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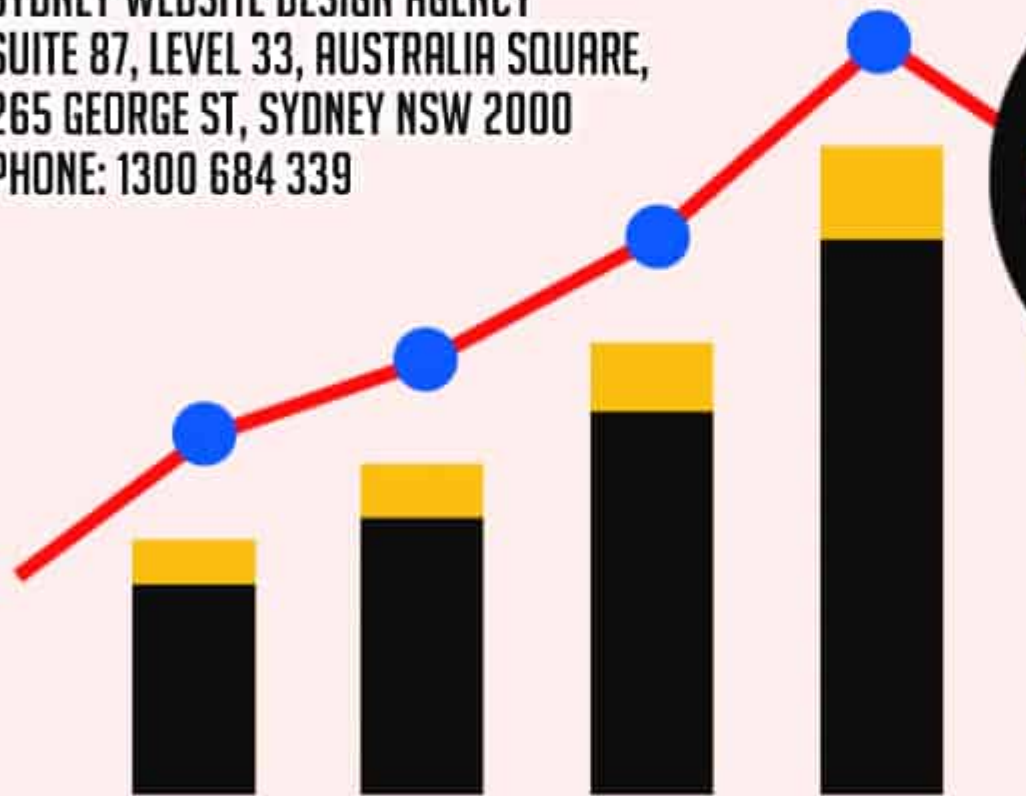
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About Sydney

This article is about the Australian city. For the greater metropolitan area, see [Greater Sydney](#). For the local government area, see [City of Sydney](#). For other uses, see [Sydney \(disambiguation\)](#).

Sydney

New South Wales

Sydney Opera House and Harbour B

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Sydney Opera House and Harbour B
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Archibald
Fountain and St
Mary's Cathedral
Sydney central business district

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Sydney central business district

Map of the Sydney metropolitan area

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Map of the Sydney metropolitan area

Sydney is located in Australia

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Sydney

Coordinates	33°52′S 151°12′E﻿•﻿33.867°S 151.200°E
Population	5,450,496 (2023) ^[1] (1st)
 • Density	441/km ² (1,140/sq mi) (2023) ^[1]
Established	26 January 1788; 237 years ago
Area	12,367.7 km ² (4,775.2 sq mi)(GCCSA) ^[2]
Time zone	AEST (UTC+10)
 • Summer (DST)	AEDT (UTC+11)
Location	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 287 km (178 mi) NE of Canberra○ 877 km (545 mi) NE of Melbourne○ 923 km (574 mi) S of Brisbane○ 1,404 km (872 mi) E of Adelaide○ 3,936 km (2,446 mi) E of Perth</div>
LGA(s)	Various (33)
County	Cumberland ^[3]
State electorate(s)	Various (49)

Federal division(s) Various (24)

Mean max temp ^[4]	Mean min temp ^[4]	Annual rainfall ^[4]
22.8 °C 73 °F	14.7 °C 58 °F	1,149.7 mm 45.3 in

