant authority within a specified time. The courts handle major traffic offences, such as drink driving or dangerous driving. Some offences will incur demerit points, which can ultimately result in licence suspension.

Push bikes and Motor Cycles

It is compulsory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or a motorcycle.

Drink Driving

'Drink Driving' is a local term for driving a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol. Offenders face strong penalties including licence disqualification and a possible jail term.

Blood Alcohol Limit

Drivers on a full licence	0.05%
Drivers under 25 years of age who have held licence less than 3 years	0.02%
Drivers on a learner's permit of P1/P2	0%

Police may ask a driver, at any time, to pull off the road and undertake a Random Breath test to measure blood alcohol level. NSW police have mobile Random Breath Test units, commonly called 'booze buses' which set up beside the road to test passing drivers.

Parking

In the city, blue signs indicate multi-level parking stations. On-street meter parking is available in the city area for a fee. Major suburban shopping centres offer free parking and most residential areas offer free on-street parking.

In some high-density residential areas, free on-street parking may be limited to local residents. In these areas you will need to obtain a parking permit from the local municipal council and affix it to your vehicle.

Tolls

Sydney has several freeways that incur tolls. These include the Sydney Harbour Bridge (currently \$3.60), the Eastern distributor which links the north shore to the airport (currently \$4.50) the M5, M2, M4 and F3. If you use any of these freeways regularly, it is worthwhile to get an E-tag, an electronic tag that you keep in your car, which allows you to pre-pay. These are obtainable from the RTA (Roads Traffic Authority) on 131865.

Registration & Compulsory Third Party Insurance (CTP)

All motor vehicles on NSW roads must have current registration with the RTA, (Road Traffic Authority) and current Compulsory third Party Insurance (CTP). CTP can be purchased from most insurance companies that offer car insurance but the most popular is the NRMA. As a member of the NRMA it is possible to get roadside assistance and car insurance and its website, www.nrma.com.au, gives regular road tests on cars and prices. In addition to the CTP (green slip), it is necessary for cars over 3 years old, to have a roadworthy inspection, (pink slip). This can be obtained from most service stations for a cost of around \$30. The pink and green slips can then be taken to the RTA when motor registration fees are paid. This can also be done online at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

Registration fees are based on the type of car, for example a four-door sedan will cost around \$250.00 for twelve months registration plus CTP. It is more expensive to register a car for business use than for private use. CTP insurance cost will vary depending on whether you live in a high or low risk area for motor accidents. Most metropolitan areas are considered high risk and insurance will be around A\$300.00.

All Drivers

If you have relocated to Sydney, from overseas or interstate, it is **strongly recommended** that you apply for a NSW driver's licence at the earliest opportunity. This will avoid difficulties in regard to insurance claims, should you be unfortunate enough to be involved in a motor vehicle accident. Holding a local driver's licence will also facilitate obtaining car insurance.

International Drivers

If you are not intending to stay in NSW (i.e. business people on limited-duration assignments) then you are not required to get a NSW licence, even if your stay is longer than three (3) months, on the condition that:

- You hold a current overseas driver's licence
- Your visitor status remains unchanged
- You have not been disqualified from driving to NSW or elsewhere.
- Your licence has not been suspended or cancelled, or your visiting driver privileges withdrawn.

However, if you are intending to stay in NSW (i.e. holding a permanent visa under Commonwealth Migration Act 1958) you are allowed to drive or ride in NSW on your current overseas licence for a maximum of three (3) months after arriving in Australia on the condition that:

- You have not been disqualified from driving or riding
- Your licence is not suspended or cancelled
- Your visiting driver or rider privileges have not been withdrawn
- Your licence is current.

To obtain a NSW driver's licence you will usually need to undertake a full test, which includes a practical driving component as well as a theory test. However, the RTA does recognise overseas valid licences from some countries, including the USA and the UK. For further details it is advised to check the current regulations online at www.rta.nsw.gov.au. Although it is recommended that you apply for a NSW driving licence to avoid any difficulties with regard to insurance claims, should you be unfortunate enough to be involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Obtaining a Driver's Licence

To apply for a NSW Driver's Licence contact RTA on 132 213.

Traffic Handbook

Should you need to sit another driver's licence exam you may purchase a copy of the Road Users Handbook from RTA or any newsagent for A\$4.50 or download it from www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

RTA Contact Details

RTA office locations are listed in the White Pages telephone directory

RTA office Hours 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday
9.00am – 2.00pm Saturdays

RTA General Enquiries 132 213

RTA 24 hour hotline on Traffic conditions 132 701

Driving Instruction

If you wish to have professional driving instruction prior to taking your driver's licence examination there are many good driving schools such as the ABC Driving School group who have schools throughout Sydney – check www.abcdrivingschool.com.au for details. Other driving schools are listed in the Yellow Pages telephone directory. Driving lessons may be particularly useful if you are not experienced with right hand drive motor vehicles.

Motor Vehicle Insurance

Extended Third Party Property Insurance covers damage you may cause to a motor vehicle driven by another person or 'third party'. Full comprehensive insurance covers damage caused to your own motor vehicle. Both types of policies are available through a range of insurance companies. Rates will vary depending on your age, driving history, who other than yourself drives the vehicle and what type of vehicle you are driving. Some insurance companies will not cover drivers under the age of 25 or drivers with a history of being involved in accidents and therefore can offer more competitive rates to mature drivers with good driving records. It is advisable to shop around for the best deal on insurance.

Insurance Companies offering motor vehicle insurance

GIO	Personal Insurance	131 010
Allianze	Insurance Enquiries	131 000
NRMA	Insurance Enquiries	132 132
AAMI	Insurance Enquiries	132 244

If you are transferring to Sydney from another state of Australia make sure you advise your insurance company immediately of your change of address.

Car Hire

Several car hire companies operate in Sydney and have branches in other Australian states. Rates vary depending on type of vehicle required and the length of hire. It is recommended that you contact the company directly to ascertain current hire rates. Major car hire companies rent new or late model motor vehicles however there are hire companies that rent older vehicles at a discount rate. See the Yellow Pages telephone directory for a full listing. Major car hire companies:

Avis	136 333
Europcar	1300 131 390
Hertz	133 039
Thrifty	1300 367 227

Motoring Associations

The NRMA offers its members a roadside breakdown service and a range of maps and information for touring Australia by road.

Membership fees range from A\$70.00 depending on the level of cover required. Reciprocal rights with motoring associations in other states of Australia are included. The NRMA can also arrange a pre-purchase vehicle inspection, by their qualified motor mechanics, if you are planning to purchase a second hand car.

NRMA (National Roads and Motorist's Association)

General & Membership enquiries	132 132
Road Side Association (available to members only)	131 111
Touring Services	1300 131 122

Joining the NRMA roadside breakdown service is highly recommended.

