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## A little about Sydney

### The city

You are on the edge of the CBD of one of the world's largest and most beautiful cities. The city revolves around the harbour. There's nothing better than enjoying a drink at one of the numerous bars or pubs by the water whilst the sun sets with the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge as a backdrop. Sydney Harbour is still an active shipping port so you will see some huge container ships and passenger liners sailing under the bridge amongst the ferries. On weekends you will see an endless stream of yachts and powerboats as everyone flocks to the water.

With some of the best beaches in the world and a mild, temperate climate; much of Sydney life is centred on the outdoors. There are lots of outdoor sporting activities and things to do whilst you soak up the sun. Great food and alfresco dining are everywhere. If you are interested in theatre or other cultural events, there are some world class galleries, theatre productions and museums, with lots of activities all year round.

### The people

Sydney has a population of around 4 million people from all over the world. Most Australians are from an Anglo Saxon/ Celtic or European background, as a result of early European settlement. As you are located only minutes from Chinatown you will notice a large number of Asian Australians around your local area – try not to miss the Chinese New Year celebrations if you are here at that time of year. There are also a small number of Aboriginal Australians around the area.

As you travel to Sydney suburbs outside the CBD you will see pockets of people from a variety of different backgrounds. Leichhardt is a perfect example with its streets overflowing with Italian restaurants, Cabramatta with a huge Vietnamese Australian population and in Auburn and surrounds there are many Australians of Middle Eastern decent. Try to get out of the city and visit some of the places off the tourist tracks. You will find people are eager to talk to you and keen to hear about your travels. And always hopeful that you are enjoying your stay in Australia.

As with any large city, people are rushing about their daily business, however, you will find that Sydneysiders are generally "laid back" and easy going. Some may be a little stand-offish at first. However you should find most people friendly and happy to help you out with information, and in the event of you really being in trouble, you can be guaranteed a helping hand. They generally always enjoy a drink as well!!!

## **About your local area**

### **History and people**

Surry Hills is a very mixed and colourful area, and it has a long and chequered history as part of early Sydney. You are a stone's throw away from the CBD but at the same time there is a suburban feel. On one hand you have factory clothing outlets, designers, architects, etc. and then next door you may have a mosque or a Buddhist temple, plus a lot of residential buildings mixed in.

The community of Surry Hills is varied and diverse, with people from every background and walk of life. We have people whose families have lived here for generations, southern European's and people from the Middle East who settled here in the 50's and 60's. There has been a large Chinese community in Surry Hills since last century. They have been joined by people from other Asian countries in the last few decades.

There is a strong gay and lesbian community; every year Sydney experiences the excitement of the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a month-long festival of arts, theatre, film and cultural events

Until the 1980's Surry Hills was a predominantly working class suburb. But the move back to inner city areas by professional and business people has seen Surry Hills transform without losing its charms. The terrace house you are living in is one of the original worker's cottages that are typical of Sydney inner city living. It is around 100 years old. Many of the area's most charming old industrial and retail buildings have been completely refurbished and transformed into highly sought-after residential properties.

### **Safety**

Sydney is a relatively safe city; however as with any large city you should be careful to protect yourself and your belongings. Keep doors locked. You are a block away from the local police command but try to walk with another person when coming home very late at night (especially women). Please be safe.

### **Attractions and facilities**

In recent years Crown Street, Elizabeth Street, Devonshire Street and parts of Bourke Street and Cleveland Street, have seen the development of trendy new restaurants and cafes. The area's grand old hotels and public bars have been made over into all night entertainment and music venues.

All that inner Sydney has to offer by way of diversion, entertainment and excitement are within a block or two of Surry Hills. Just a short walk away you'll find the shopping haven of Oxford Street, also famed for its nightlife scene.

Surry Hills also offers a vast range of galleries, parks, museums, pubs and clubs.

## Facilities nearby

### **Laundromat/ dry cleaning**

Corner of Goulburn and Pelican Sts

Elizabeth St – between Reservoir and Campbell Sts

### **Internet cafes**

Oxford Square shopping complex (cnr Oxford and Riley Sts)

Oxford St - opposite Duffy Bros

There are many on Elizabeth St

### **Supermarkets and convenience stores**

Duffy Bros Supermarket– corner Riley and Oxford Sts

IGA Supermarket– corner Oxford and Brisbane Sts

Reservoir St – near the pub

Goulburn St – opposite the police station

Corner Albion and Elizabeth Sts

### **Health and Fitness**

Cook & Phillip Park (in front of St Marys Cathedral) - public pool and gym.

### **Chemist**

Corner of Oxford and Brisbane Sts

Corner of Foveaux and Elizabeth Sts

### **Bottle shops**

Most pubs will sell alcohol over-the-counter. The nearest bottle shop is Vintage Cellars which is on Riley St (the same complex as Duffy Bros)

### **Public telephone boxes**

Royal Albert Hotel – corner of Commonwealth and Reservoir Sts

Corner of Campbell and Samuel Sts near the park

Brisbane St near the police station car park.