Sydney is the **capital city** of the **state** of **New South Wales** and the **most populous city in Australia**. Located on Australia's east coast, the metropolis surrounds **Sydney Harbour** and extends about 80 km (50 mi) from the **Pacific Ocean** in the east to the **Blue Mountains** in the west, and about 80 km (50 mi) from **Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park** and the **Hawkesbury River** in the north and north-west, to the **Royal National Park** and **Macarthur** in the south and south-west.^[5] Greater Sydney consists of 658 suburbs, spread across 33 local government areas. Residents of the city are colloquially known as "Sydneyiders".^[6] The estimated population in June 2023 was 5,450,496,^[1] which is about 66% of the state's population.^[7] The city's nicknames include the **Emerald City** and the **Harbour City**.^[8]

There is evidence that **Aboriginal Australians** inhabited the **Greater Sydney** region at least 30,000 years ago, and **their engravings** and cultural sites are common. The **traditional custodians** of the land on which modern Sydney stands are the clans of the **Darug**, **Dharawal** and **Eora**.^[9] During his **first Pacific voyage** in 1770, **James Cook** charted the eastern coast of Australia, making landfall at **Botany Bay**. In 1788, the **First Fleet** of **convicts**, led by **Arthur Phillip**, founded Sydney as a British **penal colony**, the first European settlement in Australia.^[10] After **World War II**, Sydney experienced mass migration and by 2021 over 40 per cent of the population was born overseas. Foreign countries of birth with the greatest representation are mainland China, India, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and the Philippines.^[11]

Despite being one of the most expensive cities in the world,^{[12][13]} Sydney frequently ranks in the top ten **most liveable cities**.^{[14][15][16]} It is classified as an **Alpha+ city** by the **Globalization and World Cities Research Network**, indicating its influence in the region and throughout the world.^{[17][18]} Ranked eleventh in the world for economic opportunity,^[19] Sydney has an advanced market economy with strengths in education, finance, manufacturing and **tourism**.^{[20][21]} The **University of Sydney** and the **University of New South Wales** are ranked 18th and 19th in the world respectively.^[22]

Sydney has hosted major international sporting events such as the **2000 Summer Olympics**, the **2003 Rugby World Cup Final**, and the **2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Final**. The city is among the top fifteen most-visited,^[23] with millions of tourists coming each year to see the city's landmarks.^[24] The city has over 1,000,000 ha (2,500,000 acres) of **nature reserves and parks**,^[25] and its **notable natural features** include **Sydney Harbour** and **Royal National Park**. The **Sydney Harbour Bridge** and the World Heritage-listed **Sydney Opera House** are major tourist attractions. **Central Station** is the hub of Sydney's suburban train, metro and light rail networks and longer-distance services. The main passenger airport serving the city is **Kingsford Smith Airport**, one of the world's oldest continually operating airports.^[26]

Toponymy

[\[edit\]](#)

In 1788, Captain [Arthur Phillip](#), the first governor of New South Wales, named the cove where the first British settlement was established [Sydney Cove](#) after Home Secretary [Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney](#).^[27] The cove was called *Warrane* by the Aboriginal inhabitants.^[28] Phillip considered naming the settlement [Albion](#), but this name was never officially used.^[27] By 1790 Phillip and other officials were regularly calling the township Sydney.^[29] Sydney was declared a city in 1842.^[30]

The [Gadigal](#) (Cadigal) clan, whose territory stretches along the southern shore of [Port Jackson](#) from [South Head](#) to [Darling Harbour](#), are the traditional owners of the land on which the British settlement was initially established, and call their territory *Gadi* (*Cadi*). Aboriginal clan names within the Sydney region were often formed by adding the suffix "-gal" to a word denoting the name for their territory, a specific place in their territory, a food source, or totem. Greater Sydney covers the traditional lands of 28 known Aboriginal clans.^[31]

History

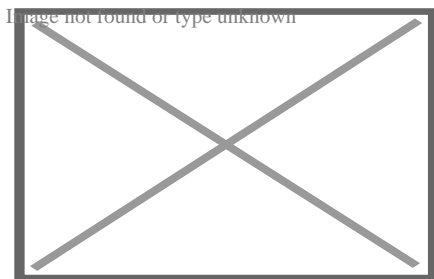
[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [History of Sydney](#)

For a chronological guide, see [Timeline of Sydney](#).