Importing a Motor Vehicle into Australia

If you are considering bringing your own car with you to Australia it is important to carefully check current customs' requirements and consider the costs, and possible risks, of importing a motor vehicle. Australia motor vehicle safety standards are higher than many other countries and your car may not meet safety criteria for registration. Duties to be paid upon importation will depend on the age and value of the car.

Further costs will include transportation, insurance whilst in transit, any modifications required to meet Australian Safety Standards, registration and insurance in Australia. The vehicle must also obtain a quarantine clearance before it will be released from the port of entry. For further information on importing a motor vehicle phone:

Australian Customs Service Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263. Or visit their web site: www.customs.gov.au.

Petrol

Petrol prices are around \$1.20 per litre but fluctuate frequently. All new and late model cars use unleaded fuel. Leaded fuel, previously known as 'super' is still used in older motor vehicles.

5. Public Transport

The Sydney Transport system covers trains, buses and ferries within the Sydney Metropolitan area. Its website, www.131500.com.au will show trip planner i.e. how to combine the three forms of transport to get around Sydney and to the airport, relevant timetables and fares. It is possible to combine fares with a Travelpass allowing you to use a combination of transport. These passes are available from CityRail Station, Bus Stations and Circular Quay Ferry Terminal (This is the main city ferry terminal). Travelpass must be purchased before using the transport and can be valid for 7 days, quarterly or yearly. They are designed for regular public transport users and vary according to what combination of transport is being used.

Information and timetables available from
Sydney Transport infoline 131 500

Information on train services to NSW country areas
CountryLink 132 232

SydneyPass

This pass is designed for tourists who want unlimited travel within a seven day period, using the Sydney Explorer, Bondi Explorer, Sydney harbour Ferry Cruises, Airport Express, Sydney buses and Sydney Ferries and City Trains in the Red Travel zone (primarily within city area). It would not suite regular commuters.

Airlines

Sydney Domestic and International Airport (Kingsford Smith) is located at Mascot, approximately 9km south of the city centre. The Eastern Distributor provides good access from the city to the airport. Major air Service Providers in Australia:

Qantas Airways

Domestic & International Reservations 131 313
Today's Flight Information 131 223
Or visit their web site: www.qantas.com.au

Virgin Blue

Domestic Reservations 136789
Or visit their web site: www.virginblue.com.au

An airport tax covering security etc. is levied on each traveller departing overseas, the cost of which is collected by the airlines and included in the cost of your ticket.

Airport Link Rail Service

Passengers can take the train from Central Station to the airport in 13 minutes. Tickets are approx. \$15 return. The trains run every 10 minutes and connect with other city rail stations.

Taxi Cabs

ABC Taxi 132 522
Legion Cabs 131 271
Premier Taxi 131 017

Taxi cabs will accept cash, major credit cards and CabCharge vouchers.

6. Homes and Residential Areas

Owning your own home has often been called the 'Great Australian Dream' and Australian's have one of the highest home owner-occupier rates in the world. Sydney, like all major cities in the world, offers a wide range of accommodation.

Traditionally Sydney homes are red brick free-standing dwellings with private front and rear gardens. Sydney is bound and restricted by geographical features – to the east, a coastline of magnificent beaches – to the north, the Hawkesbury River surrounded by the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park – to the West, the Blue Mountains and to the south, Port Hacking, the Georges river and National Park. This means that further land cannot be created – this fact alone underwrites any decision to buy property in Sydney.

Purchase and rental prices vary widely and will depend on the location and type of accommodation you select.

Sydney median residential home prices have increased dramatically in the last few years due to a boom in popularity after the 2000 Olympics, a significant population growth with a shortage of land for development and a confident community with excellent growth prospects. In Sydney, location is everything and by location, it usually means proximity to water.

General Overview

Within 5 kilometres of the City

Highly varied styles of housing including high-density apartments, terrace homes and grand mansions with harbour views.

5 – 10 Kilometre radius

Homes from the Federation era (1915 to 1920's) to 1930's Californian bungalows, generally on smallish blocks of land. Many of these homes have been extensively renovated and refurbished in recent years. Rent can be quite high for quality properties in good locations. Modern apartment and townhouse developments are increasingly available along with older, red or cream brick walk-up apartments commonly called units or flats, usually grouped together in a complex of six to eight.

10 – 15 kilometre radius

Mixed range of homes including federation houses built on sandstones, post-war housing particularly in the 1940's to 50's, and contemporary housing. Some properties have been extended and modernised and can be on larger blocks of land.

15 – 20 kilometre radius

Contemporary estate style developments from the 1960's to present day. Homes are generally free standing and on larger blocks of land.

20 kilometre plus

New housing estates featuring one and two level project homes and rural-residential areas, which may include one to five acre allotments.

Although Sydney is a large city each residential area has an identity and ambience of its own. Most suburban areas will have their own clusters of shops, restaurants, churches and schools. Local Government Councils provide childcare facilities, child playgroups, kindergartens, sporting facilities and recreational areas.

Sydney Residential Areas

The following is a brief overview of popular residential districts surrounding Sydney.

Inner Urban and Inner Western Suburbs

Paddington, Glebe, Pyrmont, Annandale, Balmain. These suburbs contain a mixture of terraces built in the Victorian era, modern apartments and stately old mansions. These areas are well serviced with public transport, shopping, restaurants and nightlife. Paddington usually has the highest median house sale prices of these suburbs and the underlying real estate value is reflected in the rents asked for quality homes in these areas.

Eastern Suburbs

Woollahra, Double Bay, Edgecliff, Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay, Darling Point, Point Piper, Elizabeth Bay, Vaucluse and Watsons Bay. These areas contain some of the most expensive real estate in Australia, particular if there are water views. Homes range from smaller terrace houses closer to the city to huge mansions, some with their own moorings. Large older style blocks of apartments are also prevalent. There are several prestigious private schools in this area, which service the affluent neighbourhood. Restaurants are abundant; Yacht Clubs are numerous (the Sydney to Hobart Race starts at Rushcutters Bay) and many exclusive shops (particularly in Double Bay). Transport is mainly by car and bus – there is no train line and ferries only from Rose Bay and Double Bay.

Southern Suburbs

Brighton le Sands, Monterey, Sans Souci, Kogarah Bay. These suburbs are nestled around Botany Bay and are in close proximity to the airport while evading aircraft noise. Characterised by generally flat land, the housing style is a mixture of post WW2 housing, new large houses and low-rise medium density housing. Cafes and restaurants are popular along the bay front. Bus and car transport is the most popular forms of transport.

Blakehurst, Connells Pt, Oatley, Lugarno, Sylvania, Kangaroo Point. On the northern and southern side of the Georges River, these suburbs are again characterised by post WW2 housing and large new housing. Houses with water views are in high demand and command larger prices. There are small high streets scattered throughout the area, and transport is by bus or car, with the train line running through some suburbs to the major hub at Hurstville.

