Living in Sydney

Find the suburb, lifestyle and connections that suit your move.

Sydney brings together harbour living, ocean beaches, lively neighbourhoods and major business centres. For a relocation, the right address is the one that supports your everyday routine: getting to work, settling the family and enjoying life beyond the office.

From a furnished city apartment to a home near the coast or a base in Western Sydney, start with your workplace and daily priorities. A suburb that looks close on a map can involve a very different journey once transfers, traffic and school drop-offs are included.

Sydney at a glance

Topic	What to know
Location	Capital of New South Wales, on Australia's east coast.
Time zone	Australian Eastern Standard Time; daylight saving applies seasonally.
City layout	A large metropolitan area with several employment centres; the CBD is only one of them.
Lifestyle	Harbour walks, beaches, parks, dining, arts and sport.
Housing choices	Apartments, terraces, townhouses and detached houses; available furnished stock varies by area.
Getting around	Metro, trains, buses, ferries and light rail, with road connections between suburbs.

People and demographics

The 2021 Census recorded 5,231,147 people in Greater Sydney, a median age of 37 and an average household size of 2.7 people. Family households accounted for 72.6% of occupied private dwellings, while 23.2% were single-person households. These figures describe Greater Sydney, rather than the City of Sydney council area. [1]

Sydney has a broad mix of cultural backgrounds: 52.4% of residents had both parents born overseas in the 2021 Census. China, India and England were among the leading overseas birthplaces. Community life varies across the city, so explore local shops, activities and services as well as the property itself. [1]

Demographic figures are dated Census measures, not 2026 population estimates. Suburb suggestions in this guide are editorial starting points based on location and amenities, rather than claims about who should live in an area.

Central, inner and eastern Sydney

City centre and harbour precincts

Explore: Sydney CBD, The Rocks, Pyrmont and surrounding central precincts. A base for city dining, cultural venues and harbour outings, with apartment living central to the accommodation search. [2]

Consider this area for: a city-based assignment or a walkable arrival base. Transport: check nearby train, metro, light rail and bus stops using the live journey planner [7].

Before choosing: compare usable floor area, storage, building access, noise and the cost of parking.

Inner-city neighbourhoods

Explore: Surry Hills, Darlinghurst and Chippendale. Neighbourhood cafés, restaurants and cultural venues offer plenty to explore close to the centre. Streets can feel very different within a few blocks. [2,3]

Consider this area for: people who want dining and city access close to home. Transport: Central and local bus or light rail connections may be useful, depending on the address [7].

Before choosing: visit in the evening; assess stairs, street noise and whether a terrace or apartment meets your needs.

Inner West

Explore: Newtown, Marrickville, Ashfield and nearby neighbourhoods. Marrickville's diverse food scene and the Inner West's bars and breweries offer a strong local focus beyond the city centre. [3,4]

Consider this area for: a neighbourhood routine built around cafés, local shopping and cultural activities. Transport: compare station access and available bus or light rail connections at each property [7].

Before choosing: test the full commute, check parking and inspect noise conditions around busy roads or flight paths.

Eastern beaches and Randwick

Explore: Bondi Beach, Bronte, Coogee and Randwick. Beachside walks and an outdoor routine are major attractions; Bondi, Bronte and Coogee are part of Sydney's established coastal visitor areas. [2]

Consider this area for: renters prioritising beach access, or those with work commitments nearby. Transport: coastal addresses often need a bus connection; check light rail access separately for Randwick [7].

Before choosing: do not confuse Bondi Beach with Bondi Junction; compare the journey from the exact address and assess weekend activity.

Relo tip: A city address can reduce some travel, but the best base depends on where you work. Shortlist three properties and compare the door-to-door journey at your actual start and finish times.

Northern Sydney and the north-west

Lower North Shore

Explore: North Sydney, Kirribilli, Crows Nest and Lane Cove. Sydney's northern side combines harbour settings with residential neighbourhoods and commercial centres. [5]

Consider this area for: renters wanting to explore a base north of the harbour. Transport: rail or metro access varies by suburb; other addresses may rely on buses or ferries [7].

