

Beach Culture



Pic: James Pipino; Destination NSW

With 350 km of coastline and a temperate climate, it's no surprise that beach culture in Sydney is a well developed passion that's shared with visitors. Beaches, bays and great surf are not far from the city centre; many Sydneysiders start the day with a run along a beach or coastal walk. Sydney's iconic beaches – Manly and Bondi – are some of the most celebrated beaches in the world, with their own unique style in surfing, shopping and dining. But there are plenty of other Sydney beaches to uncover from Tamarama to Coogee, Dee Why to Palm Beach. You don't have to travel far in Sydney to discover the city is in love with its beaches. Most of Sydney's 37 beaches are situated within 30 minutes of the city centre by public transport.

Bondi Beach

Bondi Beach has a style all its own. The promenade at the back of the beach is a favourite track for joggers and roller bladers while Campbell Parade is a popular grazing ground with Sydney's cafe society. Book in for a surf lesson or



Pic: Pierre Toussaint; Destination NSW

head to an oceanfront bar or restaurant. Popular with backpackers, billionaires, board riders and the body beautiful, Bondi is one of Sydney's most eclectic beaches. A walk along the beachfront promenade gives you the chance to experience its carefree sun-drenched lifestyle. Bondi Beach is about 10 minutes from the city centre. The main thoroughfare, Campbell Parade, has stylish surf wear shops, souvenirs, outdoor cafes, cool bars and fish'n chip shops. Hall Street has cool fashion and designer labels while Curlewis Street has numerous art galleries. To discover other stunning beaches nearby, take the trail to Tamarama (also known as Glamarama) or experience the Bronte and Coogee walk via a scenic boardwalk.

Eat Out

Bondi is famed for its beach and it's no surprise that most of the cafes and restaurants in the area overlook the ocean. The myriad eating establishments offer a great time out.



Pic: Iceberg Dining Room & Bar

The south end of the beach offers views up the waterfront, especially if you're lucky enough to get a table on the north-facing balcony of the Bondi Icebergs Club Bistro. The menu offers a wide variety without putting too much of a hole in your wallet. A five-minute walk up the road takes you to Bondi Trattoria, one of the most popular Italian eateries in the area.

Right in the middle of the shoreline is Nick's Bondi Beach Pavilion, a beautifully restored 1928 building, specialising in seafood and cocktails.

If the sea breezes are too much for you, retreating back from the beach is an option. Blue Orange Restaurant and Flying Squirrel Tapas Bar both offer modern Australian options with a mix of the exotic.

What can I do?

- Learn to surf or paddle board with Lets Go Surfing at Bondi Beach
- Bondi to Coogee Walk – Offering beautiful coastline vistas, cosy beaches and café strip for refuelling
- Enjoy a cocktail at Icebergs Bar or cool off in the clubs rock pool
- Browse the Bondi Markets on Sundays

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Manly Beach

In company with Bondi, Manly Beach is Sydney's most iconic strip of sand, named by the State's first governor Arthur Phillip in 1788 for the impression made on him by "the confidence and manly behaviour" of the area's Aborigines.

Nestled between a tranquil inner-harbour beach on one side and a popular Pacific Ocean surf beach on the other, Manly combines a laid-back attitude with a sophisticated dining scene and stylish shopping.



Pic: James Pipino; Destination NSW

The palm-tree lined Corso leads you onto the Steyne promenade, where you can walk, roller-blade or cycle from Manly Beach to Freshwater Beach. Hire a bike, or head to Oceanworld Manly with the kids, enjoy casual dining and a ghost tour at Q Station.

Eat Out

In the summer months you'll see the bars and restaurants of Manly flowing out into the streets and during winter the area is well prepared for the chill with a plethora of cosy bars and cafes where you can watch the world go by.

The beachfront offers the widest choice of options and North Steyne in particular is a haven for eateries. Pre-meal drinks can be sought in Hemingway's Manly, which offers casual seating, soft lighting and inspirational bookcases and caters for top end to will-drink-anything-style punters.