Cronulla, Woolooware, Gymea Bay, Lillipilli, Dolans Bay, Yowie Bay, Bonnett Bay, Alfreds Point, Illawong. In the Sutherland Shire, these suburbs are newer with most houses built in the last 30 years. Bordering onto Port Hacking and national parks and with more of a leafy atmosphere, these suburbs are enjoyed by families who like to participate in an outdoor life style, with fishing, beaches, and recreational activities on the doorstep. A train line runs from Cronulla to the city. Surf beaches at Cronulla add to the holiday atmosphere, as does its café strip.

South Eastern Bayside Suburbs

Bondi, Bronte, Clovelly, Coogee, Tammarama, Maroubra, Cronulla. Bondi is the most well known of these suburbs. Filled with older style high-density low-rise blocks of apartments, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find value for money in this area. However, its huge surfing beach is very popular year round and is filled with shops and restaurants. Moving further south offers better value and these suburbs tend to be filled with older style red brick homes, some of which have been extended and renovated. Transport from these areas tend to be by bus or car – there are no ferries but a train line runs from Bondi Junction that connects to the city.

Lower North Shore

Neutral Bay, Cremorne, Mosman, Balmoral. These affluent suburbs are primarily known for their Federation homes – built in the 1920's high wedding-cake ceilings, sandstone bases and usually with a porch, some of these homes have been beautifully preserved and others have been split into apartments or duplexes. These areas are well serviced with shops, restaurants, private schools and transport is by ferries, bus or car. Balmoral Beach is a particularly beautiful harbour beach (no surfing).

Upper North Shore

Chatswood, Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon, Pymble, Wahroonga. Features family homes from federation style to ultra modern on sometimes large blocks of land with many beautifully landscaped gardens, often with tennis courts and swimming pools. These suburbs are on a main train line to the city and have several large private schools and lots of parks. Generally these areas tend to attract families. Each suburb has its own 'high street' of shops but is not really noted for its restaurants or large shopping centres.

Northern Beaches

Manly, Dee Why, Collaroy, Mona Vale, Newport, Avalon, Whale Beach, Palm Beach. Manly is the start of the Peninsula or Northern Beaches, a coastline of spectacular beaches. Living in these suburbs is a lifestyle choice because, with the exception of Manly, commuting to the city isn't easy with one main road in and out, no trains and no ferries. Manly is a small town in itself, with its own town hall and local council, a surfing beach and harbour beach, excellent restaurants and easy access to the city by ferry or jetcat. Larger houses are very difficult to find in Manly with apartments or small federation/Victorian houses being more common. The rest of the Peninsula features post-war or contemporary houses with Palm Beach considered to be an elite holiday haven for the rich and famous!

Western Suburbs

Lane Cove, Ryde, Concord, Strathfield, Parramatta, Castle Hill, Epping. The fastest growth area in the whole of Sydney's metropolitan area and really the only direction in which Sydney can continue to grow. These Western suburbs are an eclectic mix of suburban sprawl, with some suburbs, like Strathfield being an older suburb containing large stately homes and others, like Castle Hill, containing huge new developments and large, regional shopping centres. Parramatta is another city in itself. Exclusive smaller suburbs, such as Hunters Hill, which are relatively close to the city are very expensive but as a general rule, the western suburbs offer housing within a comparatively reasonable price range, thereby ensuring its continual popularity.

City Living

Inner city living, once a rare lifestyle in Australia, is increasing in popularity and many property developers have catered to the trend by building modern apartment complexes in the city area or by redeveloping older heritage buildings to residential apartments.

Renting a Home

Once you have selected a rental home you will be required to pay two weeks rent in advance if the weekly rent is \$300.00 or less, or one calendar months rent in advance if the weekly rent exceeds \$300.00 per week plus a security deposit commonly called the 'bond', equal to four weeks rent for unfurnished premises and six weeks rent for furnished premises (N:B if the property is fully furnished with a rent in excess of \$250.00 per week the Landlord can ask for more than six weeks as a bond), plus a lease preparation fee of \$15.00, before the realtor will provide the keys.

Prior to moving-in, or immediately after, you should complete the property condition report (in detail) supplied by the realtor. You and the realtor should sign the property condition report and you should keep a copy in a secure place, as it could be required at the end of your tenancy. The property condition report records the condition of the home at the time you moved in and will be referred to should a landlord wish to retain part of your security deposit.

The correct name for a lease is 'Residential Tenancy Agreement' and it is a legally binding document with rights and responsibilities for both tenant and landlord clearly set out by the Department of Fair Trading.

Your responsibilities as a tenant

The landlord of a rental home is entitled to reimbursement from your Bond or Security Deposit when damage has occurred, other than fair wear and tear. The following information will help ensure you understand your responsibilities as a tenant and minimise the likelihood that bond money will be held by the realtor:

- The home should be kept clean and the real estate agent should be advised of any maintenance issues.
- The lawns and gardens should be regularly maintained, with attention paid to keeping gardens free of weeds and plants watered during dry periods.
- Marks and stains on carpets must be removed immediately before serious and permanent damage occurs. If necessary, engage a professional carpet cleaner.
- Nothing should be adhered, nailed into or screwed into any wall or door without the express written approval of the landlord or the real estate agent. When motifs, posters and the like are removed, paint and plaster damage occurs and the tenant will be held responsible.

- Damage to the home or problems should be reported immediately to the real estate agent.
- Pets are NOT allowed under standard Residential Tenancy Agreement. You MUST have written consent from the landlord to keep a pet at a rented property.
- Pets may NOT be kept in apartments or flats. Most townhouse and unit developments will also have body corporate restrictions regarding pets, and in particular dogs.
- Your real estate agent will carry out regular inspections of the property and written notice will be given to you when this is to occur (some agents also drive past the property every month to do external inspections).
- Remember you must give a minimum of 21 days written notice should you want to vacate once the lease has expired. If your lease contains further options to continue residency, make a diary note to comply with notice dates.
- When you are vacating, it is important that all keys are handed into the agents office otherwise rent will continue to accrue until the agent has possession of the keys.
- Your rent is due on or before the due date. Always contact your real estate agent if you are unable to pay by that date.
- If your lease has special terms and conditions these are part of the Residential Tenancy Agreement and are legally binding.

Purchasing a home

Stamp Duty

When you purchase a residential property in NSW you will be required to pay a substantial stamp duty to the State Government. For instance, on a property of \$200,000 the stamp duty would be approx. \$5,490. This would go up to about \$40,490 on a property of \$1 million.

Price Guides

Before you purchase it is a good idea to see what other buyers have paid for homes in the area. Australian Property Monitors, in conjunction with John Fairfax (publishers of the Herald newspaper) publish Home Price Guides for A\$49.95. Each guide shows you sale price of homes in a particular postcode area for the previous 12 months. Call 1800 817 616 to obtain copies.

