

Surrounded by iconic beaches

Sydney, with a population of almost four million, is a cosmopolitan city surrounded by iconic beaches, world heritage areas, lush hinterland and acclaimed wine regions. Its laid-back outdoor lifestyle and the physical allure of being set around one of the most beautiful harbours in the world, make it one of the most desirable cities to live in – and to visit. The people who live here are friendly, energetic and down-to-earth.

Bursting with character, Sydney is a vibrant city catering to all your desires whether you seek exhilaration and exploration or 100% relaxation. Discover Sydney's unique blend of dining, shopping and recreation options in one of the world's most attractive city environments. The personality of Sydney's dining scene is as distinctive as the city itself, reflecting its multi cultural diversity and willingness to embrace new things. Find a fresh approach to flavour combinations at numerous gourmet restaurants, many of which are on the harbour and enjoy outstanding views. While high-end dining experiences are plentiful, cafe society thrives in Sydney's inner precincts and beaches. Paddington and Balmain have flourishing pub-dining scenes and quality food is also on offer at historic pubs in The Rocks.

There is a long standing debate between Melbournians and Sydneysiders as to which city 'rules'. Sydneysiders have a great argument in favour of their weather, harbour, beaches and laid-back attitude. However to a Melbournian, when it comes to style, culture and sophistication, the city that reigns supreme is in the south. This healthy sibling rivalry may never be resolved as both are equally liveable – as they are both equally loved.

Recreation is a speciality of Sydney, a city that takes full advantage of its natural environs. Soak up Sydney life on the Bondi to Bronte coastal walk, just one of many on offer. The Rose Bay to Watson's Bay and The Spit to Manly walks hug the harbour offering spectacular views. Challenge yourself by climbing Sydney's Harbour Bridge or enjoy a thrilling jet-boat jaunt. Gain an insight into Sydney Harbour's history on a cruise, or board a yacht to explore the harbour's hidden coves. For further relaxation experience the holiday feel of Sydney's Northern Beaches stretching from Manly to Palm Beach. Escape to Outer Sydney to explore areas steeped in history and rich in natural beauty.

Sydney harbour and the harbourside is the main geographical feature of the city and a dominating factor in the lifestyle of its inhabitants. The city has a wide-ranging cultural life, dynamic food scene and vibrant cityscape of outstanding contemporary and colonial architecture. Iconic beaches and five major national parks deliver unforgettable experiences. And most of Sydney's better attributes lie within easy reach of the city centre.



PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE ...

- Sydney Opera House
- Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Taronga Park Zoo
- Fort Denison
- Art Gallery of NSW
- Sydney Aquarium
- Hunter Valley



And a little out of town ...

- Balmain** – One of Sydney's oldest suburbs, now a vibrant and artistic community.
- Bondi** – One of Sydney's most eclectic and exciting precincts, and world famous beach.
- Chinatown and Haymarket** – Asian streetlife with a bit of Spanish pizzaz and Paddy's Markets.
- Darling Harbour** – A lively harbourside precinct that throbs with activity day and night.
- Darlinghurst** – Boutiques and bookshops by day, bars and nightclubs by night.
- Double Bay** – Fashion central and the playground of Sydney's rich and beautiful.
- Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo** – A lively entertainment area that buzzes with nightclubs and bars.
- Leichhardt** – Sydney's Little Italy, the place to go for all things Italian, from gelato to espresso.
- Manly** – Nestled between the harbour and a surf beach – take the ferry for a quintessential Sydney experience.
- Mosman and Balmoral** – Harbourside suburbs blessed with great cafes, shops and great views
- Newtown** – Colourful, unconventional and gay-friendly with a strong arts culture, great shopping and dining.
- Northern Beaches and Pittwater Peninsula** – with the Pacific Ocean on one side and Pittwater on the other
- Paddington** – Stylish terraces, a great shopping precinct lined with cafes and restaurants and a great craft market.



Sizzling Sydney



Photos courtesy of Tourism New South Wales, Captain Cook Cruises, Sydney Opera House.

1. Sydney Opera House and Sydney Bridge
2. Performance at the Opera House
3. Darling Harbour
4. Bondi Beach
5. Sydney Aquarium
6. City Skyline
6. Sydney Wildlife World



Sydney & Bondi Explorer

All day, every day, hop-on hop-off sightseeing. The red Sydney Explorer and blue Bondi Explorer offer the most comprehensive hop-on hop-off sightseeing services available. Designed with the tourist in mind each air-conditioned Explorer bus stops at popular venues, scenic attractions and famous beaches. Hop-on and hop-off as often as you like at any of the 46 Explorer stops and experience Sydney at your leisure.