First inhabitants of the region

[\[edit\]](#)



[Charcoal drawing](#) of kangaroos in [Heathcote National Park](#)

The first people to inhabit the area now known as Sydney were [Aboriginal Australians](#) who had migrated from southeast Asia via northern Australia.^[32] Flaked pebbles found in Western Sydney's gravel sediments might indicate human occupation from 45,000 to 50,000 years ago,^[33] while [radiocarbon dating](#) has shown evidence of human activity in the region from around 30,000 years ago.^[34] Prior to the arrival of the British, there were 4,000 to 8,000 Aboriginal people in the greater Sydney region.^[35]^[9]

The inhabitants subsisted on fishing, hunting, and gathering plants and shellfish. The diet of the coastal clans was more reliant on seafood whereas hinterland clans ate more forest animals and plants. The clans had distinctive equipment and weapons mostly made of stone, wood, plant

materials, bone and shell. They also differed in their body decorations, hairstyles, songs and dances. Aboriginal clans had a rich ceremonial life, part of a belief system centring on ancestral, totemic and supernatural beings. People from different clans and language groups came together to participate in initiation and other ceremonies. These occasions fostered trade, marriages and clan alliances.[36]

The earliest British settlers recorded the word 'Eora' as an Aboriginal term meaning either 'people' or 'from this place'. [37][9] The clans of the Sydney area occupied land with traditional boundaries. There is debate, however, about which group or nation these clans belonged to, and the extent of differences in language and rites. The major groups were the coastal Eora people, the Dharug (Darug) occupying the inland area from Parramatta to the Blue Mountains, and the Dharawal people south of Botany Bay.[9] Darginung and Gundungurra languages were spoken on the fringes of the Sydney area.[38]

Aboriginal clans of Sydney area, as recorded by early British settlers

Clan	Territory name	Location
Bediagal	Not recorded	Probably north-west of Parramatta
Birrabbirragal	Birrabbirra	Lower Sydney Harbour around Sow and Pigs reef
Boolbainora	Boolbainmatta	Parramatta area
Borogegal	Booragy	Probably Bradleys Head and surrounding area
Boromedegal	Not recorded	Parramatta
Buruberongal	Not recorded	North-west of Parramatta
Darramurragal	Not recorded	Turramarra area
Gadigal	Cadi (Gadi)	South side of Port Jackson, from South Head to Darling Harbour
Gahbrogal	Not recorded	Liverpool and Cabramatta area
Gamaragal	Cammeray	North shore of Port Jackson
Gameygal	Kamay	Botany Bay
Gannemegal	Warmul	Parramatta area
Garigal	Not recorded	Broken Bay area
Gayamaygal	Kayeemy	Manly Cove
Gweagal	Gwea	Southern shore of Botany Bay
Wallumedegal	Wallumede	North shore of Port Jackson, opposite Sydney Cove
Wangal	Wann	South side of Port Jackson, from Darling Harbour to Rose Hill

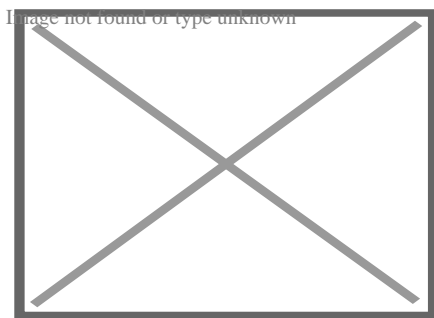
Clans of the Sydney region whose territory wasn't reliably recorded are: the Domaragal, Doogagal, Gannalgal, Gomerigal, Gooneeowlgal, Goorunggurregal, Gorualgal, Murrooredial, Noronggerragal, Oryangsoora and Wandeedegal.

Note: The names and territory boundaries do not always correspond with those used by contemporary Aboriginal groups of the greater Sydney area.[38][39][40]

The first meeting between Aboriginals and British explorers occurred on 29 April 1770 when Lieutenant James Cook landed at **Botany Bay** (Kamay[41]) and encountered the **Gweagal** clan.[42] Two Gweagal men opposed the landing party and one was shot and wounded.[43][44] Cook and his crew stayed at Botany Bay for a week, collecting water, timber, fodder and botanical specimens and exploring the surrounding area. Cook sought to establish relations with the Aboriginal population without success.[45]

Convict town (1788–1840)

[edit]



*The Founding of Australia, 26 January 1788, by Captain **Arthur Phillip** R.N., Sydney Cove. Painting by **Algernon Talmage**.*

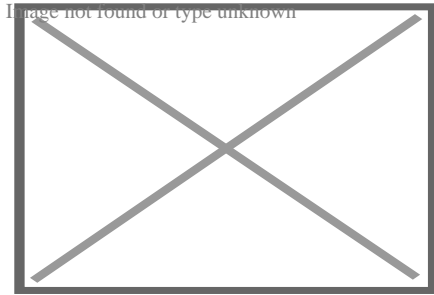
Britain had been sending convicts to its American colonies for most of the eighteenth century, and the loss of these colonies in 1783 was the impetus to establish a penal colony at Botany Bay. Proponents of colonisation also pointed to the strategic importance of a new base in the Asia-Pacific region and its potential to provide much-needed timber and flax for the navy.[46]