Legal Costs and Conveyancing

Legal costs and conveyancing will cost between A\$450 and A\$1,500 for a straightforward purchase but can run too much higher if the circumstances of the purchase are complicated. Even if you plan to handle the purchase yourself you should get a lawyer to go through the contract and make sure you understand all aspects of the contract.

Building and Pest Inspections

To protect your investments you should have professional building and pest inspections carried out on a home prior to purchase. A building inspection will cost between A\$350 and A\$500 and is a worthwhile investment particularly when you are buying an older home or a renovated home.

Valuations

If you are borrowing money to purchase a property the lending institution will usually have a professional Valuer inspect the property prior to lending. If you are uncertain of what to pay for a property you can also arrange an independent valuation. Valuers should be members of the AIVLE (Australian Institute of Valuers and Land Economists). The cost of an independent valuation may vary with the value of the home being valued.

It is important to note that most properties sold in Sydney are sold by auction. Typically these properties are advertised and open for inspection for 3 weeks prior to the auction. Purchasers then bid on-site, on the advertised day and time. Purchasing a property at auction does not have a cooling-off period.

Purchasing a home for international transferees

Temporary residents who wish to buy a property in Australia should consult the Foreign Investment Review Board in Canberra, phone 02 6263 3795, to check current regulations on purchasing real estate in Australia, or visit their web site: www.firb.gov.au.

Temporary Accommodation

Hotel Accommodation

Sydney offers a range of hotel accommodation including 5 star hotels, boutique hotels and budget accommodation.

Major 5 star hotels include:

The Westin Hotel	1800 656 535
Park Hyatt Sydney	9241 1234
Sheraton on the Park	9286 6000

Serviced Apartments

Serviced apartment accommodation is a popular alternative for families on the move. A serviced apartment, typically, has its own kitchen and laundry facilities, and comes fully equipped with linen, towels, crockery, cutlery and cooking equipment, so that you may self cater. There is also a daily or weekly cleaning service where linen and towels are replaced. Rates for serviced apartments depend on the standard of the accommodation and location of the apartments.

Rates and Utilities for Residential Properties

Council Rates

Local Government authorities (also known as 'Councils') issue rates notices for residential premises based on the unimproved land value of the property. Rates will vary depending on the local council issuing the rate notice and are paid by the owner of a property, not the tenant. Garbage collection and sewerage services are generally included in the rate assessment.

Water Rates

Sydney Water supplies water to the Sydney Metropolitan area. Accounts for water usage are issued quarterly (every three months). Water usage is usually charged to the tenant however it is sometimes included in the weekly rental. When you enter your Residential Tenancy Agreement your lease should clearly state who is responsible for water payments.

To arrange to have water supply transferred to your name please contact Sydney Water on: 132 092 or online at www.sydneywater.com.au.

Electricity

Domestic electricity supply throughout Australia is 240 volt, AC50 cycles. Standard three pin plugs are fitted to domestic appliances. Transformers are required for 110-volt appliances, such as a hairdryer or a contact lens steriliser.

There are two major electricity suppliers in Sydney. The company you use is consumer choice and is not governed by geographical area.

Company Name	Contact	Areas Covered
Energy Australia	131 535	Sydney Metro
AGL	131 245	Sydney Metro

Electricity companies will require your name, telephone number and address for electricity to be connected. A security deposit must also be paid. If the premises are rented then the name and address of the real estate agent must also be supplied. In a rental property all electricity usage charges are the responsibility of the tenant unless expressly stated in the Residential Tenancy Agreement.

Gas

Sydney has a natural gas supply. There are three suppliers of gas in the Sydney metropolitan area. Again this is by consumer choice, not geographical area. Government regulations stipulate that AGL and Energy Australia can both supply electricity and gas. If a consumer does not have an existing account with the company, there is a connection fee of \$22.00 plus a security deposit of \$100.00.

Supplier	Connections	Faults	Dialling Outside NSW	Area Covered
AGL	131 245	131 245	131 245	Sydney Metro
Energy Australia	131 535	132 604	131 535	Sydney Metro
Integral Energy	131 081	131 003	Not available	Sydney Metro

In the rental property all natural gas usage charges are the responsibility of the tenant unless expressly stated in the Residential Tenancy Agreement.

Telecommunications

Telephone

Sydney telephone numbers have eight digits. To dial Sydney from another state of Australia dial 02 + local 8 digit number. To dial Sydney from another country dial 61 + 2 + local 8 digit number. Telstra Corporation Ltd (Telstra), and Optus provide local telephone services.

Telstra

In the front pages of your white Telephone book you will find information about the telecommunication services provided by Telstra. These services include direct international dialling, mobile telephone services and paging systems, which they also provide. For Telstra telephone connections phone:

Telstra (Residential connections)	132 200
Telstra (Business connections)	132 000

Optus and Foxtel

A relative newcomer, Optus now has cable in many areas, and costs will vary depending on line access to your area. They provide the full range of telecommunication options.

Optus (Enquiries)	133 937
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The following information will be required for connection of your telephone service: Full name, residential address, date of birth, driver's licence number, occupation and employer's name and address.

Fax or Internet

If you require an additional telephone line into your home for a facsimile (fax) machine or internet access then you should contact Telstra on 132 200. If you are renting a property you will need your landlord's permission to have a new line installed. Fax machines manufactured outside Australia are not always compatible. Foxtel is the main provider of cable TV and the internet can be connected through Foxtel if using broadband or Telstra is using phone dial-up.

Emergency Calls

Life threatening emergencies:

Dial 000 and state whether you require assistance from Fire, Police or Ambulance.

Other emergency numbers include:

NSW State Emergency Service	132 500
Poisons Information Centre	131 126

You should keep a list of emergency numbers near your telephone. If you have children make sure they know how to dial for help in the case of an emergency.

Post Office

Australia Post is the national postal organisation and provides a wide range of postal and related services. Addresses in Australia are identified by four digit post-codes, which should be used whenever addressing mail within Australia. The majority of NSW post-codes begin with the digit two (2). Sydney City centre is postcode 2000 and the Sydney general Post Office is 2001.

Postcodes for suburbs and towns are listed in the back of your White Pages telephone directory. Postcode booklets are available, free of charge, from any Australia Post Office.

Australia Post Customer Services	131 318
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Home contents Insurance

If you are a tenant in a rented home the house will be covered by insurance held by the owner of the home however you are responsible for insuring your own possessions. This insurance is called Home Contents Insurance and you should co-ordinate a cover note BEFORE your effects are placed in your home. Don't forget your transit insurance does not cover your effects once they are placed in the home.