The Sydney Explorer departs every 20 minutes, travels across the Sydney Harbour Bridge and stops at 27 not-to-be missed attractions including Mrs Macquarie's Chair, the Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour and The Rocks. The Bondi Explorer departs every 30 minutes and takes you along some of Sydney's most spectacular coastline and beaches, stopping at 19 locations including the famous Bondi Beach. Each round trip can be completed in approximately two hours.

Explorer tickets include travel on both the Sydney and Bondi Explorer services enabling you to experience the sights of the city and the beauty of the harbour and beaches. One and two day tickets are available, however, as there is so much to see and do many prefer the two day option. Don't forget to take advantage of additional ticket inclusions such as free travel on regular Sydney Buses (within the blue travel zone) and great discounts to Sydney's attractions. Visitors spending a longer time in Sydney may wish to purchase a SydneyPass ticket which includes the Explorer services plus much more – see advertisement below.

If you are going to Bondi Beach use your Explorer ticket and catch the 333 Bondi Bendy. The Bondi Bendy is a prepay only service that provides fast and easy access between Circular Quay and Bondi Beach via Paddington and Bondi Junction.

To experience the best of both the Explorer and the Bondi Bendy services, why not try catching the Bondi Explorer to Bronte, take the scenic coastal walk back to Bondi Beach, then catch the Bondi Bendy



to complete your day out with some shopping at the fashionable Bondi Junction and Paddington. Alternatively you may wish to stay longer at Bondi Beach and enjoy the beachside dining or one of the many surf activities on offer. The last Bondi Bendy service departs North Bondi at 11:03pm.

There is no need to book, Explorer (one and two day) and SydneyPass (three, five and seven day) tickets are available onboard Explorer Buses, from TransitShops (Wynyard, QVB and Circular Quay) or wherever you see a "SydneyPass Sold Here" sign.

For more information visit www.sydneypass.info/sydneyexplorer or pick up a brochure from your nearest tourist information centre.

Sydney's Paddy's Markets™

You haven't been to market 'til you've been to Sydney's Paddy's Markets. Every city has its markets. In Sydney it is Sydney's Paddy's Markets – the original, largest and best traditional markets offering a true market shopping experience.

It is situated in two huge locations – Haymarket and Flemington. With over 800 stalls in each location there is everything from souvenirs to sporting goods, clothes to cosmetics, footwear to fresh fruit and vegetables, hot food to heavy-metal CDs, sheepskins to seafood, plants to pendants, crafts, t-shirts and much, much more. Paddy's Haymarket is right in the heart of Chinatown at the edge of Darling Harbour. The monorail, Sydney Explorer bus and Sydney light rail all stop right outside the market. Both market sites are within walking distance of city rail stations. Paddy's Flemington on Friday, Saturday (Fresh Food) and Sunday also has free undercover parking for over 2,000 cars and is located opposite the Homebush Bay Olympic 2000 site. Paddy's Haymarket is open on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and public holiday Mondays and is in short walking distance of either Central or Town Hall stations.

Visit Paddy's website at www.paddysmarkets.com.au or call the Infoline on 1300 361 589.

Westend Backpackers

Funky Central Sydney Accommodation

Great vibe, friendly staff, clean and secure, central location and beds for everyone. TNT Golden BackPacks 'Finalist – Best Backpackers Hostel – NSW 2007 & 2008'

Westend Backpackers Youth Hostel is five minutes walk from Sydney Central Station and a short stroll to all major tourist attractions. Westend Backpackers offers backpackers, students and groups, funky, cheap, budget-style accommodation (4 & 6 share dorms plus female-only), double & triple rooms – all include a private bathroom. For a special



experience, try our famous 28 share dorm 'The Church'. We provide excellent facilities such as a large kitchen, 24-hour internet, TV lounge, travel desk, 24-hour reception and a comprehensive, fun-filled activity schedule seven days a week. Join us for our ever popular Coogee Beach BBQ. So come and tell us your legendary story, YOU will love it.

For more information freecall 1800 013 186 or (02) 9211 4588, fax (02) 9211 5312, email bookings@westendbackpackers.com or visit www.westendbackpackers.com.