The **First Fleet** of 11 ships under the command of Captain **Arthur Phillip** arrived in Botany Bay in January 1788. It comprised more than a thousand settlers, including 736 convicts.[47] The fleet soon moved to the more suitable **Port Jackson** where a settlement was established at **Sydney Cove** on 26 January 1788.[48] The colony of New South Wales was formally proclaimed by Governor Phillip on 7 February 1788. Sydney Cove offered a fresh water supply and a safe harbour, which Philip described as "the finest Harbour in the World ... Here a Thousand Sail of the Line may ride in the most perfect Security".[49]

The settlement was planned to be a self-sufficient penal colony based on subsistence agriculture. Trade and shipbuilding were banned in order to keep the convicts isolated. However, the soil around the settlement proved poor and the first crops failed, leading to several years of hunger and strict rationing. The food crisis was relieved with the arrival of the **Second Fleet** in mid-1790 and the **Third Fleet** in 1791.[50] Former convicts received small grants of land, and government and private farms spread to the more fertile lands around **Parramatta**, **Windsor** and **Camden** on the **Cumberland Plain**. By 1804, the colony was self-sufficient in food.[51]

A smallpox epidemic in April 1789 killed about half the region's Indigenous population.[9][52] In November 1790 **Bennelong** led a group of survivors of the Sydney clans into the settlement, establishing a continuous presence of Aboriginal Australians in settled Sydney.[53]

Phillip had been given no instructions for urban development, but in July 1788 submitted a plan for the new town at **Sydney Cove**. It included a wide central avenue, a permanent Government House, law courts, hospital and other public buildings, but no provision for warehouses, shops, or other commercial buildings. Phillip promptly ignored his own plan, and unplanned development became a feature of Sydney's topography.[54][55]

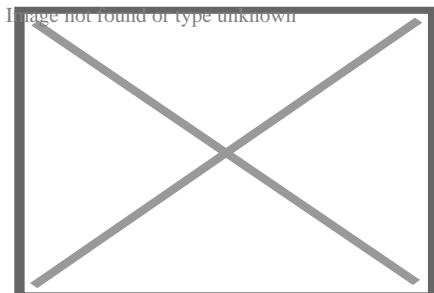


Thomas Watling's *View of Sydney Cove*, c. 1794–1796

After Phillip's departure in December 1792, the colony's military officers began acquiring land and importing consumer goods from visiting ships. Former convicts engaged in trade and opened small businesses. Soldiers and former convicts built houses on Crown land, with or without official permission, in what was now commonly called Sydney town. Governor **William Bligh** (1806–08) imposed restrictions on commerce and ordered the demolition of buildings erected on Crown land, including some owned by past and serving military officers. The resulting conflict culminated in the **Rum Rebellion** of 1808, in which Bligh was deposed by the **New South Wales Corps**. [56][57]

Governor **Lachlan Macquarie** (1810–1821) played a leading role in the development of Sydney and New South Wales, establishing a bank, a currency and a hospital. He employed a planner to design the street layout of Sydney and commissioned the construction of roads, wharves, churches, and public buildings. **Parramatta Road**, linking Sydney and Parramatta, was opened in 1811,[58] and a road across the **Blue Mountains** was completed in 1815, opening the way for large-scale farming and grazing west of the **Great Dividing Range**. [59][60]

Following the departure of Macquarie, official policy encouraged the emigration of free British settlers to New South Wales. Immigration to the colony increased from 900 free settlers in 1826–30 to 29,000 in 1836–40, many of whom settled in Sydney.[61][62] By the 1840s Sydney exhibited a geographic divide between poor and working-class residents living west of the **Tank Stream** in areas such as **The Rocks**, and the more affluent residents living to its east.[62] Free settlers, free-born residents and former convicts now represented the vast majority of the population of Sydney, leading to increasing public agitation for responsible government and an end to transportation. Transportation to New South Wales ceased in 1840.[63]



The Castle Hill convict rebellion of 1804

Conflict on the Cumberland Plain

[edit]

In 1804, Irish convicts led around 300 rebels in the **Castle Hill Rebellion**, an attempt to march on Sydney, commandeer a ship, and sail to freedom.[64] Poorly armed, and with their leader Philip Cunningham captured, the main body of insurgents were routed by about 100 troops and volunteers at **Rouse Hill**. At least 39 convicts were killed in the uprising and subsequent executions.[65][66]