Contact individual insurance companies to obtain quotations. Major insurance companies include (please check the Yellow Pages for a complete list of companies):

AAMI	99 Walker Street North Sydney	132 244
AMP	33 Alfred Street Sydney	9257 5000
FAI	99 Phillip Street, Parramatta	131 000
NRMA	388 George Street, Sydney	132 132
GIO	154 Sussex Street, Sydney	131 010

Some insurance providers offer discounts if you take both your Home Contents and Motor Vehicle insurance through the one company,

If you are transferring to Sydney from another state of Australia make sure you advise your Home Contents Insurer immediately of your change of address.

7. Education and Schools

The education of your children is probably one of the most important considerations you will undertake during your relocation process. In NSW, attendance at a school is compulsory for children between six (6) and sixteen (16) years of age. You may choose to enrol your child in either the government or private school system. Please see the table below for a comparison of ages for entry into Programs in Australia (note: there may be some variations between schools):

State/Territory	Entry age into program two years before Year One	Entry age into program one before Year One	Entry age into Year One	Compulsory starting age	Primary School age(s)	Secondary School age(s)
Western Australia	Entry age – 4 by 30 June. Single entry point at beginning of school year (Kindergarten)	Entry age – 5 by 30 June. Single entry point at beginning of school year (Pre-primary).	Entry age – 6 by 30 June. Single entry at beginning of school year.	The beginning of the school year in which the child reaches the age of 6 years 6 months.	6 – 12	12 – 17 (years 8 – 12)
New South Wales	4 by 31 st July (Pre-school)	5 by 31 st July (Kindergarten)	6 by 31 st July	6 th Birthday	6 – 12	12 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
Victoria	4 by 30 th April (Pre-school)	5 by 30 th April (Prep)	6 by 30 th April.	6 th Birthday	6 – 12	12 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
Queensland	4 by 31 st December (Kindergarten)	5 by 31 st December (Pre-school)	6 by 31 st December	6 th Birthday	6 – 12	12 – 17 (years 8 – 12)
South Australia	Continuous entry after 4 th Birthday	Continuous entry after 5 th birthday (Reception)	Single entry in January after 2-5 terms in Reception depending on initial entry	6 th Birthday	5 – 13	12 – 18 (years 8 – 12)
Tasmania	4 by 1 January in year of entry (Kindergarten)	5 by 1 January in year of entry (Prep)	6 by 1 January	6 th Birthday	5 – 12	11 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
ACT	4 by 30 th April in year of entry (Pre-school)	5 by 30 th April in year of entry (Kindergarten)	6 by 30 th April	6 th Birthday	5 – 12	11 – 18 (years 7 – 12)
Northern Territory	Continuous entry after 4 th birthday (Pre-school)	Continuous intake (Jan, April, July) after 5 th birthday in Transition	January – entry after 2 – 4 terms in Transition. System will change in 2004	6 th Birthday	5 – 13	12 – 18 (year 8 – 12 except in Alice Springs is 7 – 12)

The school year varies a little from state to state in Australia but generally begins in late January and ends in December just prior to Christmas. The school year reflects the reversal of seasons found in the Southern Hemisphere. The year is divided into four terms with holiday breaks in between. Children arriving from the Northern Hemisphere will either lose or gain six months in their grade placement. Schools try to place a child in their closest age group. Most schools favour the wearing of school uniforms. Students are required to purchase their own textbooks and school supplies.

Public, State and Government Schools

Public schools are also known as State or Government schools, as they are run by the State Government and are listed alphabetically by suburb in the Yellow Pages under 'Schools'. State or Government schools are run by the State Department of Education. The NSW Department of Education and Training's website is www.det.nsw.edu.au.

'Private' or Independent Schools

Private schools are known as Independent Schools and are listed by gender or as co-educational in the Yellow Pages under 'Schools'. Private schools will have slightly different term and holiday times to those listed above. Private schools also generally have smaller classes, more grounds and emphasis on sport and extracurricular activities. Private schools are fee paying and are run independently of the NSW Department of Education and Training. Many are church affiliated although they accept children of all faiths.

Further information may also be obtained from web sites supported by major schools:

Pymble Ladies College (PLC)

www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

SCEGGS Cremorne (Co-ed)

www.sceggs.nsw.edu.au

Queenwood School for Girls

www.queenwood.nsw.edu

Kambala School for Girls

www.kambala.nsw.edu.au

Scots College for Boys

www.tsc.nsw.edu.au

Shore (Sydney Church for England Grammar for Boys)

www.shore.nsw.edu.au

Schooling for International Visa Holders

Public Schooling

Families relocating to Australia on most categories of business visas have special regulations applied to them with regard to schooling in the public (government) system.

Fees are payable for enrolment in the public system. These fees must be paid and approval must be received prior to the student starting school.

Current fees are:

Primary School	\$4500 p.a.
Junior High School (Years 7-10)	\$4500 p.a.
Senior High School (Years 11-12)	\$5500 p.a.

An administration fee also applies.

Business visa holders are eligible to enrol in most government schools, however they are **NOT** permitted to enrol in:

The Conservatorium High School	(a selective music high school)
All selective High Schools	(academically selective)
OC Classes	(advanced classes for Years 5 & 6 students)

Private Schooling

Fees for private schools are set at the school's discretion. Fee may be different for temporary visa holders than those published in the schools prospectus. In each case, it is advisable to check the fees of each private school that you are interested in.

Catholic Schools

For information on schools operated by the Catholic Church contact Catholic Education Office on 9569 6111. The website for the Catholic Education Office in Sydney is www.ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au.

Pre-Schools

Most Australian children attend one to two years of pre-school, usually at 3-4 years of age, before going to primary school. Pre-schools are also known as Kindergarten, 'kindys' or nursery school. An increasing number of kindergartens are now providing classes for three year olds where children have an opportunity to interact with other children of their own age.

Play Groups

Most residential communities will have local playgroups for young children. The local city council will have information on local playgroups and other activities of interest for children.

Tertiary Education

University & Open Learning

Information on University degree courses may be obtained by phoning the Universities Admissions Centre on 9752 0200 or www.uac.edu.au or by phoning individual university campuses which are listed in the Yellow Pages under Universities and Tertiary Education Colleges.

University courses are also available by correspondence through the Open Learning Australia program. Its head office is in Melbourne so contact (03) 9903 8900 for information on courses and fees.

TAFE

Technical and Further Education (TAFE) offer trade, business and hobby diploma courses from several city and suburban locations. For course information phone 131 601.

Adult and Community Education Council NSW Inc

The Adult and Community Education Council for NSW Inc also offers a range of general, language, creative and business courses during the day and evening. For further information phone 9565 1312.

Sydney U3A (University of the Third Age Network for NSW) Program for participation of senior citizens in university courses

15-17 Young Street, Sydney, 2000

Ph: 9252 2033 www.acay.com.au/~sydn3a.