SydneyPass Includes unlimited travel on:

- Sydney Explorer tour bus (27 stops, 20min frequency)
- Bondi Explorer tour bus (19 stops, 30min frequency)
- Sydney Ferries regular services (access 36 harbour locations)
- Entire Sydney Buses network (over 300 services daily)
- Regular CityRail (CBD) trains
- + Return Airport Link train transfers the fastest way to and from the airport

www.sydneypass.info

SYDNEYPASS 3,5 AND 7 DAY TICKETS CAN BE USED OVER AN EIGHT-DAY PERIOD.

Purchase tickets from onboard any Explorer bus.

Sydneyexplorer

See some of Sydney's most famous sights in air conditioned comfort. Hop on and hop off as often as you like and explore 27 attractions at your leisure.
27 stops, 20 min frequency, 2hr trip.

Bondiexplorer

Spend a day seeing 19 of Sydney's most picturesque harbourside locations and surf beaches. Visit Rushcutters Bay, Vaucluse, Watsons Bay, famous Bondi, Bronte & Coogee beaches.
19 stops, 30 min frequency, 2hr trip.

Regular Ferry Services

There are so many harbourside places your SydneyPass can take you, from the famous beachside spot of Manly to spectacular Taronga Zoo, Darling Harbour and historic Parramatta.
Catch a sleek RiverCat or traditional Manly Ferry and discover 36 different harbourside locations.
All Sydney Ferries services depart from Circular Quay throughout the day.
Sydney Ferries operate from wharves 2, 3, 4 and 5, Circular Quay.

SYDNEY'S Paddy's MARKETS

OPENING TIMES

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For opening times, parking & locations | **INFOLINE 1300 361 589**
www.paddysmarkets.com.au

Metro Hotels

Enjoy the comfort of a Metro Hotels' 'home away from home'

Metro Hotels is renowned for providing comfortable and spacious accommodation in major cities and regional centres across Australia. With most of its 13 hotels, serviced apartments and inns independently awarded four star ratings and its rooms attractively priced, the result is a continuous flow of corporate and leisure travellers enjoying the comfort of a Metro 'home away from home'.

Metro Hotels has seven properties in Sydney, including Metro Hotel Sydney Central, Metro Hotel on Pitt, Metro Apartments on Darling Harbour, the Aspire Hotel Sydney, as well as Metro Inns in Edgecliff, Ryde and Miranda.

In Melbourne the group has the boutique Metro Apartments on Bank Place, while in Queensland there is the Metro Hotel Tower Mill on Wickham Terrace in Brisbane; the Metro Hotel Ipswich International and the Metro Hotel and Apartments Gladstone.

The Metro Hotel on Canning is located in Perth, Western Australia, while the Metro Inn Albany is located in the attractive coastal city of Albany in the south of the State.

Most recently, the Group acquired the Ipswich International Hotel in Queensland, renaming it the Metro Hotel Ipswich International, and has added management of the Dugong Beach Resort in the Northern Territory to its portfolio. With these becoming the 12th and 13th properties to come into the group, these properties reflect the Group's dual objectives of being represented in all key Australian cities and to give its clients a consistent experience across all its properties.

Guests can book at Metro Hotels properties by calling the toll-free central reservations line on 1800 004 321. Alternatively bookings can be made online at www.metrohotels.com.au.

Girls! Have fun with the "Roo"

Just like home but better. A delightful stately old Sydney terraced home well known and much loved for twenty years as a traveller's haven. Just ask "Sydney" the cat who has been welcoming visitors to her home for all of her nine lives. A major refurbishment has recently re-invented the "Roo" as one of Sydney's best "Flashpackers."

Ultra clean, so clean in fact you could invite your mum, not that you would want to. Hotel quality linen, clean towels daily and breakfast served in the morning. Just like home but we don't ask what time you got in last night.

Location: Directly on the way to and from Sydney Airport the "Roo" is a 15 min walk to Central Station, Sydney CBD and trendy Oxford Street. Coogee beach bus stop at the front door and across the road is Moore Park with its many local events and just beyond is the Entertainment Quarter with Fox Studios, restaurants, bars and cinemas. Living in the heart of leady, cosmopolitan Surry Hills with its eclectic mix of cultures, some of Sydney's best cheap eats and coffee houses, a pub or bar to suit all styles and tastes on every corner you can enjoy the excitement of "the cross" but in a more tranquil and pleasant environment.

Fun fun fun: You're never alone in a big city, the "Roo" organizes entertainment evenings visiting the best clubs in Sydney, house barbeques and pizza nights at no extra cost and our DIY day tour guides will have you knowing Sydney like the back of your hand.