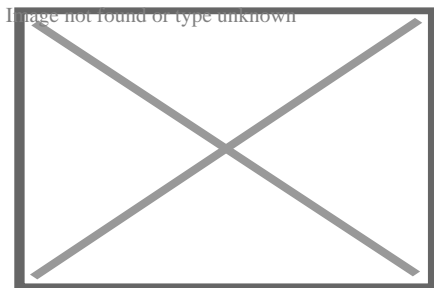
As the colony spread to the more fertile lands around the **Hawkesbury River**, north-west of Sydney, conflict between the settlers and the **Darug** people intensified, reaching a peak from 1794 to 1810. Bands of Darug people, led by **Pemulwuy** and later by his son **Tedbury**, burned crops, killed livestock and raided settler stores in a pattern of resistance that was to be repeated as the **colonial frontier expanded**. A military garrison was established on the Hawkesbury in 1795. The death toll from 1794 to 1800 was 26 settlers and up to 200 Darug.[67][68]

Conflict again erupted from 1814 to 1816 with the expansion of the colony into Dharawal country in the Nepean region south-west of Sydney. Following the deaths of several settlers, Governor Macquarie dispatched three military detachments into Dharawal lands, culminating in the **Appin massacre** (April 1816) in which at least 14 Aboriginal people were killed.[69][70]

Colonial city (1841–1900)

[edit]

The New South Wales Legislative Council became a semi-elected body in 1842. Sydney was declared a city the same year, and a governing council established, elected on a restrictive property franchise.[63]



Aerial illustration of Sydney, 1888

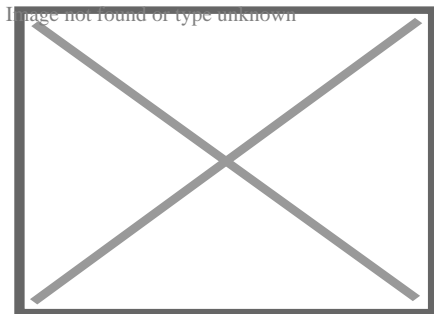
The discovery of gold in New South Wales and Victoria in 1851 initially caused economic disruption as men moved to the goldfields. Melbourne soon overtook Sydney as Australia's largest city, leading to an enduring rivalry between the two. However, increased immigration from overseas and wealth from gold exports increased demand for housing, consumer goods, services and urban

amenities.[71] The New South Wales government also stimulated growth by investing heavily in railways, trams, roads, ports, telegraph, schools and urban services.[72] The population of Sydney and its suburbs grew from 95,600 in 1861 to 386,900 in 1891.[73] The city developed many of its characteristic features. The growing population packed into rows of terrace houses in narrow streets. New public buildings of sandstone abounded, including at the [University of Sydney](#) (1854–61),[74] the [Australian Museum](#) (1858–66),[75] the Town Hall (1868–88),[76] and the [General Post Office](#) (1866–92).[77] Elaborate [coffee palaces](#) and hotels were erected.[78] Daylight bathing at Sydney's beaches was banned, but segregated bathing at designated ocean baths was popular.[79]

Drought, the winding down of public works and a financial crisis led to economic depression in Sydney throughout most of the 1890s. Meanwhile, the Sydney-based premier of New South Wales, [George Reid](#), became a key figure in the process of federation.[80]

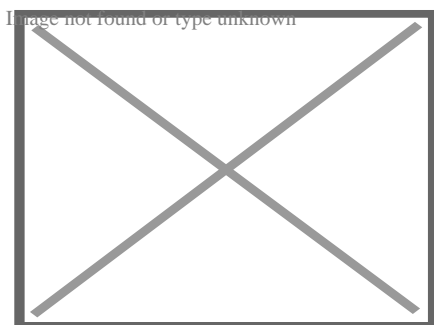
State capital (1901–present)

[[edit](#)]



A [tramcar](#) on George Street in 1920. Sydney once had one of the largest [tram networks](#) in the British Empire.