Language Classes

French	Alliance Francaise de Sydney 257 Clarence Street, Sydney	9267 1755
German	Goethe-Institute 90 Ocean Street, Woollahra Internationes	8356 8366
Italian	Italia 500, Italian Centre 203 Castlereagh Street, Sydney	9261 1795
Japanese	Japanese Language Centre 49-51 Bay Road, Waverton	9955 8732

8. Religion

Sydney's multicultural heritage ensures that virtually every major religion is practised in Sydney. Your Yellow Pages telephones directory can provide a range of contact.

Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

St Andres House, Sydney SQ. Syd 9262 1555

Buddhist Centre of Sydney

24 Enmore Road, Newtown 9519 0440

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Central Office, Leichardt 9569 6111

Jewish Community Services

Darlinghurst 1300 133 660

9. Leisure and Recreational Activities

If you would like to know Whats Happening around Sydney look in the front colour section of your Yellow Pages telephone directory. Visit the websites for information such as www.citysearch.com.au or www.smallguide.com.au

January

- Sydney Festival – free outdoor events including music, theatre and dance
- Sydney Ferry Boat Race – held on Australia Day – (January 26)

February

- Chinese New Year and Festival
- Opera in the Park
- Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

March

- Blue Mountains Music festival
- Royal Easter Show

April

- Anzac Day

May

- Sydney Writers Festival
- Dubbo Show
- Blue Mountains Food and Wine Festival

June

- Snow-skiing season opens
- Sydney Film Festival

July

- Sydney International Boat Show
- Yulefest in the Blue Mountains (Christmas in July)

August

- City to Surf – 14 km race that starts in city and finishes at Bondi Beach

September

- AJC Spring Racing Carnival
- Tulip Time Festival

October

- Manly International Jazz Festival
- Sydney Motor Show
- Sculpture by the Sea – continues on into November – from Bondi to Tamarama
- Rugby League Grand Final

November

- Melbourne Cup, Flemington Racecourse Melbourne. This is one of the world's most famous horse races and although held in Melbourne, it is equally celebrated in Sydney. Be prepared for the entire country to stop for two minutes while this race is run on the first Tuesday in November.

December

- Carols by Candlelight, The Domain
- Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race (Boxing Day).

Sport

Sydney residents are keen sport watchers, as well as participants. Australian Rules football, also known as 'Aussie Rules' or just the 'the footy', has a huge following as does cricket.

Soccer, basketball and rugby are also popular sports for spectators and major games attract large crowds.

The Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, Homebush Bay houses both the Telstra Stadium and Sydney Superdome and was built for the Sydney Olympics 2000. Now it hosts major sporting events and expos. The SCG (Sydney Cricket Ground) and Aussie Stadium at Moore Park also hosts major cricket, rugby league, rugby union, soccer and Australian Rules events.

Sporting Organisations

Australian Football League (AFL)	8333 8000
NSW Institute of Sport	9763 0222
NSW Baseball League	9675 4533
NSW Rugby League	9971 0877
NSW Rugby Union	8354 3300
NSW Softball Association	9677 4000
NSW Golf Association	9505 9105
Cricket NSW	9339 0999
Racing NSW	9995 0300
NSW Tennis Association	9763 7644
Netball NSW	9646 5666

Art Galleries

Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, Domain	9225 1744
Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Circular Quay	9241 5892
Museum of Applied Arts and Science Powerhouse Museum	9217 0111

Markets

Sydney's Paddy's Markets, Market City, Cnr Hay and Thomas Streets, Sydney, Meat, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables and Souvenirs, Fashion, Homewares. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Paddington Markets, Oxford St, Paddington, Arts and Crafts, Homewares, Flowers, Fashion. Open Saturday.

Sydney Growers Market, Flemington (also Sydney Flowers Market) Meat, Fish, Vegetables, Produce and Flowers. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Local art and craft markets are also popular. You will find these advertised in local community newspapers.

Booking Services

Tickets to most major sporting events are available through booking agencies:

Ticketmaster 7 136 100

Ticketek 132 849

Newspapers

Sydney's major daily newspapers are 'The Daily Telegraph' and 'The Sydney Morning Herald'. Saturday's edition of The Sydney Morning Herald has large classified sections for real estate, employment and motor vehicles along with lifestyle segments. You can access article and classified advertisements from:

The Sydney Morning Herald via their website
www.smh.com.au

The Daily Telegraph via their website
www.dailytelegraph.news.com.au

Major daily national newspapers include The Australian Financial Review and The Australian. Sunday newspapers are the Sun Herald and The Sunday Telegraph.

Community Newspapers

Local community newspapers are usually delivered to your home free of charge. Your local paper is a great way to find out what is happening in your neighbourhood and it will include a large range of advertisements for local tradesmen and services such as babysitters, gardeners, pool maintenance etc.

Home Entertainment and Video Tapes

Australia uses the PAL-BG colour and channel coverage system. There are over 30 different broadcast formats used throughout the world and most are incompatible with one another. You should consult with the manufacturer of your television and VCR before bringing them to Australia, as they may not work here.

You can rent or purchase VCR's which will play both US and Australian format videos, they are called NTSC systems.

Entertainment videos can be rented from video hire stores found in most suburban shopping centres.

Free to Air Television

Sydney has 5 free to air television channels includes Channels 2, 7, 9, 10 and 0/28. Channel 2 is the ABC or Australian Broadcasting Commission, government funded station and Channel 0/ 28 is SBS the multicultural television station.

Pay Television

Pay or cable television is provided through Foxtel and Optus. For information on connections and cost contracts:

Foxtel (Cable) Enquiry Line 131 999

Optus Vision (Cable) Enquiry Line 133 399

If you are renting a home you will require the landlords permission to connect pay television. If you require access to pay TV, you should check the availability before you sign the lease as not all properties currently have access to this facility.

Beaches

Sydney has beaches all along the coastline, which are suitable for swimming and water recreational activities such as sailing and sailboarding. The two major surfing beaches are Bondi and Manly but there are many other and some harbour beaches (Balmoral). While the surf beaches may look safe to swim in we often have dangerous undercurrents that can easily drag swimmers away from the shore, (called Rips).

Always swim between the flags on beaches that are patrolled by Surf Life Saving Clubs.

Sun Protection and Skin Cancer

You will hear the saying 'Slip, Slop, Slap'. In Australia we have very high UV Rays and as a consequence unprotected skin will burn very easily, even on a cloudy day. The Cancer Council of NSW recommends that when outside we slip on a tee shirt, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat. Use sunscreen with a high protection factor and do not spend extended periods in direct sunlight during the middle of the day. Special UV protection swimsuits are now available for children. For more information please call the Cancer Council of NSW on 9334 1900.