Before choosing: include hills, station walks and harbour crossings in the daily journey; check parking arrangements.

Chatswood and the Upper North Shore

Explore: Chatswood, Lindfield, Gordon and Hornsby. Chatswood offers a substantial shopping, dining and cultural hub, while the wider Upper North Shore offers a leafier setting. [5,6]

Consider this area for: a base around Chatswood, or renters comparing town-centre convenience with more residential surroundings. Transport: use the network map to compare Chatswood's train and metro connections with stations farther north [7].

Before choosing: a suburb name does not guarantee a short station walk; check the address, school needs and daily shopping access.

Northern Beaches

Explore: Manly, Freshwater, Dee Why and Mona Vale. Sydney's north includes a long stretch of beaches. Manly provides both an ocean setting and a harbour ferry connection. [5]

Consider this area for: people putting coastal recreation high on their wish list. Transport: compare Manly ferry services and local bus connections for the exact destination [7].

Before choosing: allow for transfers and peak traffic; properties farther from key routes can make a car more useful.

Macquarie Park and the Hills

Explore: Macquarie Park, North Ryde, Castle Hill and Norwest. Use these areas as a starting point when comparing homes around northern and north-western work or study commitments. The right choice depends on the specific workplace.

Consider this area for: renters with daily destinations in these precincts. Transport: check metro station access and any onward bus connection on the live planner [7].

Before choosing: do not assume the nearest station reaches the office door; compare home-to-station and station-to-work travel.

Choosing with family needs in mind

Prioritise the daily routine over a general suburb reputation. Check school enrolment areas using the exact residential address, contact schools directly and investigate childcare availability before committing to accommodation. NSW's School Finder identifies public schools and their enrolment areas. [10]

For a furnished family home, confirm bedroom layouts, a dining area, laundry facilities, storage, outdoor space and the route to shops or parks. Ask whether the property's inclusions suit your whole stay, including working from home.

Western and southern Sydney

Parramatta and Westmead

Explore: Parramatta, Westmead and North Parramatta. Westmead is a major health and innovation precinct, making nearby accommodation worth investigating for hospital and related assignments. Parramatta Park provides nearby green space. [8,9]

Consider this area for: renters with work or appointments in Parramatta or Westmead. Transport: compare current train, bus and light rail services; check the live network rather than assuming future metro projects are open [7].

Before choosing: confirm the exact hospital campus or office address; nearby accommodation may still involve a substantial walk.

Western and south-western centres

Explore: Blacktown, Penrith, Liverpool and Campbelltown. These are separate starting points for a property search, not one interchangeable area. Choose the centre that fits your job site and everyday services.

Consider this area for: renters whose main destinations are west or south-west of the CBD. Transport: check rail access and onward travel to industrial, business or other work locations [7].

Before choosing: compare total housing and travel costs; investigate early or late transport if you work shifts.

Southern Sydney and the airport side

Explore: Mascot, Hurstville and nearby suburbs. Consider these as separate search areas when your daily destinations are around southern Sydney. Assess the neighbourhood around each listing rather than choosing solely by suburb name.

Consider this area for: renters comparing southern work locations or airport-side access. Transport: check the rail and bus route to the exact destination, including operating hours [7].

Before choosing: inspect traffic, aircraft noise where relevant, parking and the distance to daily services.

Sutherland Shire and Cronulla

Explore: Sutherland, Miranda and Cronulla. Cronulla offers a beachside setting with a railway station, providing another option for combining coastal recreation with public transport. [11]

Consider this area for: renters wanting to investigate southern Sydney or a coastal base. Transport: compare train services and connections to work; proximity to the beach does not determine the commute [7].

Before choosing: test the weekday journey before choosing a coastal property; compare availability and space across the Shire.