When the six colonies federated on 1 January 1901, Sydney became the capital of the State of New South Wales. The spread of [bubonic plague](#) in 1900 prompted the state government to modernise the wharves and demolish inner-city slums. The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 saw more Sydney males volunteer for the armed forces than the Commonwealth authorities could process, and helped reduce unemployment. Those returning from the war in 1918 were promised "homes fit for heroes" in new suburbs such as Daceyville and Matraville. "Garden suburbs" and mixed industrial and residential developments also grew along the rail and tram corridors.[62] The population reached one million in 1926, after Sydney had regained its position as the most populous city in Australia.[81] The government created jobs with massive public projects such as the electrification of the [Sydney rail network](#) and building the Sydney Harbour Bridge.[82]



Sydney Harbour Bridge opening day, 19 March 1932

Sydney was more severely affected by the **Great Depression** of the 1930s than regional New South Wales or Melbourne.[83] New building almost came to a standstill, and by 1933 the unemployment rate for male workers was 28 per cent, but over 40 per cent in working class areas such as Alexandria and Redfern. Many families were evicted from their homes and shanty towns grew along coastal Sydney and Botany Bay, the largest being "Happy Valley" at **La Perouse**.[84] The Depression also exacerbated political divisions. In March 1932, when populist Labor premier **Jack Lang** attempted to open the Sydney Harbour Bridge he was upstaged by **Francis de Groot** of the far-right **New Guard**, who slashed the ribbon with a sabre.[85]

In January 1938, Sydney celebrated the **Empire Games** and the sesquicentenary of European settlement in Australia. One journalist wrote, "Golden beaches. Sun tanned men and maidens...Red-roofed villas terraced above the blue waters of the harbour...Even **Melbourne** seems like some grey and stately city of Northern Europe compared with Sydney's sub-tropical splendours." A congress of the "Aborigines of Australia" declared 26 January "A **Day of Mourning**" for "the whiteman's seizure of our country." [86]

With the outbreak of **Second World War** in 1939, Sydney experienced a surge in industrial development. Unemployment virtually disappeared and women moved into jobs previously typically reserved for males. Sydney was attacked by **Japanese submarines** in May and June 1942 with 21 killed. Households built **air raid** shelters and performed drills.[87] **Military establishments** in response to **World War II in Australia** included the **Garden Island Tunnel System**, the only **tunnel warfare** complex in Sydney, and the heritage-listed military **fortification** systems **Bradleys Head Fortification Complex** and **Middle Head Fortifications**, which were part of a total **defence system for Sydney Harbour**.[88]

A post-war immigration and baby boom saw a rapid increase in Sydney's population and the spread of low-density housing in suburbs throughout the Cumberland Plain. Immigrants—mostly from Britain and continental Europe—and their children accounted for over three-quarters of Sydney's population growth between 1947 and 1971.[89] The newly created Cumberland County Council oversaw low-density residential developments, the largest at **Green Valley** and **Mount Druitt**. Older residential centres such as Parramatta, **Bankstown** and **Liverpool** became suburbs of the metropolis.[90] Manufacturing, protected by high tariffs, employed over a third of the workforce from 1945 to the 1960s. However, as the long post-war economic boom progressed, retail and other service industries became the main source of new jobs.[91]

An estimated one million onlookers, most of the city's population, watched **Queen Elizabeth II** land in 1954 at Farm Cove where Captain Phillip had raised the Union Jack 165 years earlier, commencing her **Australian Royal Tour**. It was the first time a reigning monarch stepped onto Australian soil.[92]

Increasing high-rise development in Sydney and the expansion of suburbs beyond the "green belt" envisaged by the planners of the 1950s resulted in community protests. In the early 1970s, trade unions and resident action groups imposed **green bans** on development projects in historic areas such as The Rocks. Federal, State and local governments introduced heritage and environmental legislation.[62] The Sydney Opera House was also controversial for its cost and disputes between

architect **Jørn Utzon** and government officials. However, soon after it opened in 1973 it became a major tourist attraction and symbol of the city.^[93] The progressive reduction in tariff protection from 1974 began the transformation of Sydney from a manufacturing centre to a "world city".^[94] From the 1980s, **overseas immigration** grew rapidly, with Asia, the Middle East and Africa becoming major sources. By 2021, the population of Sydney was over 5.2 million, with 40% of the population born overseas. China and India overtook England as the largest source countries for overseas-born residents.^[95]

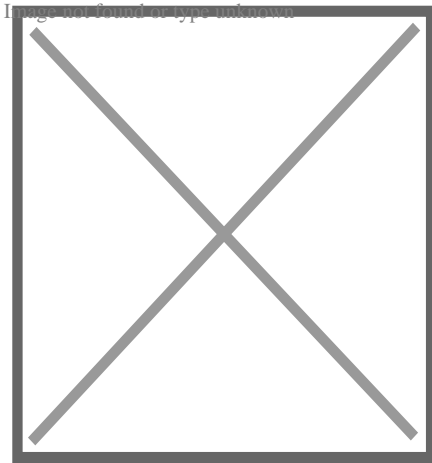
Geography

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: **Geography of Sydney**

Topography

[\[edit\]](#)



Sydney lies on a **submergent coastline** where the ocean level has risen to flood deep **rias**.