Learn to Swim

Learn to Swim programmes are conducted at swimming pool centres throughout Sydney. Check your Yellow Pages telephone directory or contact your local council for further information.

10. Health Care

Sydney has a wide range of health care facilities including local suburban General Practitioners, 24 hour Medical Centres, private and public hospitals and specialist doctors. Telephone numbers for Doctors may be found in the Yellow Pages telephone directory under M for Medical Practitioners.

Health Insurance

Medicare is a Government health insurance scheme that takes a percentage of annual taxable income from all employed in Australia. Medicare covers the cost associated with being treated as a public patient in a public hospital. To be treated as a private patient in a hospital you will have to pay associated costs or obtain private health insurance.

Medicare also offers private health insurance through a subsidiary group known as Medicare Private.

Private hospital costs vary from hospital to hospital, but like many countries private hospitals are expensive. Fees are based on a daily rate with extra charges levied for doctors, medications and operating theatre charges.

Medicare does NOT cover temporary residents in Australia. If you are not certain of your eligibility for coverage ascertain your visa status (that is the visa classification under which you entered Australia and the contact a Medicare office to check your eligibility).

It is strongly recommended that overseas visitors take out private health insurance for the term of their assignment in Australia. If you are transferring to Sydney from another state in Australia you should advise Medicare of your new residential address as soon as possible.

International transferees that have health insurance at home may be able to transfer to a local fund, without penalty, at a similar level of cover with an Australian fund if your home health fund is a member of the International Federation of Health Funds.

Remember in a medical emergency – **Dial 000** for an ambulance.

Major Hospitals

Royal North Shore Hospital	St Leonards	9926 7111
Sydney Childrens Hospitals	Randwick	9382 1111
Childrens Hospital Westmead	Westmead	9845 0000
Mater Hospital	Crows Nest	9900 7300
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	Camperdown	9515 6111

Baby Health Care Centres

Many residential areas will host a local baby and infant health care centre that provides free health care information for families. Contact your local council to find out further information on services available and hours of operation.

Baby-Sitting Agencies

There are quite a few Nanny and Baby-sitting agencies in Sydney. It is always a good idea to meet with representatives from a few agencies so that you feel comfortable with the types of service they can provide. Reputable agencies will always provide references on request.

Dial an Angel

201 New South Head Road, Edgecliff 9362 4225
2 Kochia Lane, Lindfield 9416 7511

Nannies & Helpers

14 Queen Street, Woollahra 9363 4221

Pet Care

Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Hospitals can be found in many residential areas. Check the Yellow Pages locality guide for Veterinary Surgeons to find a clinic close to your new residence.

You can also contact:

RSPCA	Rookwood Road, Yagoona	9770 7555
Animal Welfare League	Herley Avenue, West Hoxton	9606 9333

11. Regulatory

Income Tax

Income tax must be paid on all income and interest earned in Australia, including wages and profits made on the sale of most kinds of property. Every person who earns income in Australia should have a Tax File Number, or TFN. Upon your arrival you should lodge an application with the Taxation Office to obtain a personal Tax File Number. The amount of tax due is assessed at the end of financial year, which runs from 1 July to 30 June.

A professional taxation consultant will be able to assist you in arranging your financial matters. It is an offence to fail an income tax return or to refuse to answer questions asked by the Taxation Office. Penalties may be imposed for late lodgement of returns, late payment of tax assessed, understatement of income and overstatement of deductions.

Personal Tax Enquiries

Australian Taxation Office 132 861

Voting

Voting is compulsory for Australian born and Naturalised Australian in all Federal, State and Local Government elections. British subjects on the Electoral Roll prior to January 1984 are also eligible to vote. Forms for enrolling on the Electoral roll may be obtained from any Australia Post office. Enquiries regarding voting and enrolling on the electoral roll may be directed to the Electoral Roll Enquiries 132 326 or the Australian Electoral Commission 9375 6333.

Total Fire Ban Days

Bushfires can be extremely dangerous particularly in the timbered outer suburbs of Sydney, especially at the end of a long, dry summer. When the risk of bush fires is high the Country Fire Authority may declare a Total Fire Ban Day. It is an offence to light a fire in the open on a Total Fire Ban Day and heavy penalties apply. If you are caught in a bush fire area you should follow instructions of fire fighting personnel in the area.

Pet Registration

Local Councils strongly enforce the registration of cats and dogs in residential areas and may also limit the number and types of animals you may keep. Pet registration fees are cheaper for de-sexed pets. Fines apply for unregistered pets, pets that disturb neighbours and pets that are not confined in accordance with local legislation. Severe penalties, including destruction of the dog, apply should your dog attack people or property. Contact your local council for specific pet regulations in your area. Some councils do not require registration if the pet is microchipped.

12. Additional Information

Association & Clubs

Australian American Association	1300 550 920
American Women of Sydney	9990 9979
English Speaking Union	9286 3111
Friends of the Australian Ballet	9252 7322
Art Gallery Society of NSW	9225 1878
Association of Zoo Friends	9968 2822
National Trust	9258 0123
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens	9231 8182
NSW Bridge Association	9264 6884

Overseas Consulates in Sydney

American	Level 59 MLC Centre Martin Place, Sydney	9373 9200
British	1 Macquarie Place, Sydney	9247 7521
Chinese	39 Dunblane Street, Camperdown	8595 8000
Danish	1 Alfred, Circular Quay	9247 2224
French	31 Market Street, Sydney	9261 5779
Italian	1 Macquarie Place, Sydney	9392 7942
Japanese	52 Martin Place, Sydney	9231 3455
Spanish	31 Market Street, Sydney	9261 2433

Dealing with Culture Shock

Culture shock can be defined as a sense of disorientation and the accompanying anxiety and stress that result from being transported from one culture to another.

It is important to remember that it is normal, even in the most seasoned expatriates, and usually follows quite recognisable states. It particularly affects the non-working partner of a relocated executive.

The initial excitement and euphoria at the prospect of living in a new state or country often gives way to confusion and frustrations as the settling in process begins.

Clues given our by the locals may be unfamiliar and difficult to read. Local customs, language and messages conveyed by body language will need to be learned and interpreted before the appropriate responses can be given.

This can lead to discouragement and despair and generally negative and critical attitude to the new environment (and even your loved ones) unless steps are taken to move into the next stage.

It is important to:

- Become familiar with your immediate surroundings.
- Resist making negative comparisons between the old and new environment.
- Become involved in the local community – join a tennis or golf club or local fire bridge group.
- Get out and about (look in your local newspaper for activities that interest you).
- Set goals and targets to acquire new skills and interests (for example, collecting antiques, attending local history or pottery classes).
- Find a balance between physical activity, rest and relaxation.
- Be prepared to ask for advice when necessary.
- Retain a sense of humour.