Conveniences: Kangaroo Backpack hosts a range of conveniences WiFi and Internet Station, TV lounge, commercial style kitchen, dining room, laundry and great staff to assist you. Beds in the air conditioned dorms are designed for maximum privacy and include an overhead light and our unique "be locker" to safely charge cameras, phone and laptops while you sleep.

Bookings: For a big, warm, fun, Kangaroo backpack welcome and our special deals call **02 9319 5915**, visit our website, or check us out on hostelworld.com or hostelbookers.com.

Hey Girls!

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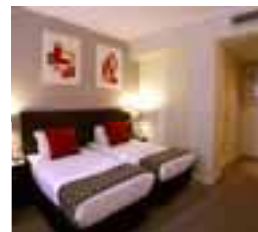
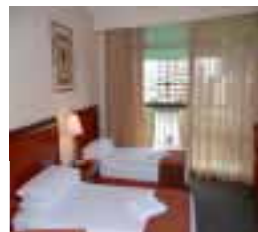
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Sydney Opera House

Did you know that the World Heritage Listed Sydney Opera House is more widely recognised as a symbol of Australia than the kangaroo? Or that it is one of the busiest performing arts centres in the world, staging over 2500 performances and events annually, and welcoming over seven million visitors each year?

Home to some of Australia's premier performing arts companies such as Sydney Symphony, Opera Australia and the Australian Ballet, Sydney Opera House also presents a diverse range of performances covering contemporary music and dance, theatre, comedy, film, circus, jazz, cabaret and world music from some of the world's greatest artists.

As well as presenting the very best in performing arts, Sydney Opera House also has a range of unique experiences, such as High Tea at Sydney Opera House.

An afternoon of decadence which leaves guests breathless, High Tea at Sydney Opera House features sublime food from Michelin trained culinary maestro Guillaume Brahimi and an exhilarating performance, close up and live, by some of the world's finest opera singers in a beautiful Sydney harbour setting.

High Tea at Sydney Opera House is one of Sydney's hottest tickets, offering a fresh perspective on the concept and adding that special Sydney Opera House magic, the thrill of live performance.

For the full lowdown on the amazing story of the building, check out The Essential Tour. Featuring previously unseen video footage from the House archives, with narration by Golden Globe winner Rachel Griffiths, The Essential Tour is a celebration of Sydney Opera House's life as Australia's premier performing arts centre.

In a world-first for a World Heritage Listed site, video sequences are shown at points of interest, using the building as a storytelling canvas. The sequences are delivered in ways which respect the building's heritage values, using methods such as the projection of video footage directly onto the interior walls to take visitors on a journey celebrating the genius of architect Jørn Utzon.

To delve deeper into the inner workings of the House, the Backstage Tour is just the ticket.

Fancy following in the footsteps of superstars such as Dame Joan Sutherland and Pavarotti by singing on the stage of the world-famous Concert Hall, or striding into the Opera Theatre orchestra pit before stepping onto the conductor's podium? The Backstage Tour offers this and much more, conducted by experienced guides who share the secrets of the House and reveal the real-life dramas that happen before the curtain rises.

Daily tours of the building are also conducted in Japanese, Korean and Mandarin languages. To find out more, visit www.sydneyoperahouse.com or call +61 (0)2 9250 7250.

Hunter Valley Horse Riding & Adventures

Ride the unique and beautiful Molly Morgan Range, experiencing the spectacular views of the Hunter Valley wine country and Lower Hunter, and as far north as Barrington Tops, the northern boundary of the Upper Hunter.



Riding is available every day for beginners and the experienced rider. On our **trail rides** you will be accompanied by a dedicated, qualified guide who gives you advice along the way. Why not book a **personalised ride** for a special occasion, pleasure ride, or personalised tuition. Enjoy a **sunset ride** as the wildlife awakens and begins to feed, or ride with the Kangaroos and Wallabies in the light of a beautiful sunset.

Also on offer are pony rides, family and birthday rides, an after school club. Conference groups are also catered for.

Many of the Australian animals only feed at night starting as the day cools down and continuing until the following day. Our 4WD night drives allow you to see these night critters as they feed in their natural surroundings. Kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos, wombats and where they live, possums, squirrel possums, sugar gliders and bats are some of the animals you can expect to see.

Accommodation is available in the luxury guest house and self-contained villas. Limited camping is also available.