Sydney is a coastal basin with the **Tasman Sea** to the east, the **Blue Mountains** to the west, the Hawkesbury River to the north, and the **Woronora Plateau** to the south.

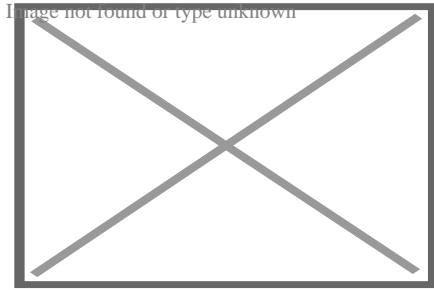
Sydney spans two geographic regions. The **Cumberland Plain** lies to the south and west of the Harbour and is relatively flat. The **Hornsby Plateau** is located to the north and is dissected by steep valleys. The flat areas of the south were the first to be developed; it was not until the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge that the northern reaches became more heavily populated. **Seventy surf beaches** can be found along its coastline, with Bondi Beach being the most famous.

The **Nepean River** wraps around the western edge of the city and becomes the Hawkesbury River before reaching **Broken Bay**. Most of Sydney's water storages can be found on tributaries of the Nepean River. The **Parramatta River** is mostly industrial and drains a large area of Sydney's western suburbs into Port Jackson. The southern parts of the city are drained by the **Georges River** and the **Cooks River** into Botany Bay.

There is no single definition of the boundaries of Sydney. The Australian Statistical Geography Standard definition of Greater Sydney covers 12,369 km² (4,776 sq mi) and includes the local government areas of **Central Coast** in the north, **Hawkesbury** in the north-west, **Blue Mountains** in the west, **Sutherland Shire** in the south, and **Wollondilly** in the south-west.[96] The local government area of the **City of Sydney** covers about 26 square kilometres from **Garden island** in the east to Bicentennial Park in the west, and south to the suburbs of Alexandria and **Rosebery**.[97]

Geology

[[edit](#)]



Almost all of the exposed rocks around Sydney are **Sydney sandstone**.

Sydney is made up of mostly **Triassic** rock with some recent **igneous** dykes and **volcanic** necks (typically found in the **Prospect dolerite intrusion**, west of Sydney).[98] The **Sydney Basin** was formed in the early Triassic period.[99] The sand that was to become the sandstone of today was laid down between 360 and 200 million years ago. The sandstone has **shale** lenses and fossil riverbeds.[99] The **continental shelf** of **Australia** is only 25.9 km (16.1 mi) away from the coast of Sydney, and that is where the **Tasman Abyssal Plain** lies.[100][101]

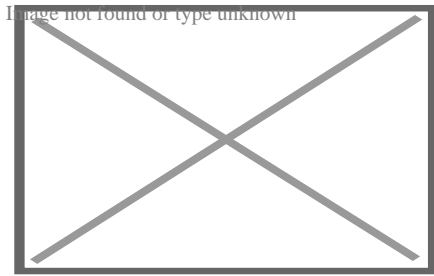
The **Sydney Basin** bioregion includes coastal features of cliffs, beaches, and estuaries. Deep river valleys known as **rias** were carved during the Triassic period in the **Hawkesbury sandstone** of the coastal region. The rising sea level between 18,000 and 6,000 years ago flooded the rias to form estuaries and deep harbours.[99] Port Jackson, better known as Sydney Harbour, is one such **ria**.[102] Sydney features two major soil types: **sandy soils** (which originate from the Hawkesbury sandstone) and **clay** (which are from shales and **volcanic rocks**), though some soils may be a mixture of the two.[103]

Directly overlying the older Hawkesbury sandstone is the **Wianamatta shale**, a geological feature found in western Sydney that was deposited in connection with a large **river delta** during the **Middle Triassic**. The Wianamatta shale generally comprises fine grained **sedimentary rocks** such as shales, **mudstones**, **ironstones**, **siltstones** and **laminites**, with less common sandstone units.[104] The Wianamatta Group is made up of **Bringelly Shale**, **Minchinbury Sandstone** and **Ashfield Shale**.[105]

Ecology

[[edit](#)]

Further information: [Ecology of Sydney](#)