Above all, it is vital to communicate with your family, to be open and accepting of each other's thoughts and feelings, and to listen to and support each other. Allow each other time and space to grieve for what has been left behind. Acceptance is reached when the behaviour of the locals no longer seem strange, when there is pleasure from new opportunities and experience and joy from new friendships – when you finally feel in control.

Being relocated is an opportunity for personal growth, for expanding horizons both physically and emotionally. It is a chance to enjoy a new closeness with family through shared experiences.

Australian Terms and Phrases

Australian Term	Explanation
Baths	Public swimming pools
Beaut	Very good
Billy	Tin can used to boil tea on open fire
Blinds	Window shades
Block of flats	Apartment house
Block	Parcel of land
Bonnet	Hood of the car
Bookings	Reservations
Boot	Trunk of car
Bottling	Canning
Braces	Suspenders
Chemist	Druggist
Chooks	Chickens
Cistern	Toilet tank
Coffee crystals	Unrefined brown sugar served with coffee
Costumes, bathers, togs	Swim suit
Cotton wool	Cotton
Crook (adjective)	No good
Crook, to be	To be sick
Cut lunch	Snack lunch
Dear	Expensive article
Devonshire tea	Tea and scones, jam and whipped cream
Docket	Sales check
Drawing pins	Thumb tacks
Dust bins, rubbish bin	Garbage can, trash
Entry	To charge
Estate agent	Real estate agent
Fair dinkum	For real, the best, on the level
Fairy lights	Coloured lights
First floor	Second floor
Flat	Apartment
Footpath	Sidewalk
Footy	Football (Australian Rules)
Fortnight	Two weeks
Fridge	Refrigerator
Fringe	Bangs
Full stop	Period
Gaol	Jail
Garbo	Garbage collector
Garden	Yard
Globe	Light bulb
Grog	Alcoholic beverage
Ground floor	First floor
Hire purchase	Instalment plan buying
Holiday	Vacation
Jumper	Pullover, sweater
Kilo	2.2 pounds
Kiosk	Small novelty and food stand
Lid	Cover or hat
Lift	Elevator

Australian Term	Explanation
Lounge	Living room
Mate	Good friend
Middy	285 ml glass of beer
Nappy	Diaper
Nought	Zero
Noughts and crosses	Tic-tac-toe
Oldies	Parents
Overtaking lane	Passing lane
Pegs	Clothes pin
Pelmet	Valance
Petrol	Gas
Pikelets	Small pancakes
Pillar box or post box	Mail box
Plaits	Braids
Pommy	Englishman
Postie	Postman
Pot	285ml glass of beer
Power point	Electrical outlet
Queue up	Line up
Reel of cotton	Spool of thread
Right, to be	To be satisfied
Ring, to	To call on the telephone
Rug	Lap robe
Sandshoes	Sneakers
Schooner	425ml glass of beer
Serviette	Table napkin
Shiela	Young girl
Shout, to	To buy you a drink
Singlet	Man's undershirt
Sister	Registered nurse
Skiting board	Mouldings
Spanner	Wrench
Spencer	Lady's undershirt
Supper	Light meal after the evening entertainment
Surgery	Doctor's office
Suspenders	Garters
Tariff	Rate
Tea	Early evening meal
Tick	To check
Tingle	To call on the telephone
Torch	Flash light
Truck call	Long distance
Tucker	Food
Tunic	Uniform
Unit	Apartment
Wash up	Washing the dishes
Windscreen	Windshield
Wireless	Radio
Wog	Virus
Wool	Yarn for knitting
Zed	z

International Clothing Sizes

Men's Clothing

Suits, Jackets, Sweaters

Australia	12	14		16		18		20	
United States	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Great Britain	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Continent	44	46	48	49 ½	51	52 ½	54	55 ½	57

Shirts

Australia	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	45
United States	14 ½	15	15 ½	16	16 ½	17	17 ½	18
Great Britain	14 ½	15	15 ½	16	16 ½	17	17 ½	18
Continent	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	45

Shoes

Australia	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
United States	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Great Britain	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Continent	40	41	42	43	44 ½	46	47

Women's Clothing

Dresses, Suits, Coats, Sweaters

Australia	10	12	14	16	18	20
United States	8	10	12	14	16	18
Great Britain	10	12	14	16	18	20
Continent	38	40	42	44	46	48

Shoes

Australia	5	5 ½	6	6 ½	7	7 ½	8	8 ½	9
United States	5	5 ½	6	6 ½	7	7 ½	8	8 ½	9
Great Britain	3 ½	4	4 ½	5	5 ½	6	6 ½	7	7 ½
Continent	35	36	36	37	37	38	38	39	39
France	35	35	36	37	38	38	39	39	40

All size equivalents are approximations only

Metric Conversions

Length

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 centimetre (cm)	=0.394 inch	1 inch	=2.54 centimetres
1 metre (m)	=3.278 feet	1 foot	=0.305 metre
1 metre (m)	=1.094 yard	1 yard	=0.914 metre
1 kilometre (km)	=0.621 mile	1 mile	=1.609 kilometres

Weight

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 gram (g)	=0.0353 ounce	1 ounce	=28.35 grams
1 kilogram (kg)	=2.205 pound	1 pound	=456.3 grams
1 tonne	=0.984 long ton		

Area

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 square metre	=10.76 square feet	1 square mile	=2.59 square kms
1 hectare	=2.471 acres	1 acre	=0.405 hectares
1 square kilometre	=0.386 square mile		

Traffic Speed Limits

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
40 kilometre/hour	=24.84 mph	20 mph	=32.18 kilometre/hour
60 km/h	=37.29 mph	30 mph	=48.28 km/h
80 km/h	=49.72 mph	40 mph	=64.36 km/h
100 km/h	=62.15 mph	50 mph	=80.45 km/h
110 km/h	=68.37 mph	60 mph	=96.54 km/h

Liquid Measures

Metric to Imperial		Imperial to Metric	
1 millilitre (ml)	=0.0352 fl oz	1 pint	=0.568 litre
1 litre (l)	=1.76 pints	1 gallon	=4.546 litres
1 litre (l)	=0.22 gallon		

Temperature

Celsius to Fahrenheit	
0 degrees Celsius (C°)	= 32 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
25 degrees Celsius (C°)	=77 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
35 degrees Celsius (C°)	=94 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
40 degrees Celsius (C°)	= 103 degrees Fahrenheit (F)

Please Note

At the time of printing, the information contained herein was true and correct. However, we will not accept liability for any misinformation contained herein and all interested persons must undertake their own investigation into specific items.

Notes

Emergency Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY – AMBULANCE, POLICE, FIRE – **DIAL 000**

Service	Name	Number
Local Doctor		
Local Hospital		
Local Police		
Local Fire		

Other Useful Number

Service	Name	Number
Relocation Consultant		
Local Crown Office		
Local Post Office		
Local Council		