Choose the area around your routine

Your priority	Starting points to compare
City-based work	CBD, Pyrmont, Surry Hills; then suitable nearby transport corridors.
Northern work destinations	North Sydney, Chatswood, Macquarie Park or the Hills, matched to the workplace.
Westmead or Parramatta assignment	Westmead, Parramatta and nearby addresses with a practical connection.
Beach access	Bondi Beach, Coogee, Manly or Cronulla, subject to the commute.
Western or south-western work	The nearest suitable centre to the job site, rather than a CBD default.

Transport, climate and everyday life

Getting around Sydney

Sydney's public transport network includes metro, trains, buses, ferries and light rail. Use Transport for NSW's Trip Planner and current network maps to compare travel from the

property entrance to your destination, including walks and transfers. Check weekday, weekend and shift-work journeys separately. [7]

Opal and eligible contactless payment options can be used across the Opal network. Tap on and off with the same card or device; a physical bank card and its phone-wallet version are treated separately. Consult the current transport guidance for concessions, caps and any additional charges. [12,13]

A ferry can be an appealing part of the routine, but check the timetable and the walk at each end. For rail and metro, the closest station on a map may not offer the best route. Building access, road crossings and transfers all affect practical travel time.

Do you need a car?

Try planning a complete week without one: work, groceries, school or childcare, evening activities and weekend outings. A well-connected address can make this practical; other homes or work sites may require additional connections. Compare parking charges, tolls and fuel with the cost and convenience of public transport before deciding.

Weather and the home you choose

Sydney has warm summers and milder winters, with rainfall across the year. Long-term Observatory Hill observations describe central Sydney; conditions vary across the metropolitan area and on individual days. [14]

Inspect cooling, heating, ventilation, window coverings and the amount of direct sun. Ask about airflow and moisture in the rooms you will use most. A property that works for a short visit may feel different over several months and a change of season.

Lifestyle beyond work

Build time into your first weeks for harbour walks, local markets, cafés, cultural venues and coastal outings. Sydney's attraction is partly its variety: you can explore different neighbourhoods before deciding what feels like home. [2,3,5]

Libraries, council recreation centres and community activities are useful places to begin a local routine. Explore the services near shortlisted homes and check opening hours, membership requirements and accessibility directly.

Budget for the whole stay

Compare the full quoted cost: accommodation, utilities, internet, parking, cleaning and any other disclosed charges. Confirm which items are included and how any usage limits work. Check the payment schedule and the written terms before making a booking. Furnished availability and prices vary by property, location and length of stay.

Settling in with Relo Rentals

Your accommodation checklist

- Set your move-in date, expected stay, household size and maximum total budget.
- Shortlist addresses around work, school and everyday services.
- Test the commute for your real arrival and departure times.
- Confirm beds, linen, kitchen equipment, laundry, internet and workspace.
- Check parking, stairs or lifts, accessibility and arrangements for pets where needed.
- Request the full inclusions, payment schedule and applicable cancellation or extension terms.
- Keep a record of the agreed details and arrival arrangements.

Frequently asked questions

Which Sydney suburb is best for a relocation?

Start with your workplace, household needs and budget. Compare central areas for city access, northern areas for destinations north of the harbour, and western or southern centres when they better match your daily routine. Visit or inspect the specific property and surroundings where possible.

Should I live near the beach or near work?

Compare the weekly time and cost of commuting with how often you expect to use the beach. A coastal address can be a good fit, but check the complete journey before deciding. You can also choose a practical weekday base and explore the coast on days off.

Can I choose a school before booking a home?

Research both together. The exact address matters for NSW public school enrolment areas. Use School Finder and speak to the school about your circumstances and required documents before relying on a particular place. [10]

What should a furnished rental include?

Check the listing and written agreement individually. Ask about furniture, appliances, bedding, kitchen items, laundry, internet, utilities and parking. Confirm any items especially important to your household, rather than assuming every furnished property offers the same setup.

Ready to make Sydney your next home?

Explore furnished accommodation for your move and find a base that fits the way you want to live. Whether you are relocating for work, moving with family or coordinating an employee assignment, start with the location, space and stay length you need.

Sources

Information reviewed: 13 October 2026. Demographic reference period: 2021 Census. Check live transport details and property information when planning a move.

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