## Eating out

### Pubs

The Forresters, Riley St (\$5 meals 5 nights a week. Excellent value)

The Porterhouse, cnr Riley and Campbell Sts

Also try The Rocks. This is the heart of old Sydney and there are some great old pubs here. Be prepared for some rowdy crowds on weekends.

### Cafés

Plissé , Reservoir St

Café 249, Riley St

Crown St, Surry Hills; and Victoria St and Darlinghurst Rd, Darlinghurst are great places for finding small cafés that are cheap but with great food and atmosphere. Some of them have excellent breakfast menus.

### Restaurants

Una's, Victoria St, Darlinghurst – cheap and hearty German meals. Most nights your maitre de will greet you in traditional lederhosen.

Mohr Fish, cheap seafood; plus Mohr and Mohr, Devonshire St – a little more expensive but great food.

Woolloomooloo Wharf has a great selection of waterside restaurants. They are priced more expensively however.

Thai – we won't even try mentioning one particular Thai restaurant as Sydney is absolutely overflowing with them. You'll find some excellent Thai food at great prices.

Bin Thanh (Vietnamese), King St, Newtown - highly recommended. Authentic Vietnamese food at great prices.

Jazushi, Devonshire St, Surry Hills – a bit more expensive but excellent. A mix of Japanese and French cuisine.

The Paddington end of Oxford St past Taylor Square has a great selection of small restaurants that are full of atmosphere and reasonably priced.

### Home delivery

We have left several home delivery menus for you use and during your stay you will no doubt receive several each week in the letterbox. You will be able to order virtually anything from any restaurant.

## Going out

### Bars

Peppermint Lounge, Kings Cross. Funky lounge bar.

The Middle Bar, Taylor Square - above Kinselas.

Gilligans, Oxford St – a great way to end the night/ morning.

The Columbian, Oxford St – a friendly, gay/ Mixed crowd.

### Gay and Lesbian Sydney

Sydney is the largest gay city in the world and you will find a large and vibrant gay sub-culture in the area. For the most up-to-date information there are two Sydney newspapers you can refer to; the Sydney Star Observer and SX. You can find these at most of the shops, clubs and bars along Oxford St (when you do your shopping you will be able to pick one up at Duffy Bros supermarket). Most gay venues are along Oxford St but you will also find quite a few in the Newtown/ Erskineville area (including The Erskineville Hotel, the home of Priscilla Queen of the Desert. The Erskineville Hotel has a regular Priscilla drag show).

### Nightclubs

Home, Darling Harbour - depending on the night you will get a young straight or mixed crowd

Arq, Taylor Square – a mainly gay crowd but very mixed some nights.

NV, Oxford St - a mainly young, straight crowd

The Civic Hotel, mainly straight but gay friendly crowd.

Soho, Kings Cross – a mixed age, straight crowd.

The Midnight Shift – a mainly men dominated gay crowd.

This is only a small sample. There is a huge amount of clubs in Sydney catering for all music and social tastes. Try along the city end of Oxford St, the CBD, the beachside suburbs and Kings Cross. You will be able to find something that suits you. Drum Magazine has the latest gigs.

### Pubs

The Forresters, Riley St

The Porterhouse, cnr Riley and Campbell Sts

Or try just about every second corner and you will find a new one.

## Useful telephone numbers

### Emergency contact numbers

Emergency - police/ ambulance/ fire	0 0 0
Surry Hills Police Station (You are located nearby to Surry Hills police area command).	9265 4144

### Hospitals, doctors and pharmacies

St Vincent's Hospital and Casualty Department is located on Victoria St (Cnr of Victoria and Burton Sts). If driving, go to Oxford St and go right (away from the city)

After Hours Medical Centre Darlinghurst	9360 2666
After Hours Eastern Suburbs Medical Service	9389 3133
Surry Hills Medical Centre	9699 3311

### Taxis

ABC Taxis	132 522
Legion Cabs	13 14 51
RSL Taxis	9581 1111

There are also telephone directories in the cupboard underneath the TV.

### Public transport

The easiest way to find out how to get around is:

- call 131 500 and an operator can assist you in person ,or
- go to [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au).

**Central train station** is the closest station to you. Go right when you leave the apartment building and until you get to Elizabeth St. Continue until Foveaux St, cross Elizabeth St and you will see the station entrance diagonally opposite.

The **nearest bus stop** is on Elizabeth St and a large number of buses leave from Central station.

### Visitor information

Sydney Visitor Information Centre  
106 George Street  
Sydney  
Phone - 13 20 77

## **Cleaning**

The apartment will have been cleaned prior to your arrival. It is designed to be self-catering; however we will supply some cleaning products for use during your stay. The apartment should be cleaned prior to your departure or we can organise a cleaner (cost is \$125.00 for a general clean).

## **Keys**

If keys are lost and you require a replacement set, this can be deducted from the deposit. Replacement front door keys vary between \$5-10 each.

If you are staying in our Foster Street unit the replacement cost for each security key is \$65.00.

If you are having a guest during your stay and need another set of keys for them please let us know.