Events:

Australian Open of Surf

Manly Beach 11-19 Feb 2012

Australia's leading youth lifestyle event hits the shores of Manly Beach this February, featuring the world's best surfers & skaters, music, fashion & art.

www.australianopenofsurfing.com

Bondi Open Air Cinema

Bondi Pavillon Jan-Mar 2012

A summer of live music and feature films under the stars is on the way. Bondi Openair nights are a quintessentially summer event ; with feature films playing on huge outdoor screens from dusk. Cinemagoers can relax with some gourmet-style food and tasty beverages from the licensed bar, while listening to the sunset sounds of acoustic sets from emerging musicians.

www.bondiopenair.com

Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

Sydney Harbour 26 Dec 2011-01 Jan 2012

The Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race has become an icon of Australia's summer sports. In 2011 the race will start on 26 December and will be conducted on the waters of Sydney Harbour, the Tasman Sea, Storm Bay and the Derwent River. No regular annual yachting event in the world attracts such huge media coverage than does the start on Sydney Harbour.

www.rolexsydneyhobart.com

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

Sydney Harbour 24 Mar-15 Apr 2012

An unforgettable evening under the stars. For three weeks only starting in March 2012 one of the greatest operas ever written 'La Traviata' will be performed on a shimmering stage, afloat on Sydney Harbour.

www.opera-australia.org.au



Pic: Destination NSW

Move on to Sable, 100 metres up the road, where you can sample tapas inside wicker doughnuts.

Tapas is a big deal in Manly and can also be found in Jah Bar, whose extensive wine list is likely to keep you enticed all night, or In Situ if you prefer cocktails and live music to accompany your tapas.

On the Harbour side is 4 Pines Brewery,

where the beer is made on site, and you can learn about the whole process while enjoying a sample of its produce.

What can I do?

- Hire a bike and go for a cycle along the foreshore
- Manly to Spilt bridge scenic walk
- Come face to face with sharks at Oceanworld Manly
- Don't miss a ghost tour at Q-Station.



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Cronulla

On the coastline around Cronulla, there are plenty of things to do from surfing and fishing, to hiking, whale-watching or just lazing on uncrowded beaches. Cronulla Beach is one of the longest Sydney beaches with a sparkling outdoor cafe scene, although to the locals Cronulla is four beaches not just one. Just south of Cronulla is the peaceful village of Bundeena, a ferry ride across Port Hacking River.



While Cronulla Beach is a major highlight of the area, nearby are two of Sydney's best national parks for bushwalking - Royal National Park and Heathcote National Park. In the "Royal", you can also go rowing, ocean fishing and surfing.

What can I do?

- Catch a ferry to Bundeena, then walk the Coastal Track in the Royal National Park and explore its secluded beaches.
- Dine out in the restaurants and alfresco cafés lining Cronulla's foreshore.
- Snorkel and scuba dive, either in Botany Bay, Port Hacking or in ocean sites off Cronulla Coast.
- Observe humpback whales at Cape Solander on the Kurnell Peninsula from May to November.
- Take the one-hour walk via Jibbon Beach to see the Aboriginal rock engravings made by the Dharawal people.



Palm Beach

Palm Beach is Sydney's northernmost stretch of sand, a 50-minute drive from the Sydney city centre. Dramatic Barrenjoey Head is at the northern end of the beach, with historic Barrenjoey Lighthouse and keepers' cottages at the end of an easy 2.3 km walk. This section of the beach is popular with experienced surfers looking for great waves.

At the southern end is a more protected environment for swimming; a 35-metre ocean pool is deep enough for laps but has a shallow end that's ideal for kids. Other activities include fishing, golf, sailing or

diving. Take the ferry from Palm Beach to pretty Ettalong.

What can I do?

- Take in the views at Barrenjoey Lighthouse.
- Go whale watching with FantaSea Cruising Palm Beach.
- Relax on Palm Beach or give learning to surf a go.
- Dream of being on the set of 'Home and Away'? Palm Beach is where scenes of the show are actually filmed.