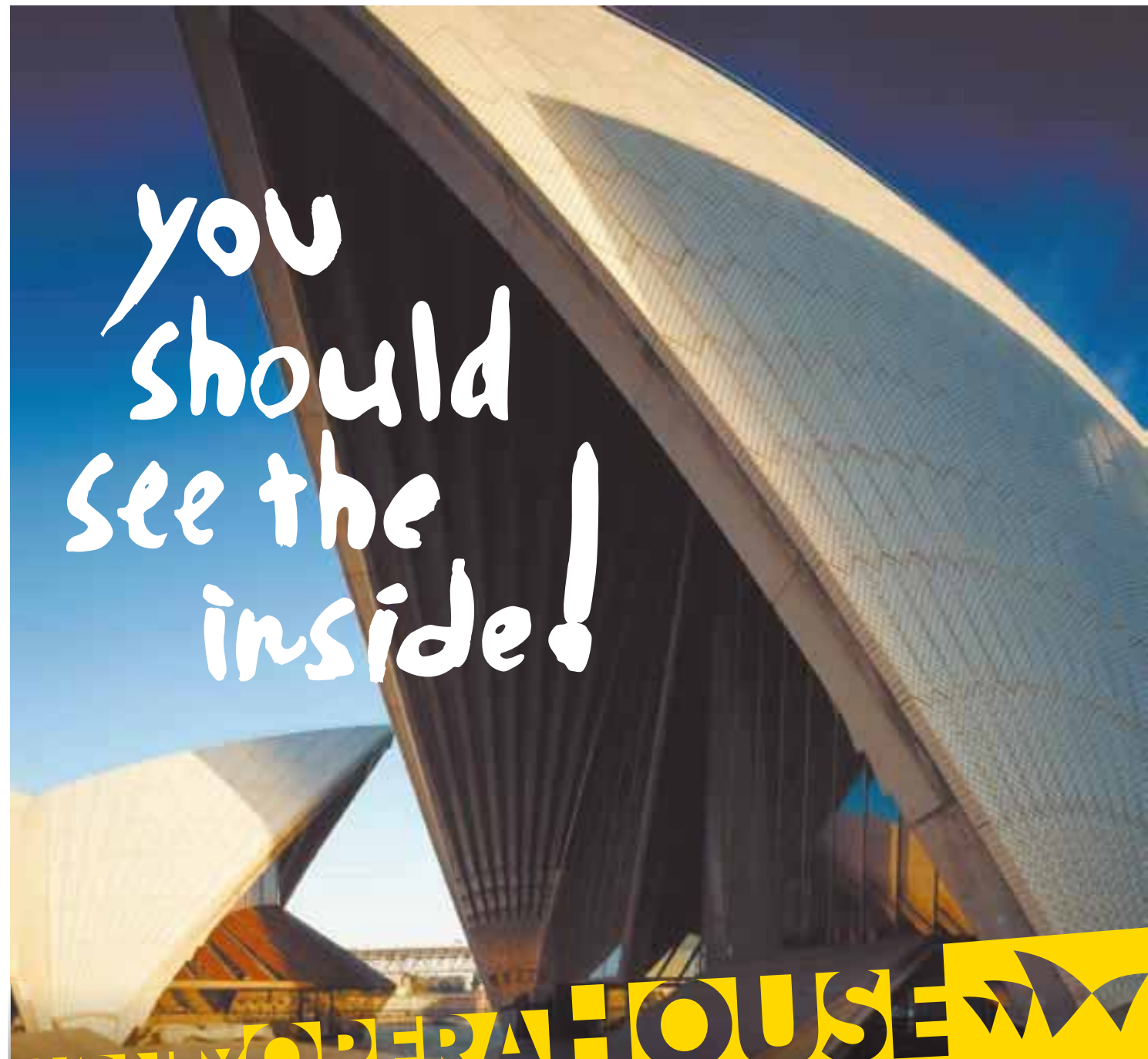
Bookings are essential. Call 02 4930 7111 or email ride@huntervalleyhorseriding.com.au or stay@hilltopguesthouse.com.au or visit www.hilltopguesthouse.com.au.

Horse back riding through the Australian countryside in the Hunter Valley wine country

Spectacular views, beautiful horses, homestead and villa accommodation.

We also do family rides, pony rides, sunset rides, personalised rides and cater for conferences

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 Email: ride@huntervalleyhorseriding.com.au
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you should see the inside!

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

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The Essential Tour: See inside the world's most recognisable sails and experience this miracle of architecture and engineering.	The highlight of this perfect Sydney afternoon is an intimate performance by an acclaimed opera singer.
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The Backstage Tour grants you exclusive access to areas normally reserved for the stars.	The perfect Sydney evening. Combine a performance of your choice, a tour and dinner at one of Sydney's finest restaurants.
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