Typical [grassy](#) woodland in the Sydney metropolitan area

The most prevalent [plant communities](#) in the Sydney region are grassy woodlands (i.e. [savannas](#))[106] and some pockets of dry [sclerophyll](#) forests,[107] which consist of [eucalyptus](#) trees, [casuarinas](#), [melaleucas](#), [corymbias](#) and [angophoras](#), with shrubs (typically [wattles](#), [callistemons](#), [grevilleas](#) and [banksias](#)), and a semi-continuous grass in the [understory](#). [108] The plants in this community tend to have rough, spiky leaves due to low [soil fertility](#). Sydney also features a few areas of wet sclerophyll forests in the wetter, elevated areas in the [north](#) and [northeast](#). These forests are defined by straight, tall tree [canopies](#) with a moist understory of soft-leaved shrubs, [tree ferns](#) and herbs.[109]

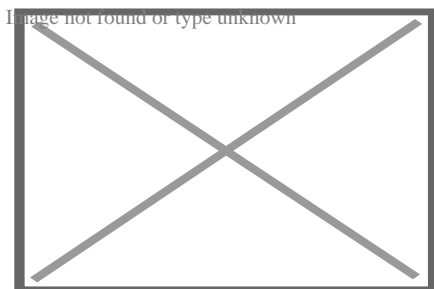
The predominant vegetation community in Sydney is the [Cumberland Plain Woodland](#) in [Western Sydney](#) ([Cumberland Plain](#)),[110] followed by the [Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest](#) in the Inner West and [Northern Sydney](#),[111] the [Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub](#) in the coastline and the [Blue Gum High Forest](#) scantily present in the North Shore – all of which are critically endangered.[112][113] The city also includes the [Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland](#) found in [Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park](#) on the [Hornsby Plateau](#) to the north.[114]

Sydney is home to dozens of [bird](#) species,[115] which commonly include the [Australian raven](#), [Australian magpie](#), [crested pigeon](#), [noisy miner](#) and the [pied currawong](#). Introduced bird species ubiquitously found in Sydney are the [common myna](#), [common starling](#), [house sparrow](#) and the [spotted dove](#). [116] [Reptile](#) species are also numerous and predominantly include [skinks](#). [117][118] Sydney has a few [mammal](#) and [spider](#) species, such as the [grey-headed flying fox](#) and the [Sydney funnel-web](#), respectively,[119][120] and has a huge diversity of [marine species](#) inhabiting its harbour and beaches.[121]

Climate

[\[edit\]](#)

Main articles: [Climate of Sydney](#) and [Severe weather events in Sydney](#)



A summer storm over Sydney Harbour

Under the Köppen–Geiger classification, Sydney has a humid subtropical climate (Cfa)[122] with "warm, sometimes hot" summers and "generally mild",[123][124][125] to "cool" winters.[126] The El Niño–Southern Oscillation, the Indian Ocean Dipole and the Southern Annular Mode[127][128] play an important role in determining Sydney's weather patterns: drought and bushfire on the one hand, and storms and flooding on the other, associated with the opposite phases of the oscillation in Australia. The weather is moderated by proximity to the ocean, and more extreme temperatures are recorded in the inland western suburbs because Sydney CBD is more affected by the oceanic climate drivers than the western suburbs.[129][130]

At Sydney's primary weather station at Observatory Hill, extreme temperatures have ranged from 45.8 °C (114.4 °F) on 18 January 2013 to 2.1 °C (35.8 °F) on 22 June 1932.[131][132][133] An average of 14.9 days a year have temperatures at or above 30 °C (86 °F) in the central business district (CBD).[130] In contrast, the metropolitan area averages between 35 and 65 days, depending on the suburb.[134] The hottest day in the metropolitan area occurred in Penrith on 4 January 2020, where a high of 48.9 °C (120.0 °F) was recorded.[135] The average annual temperature of the sea ranges from 18.5 °C (65.3 °F) in September to 23.7 °C (74.7 °F) in February.[136] Sydney has an average of 7.2 hours of sunshine per day[137] and 109.5 clear days annually.[4] Due to the inland location, frost is recorded early in the morning in Western Sydney a few times in winter. Autumn and spring are the transitional seasons, with spring showing a larger temperature variation than autumn.[138]

Sydney experiences an urban heat island effect.[139] This makes certain parts of the city more vulnerable to extreme heat, including coastal suburbs.[139][140] In late spring and summer, temperatures over 35 °C (95 °F) are not uncommon,[141] though hot, dry conditions are usually ended by a southerly buster,[142] a powerful southerly that brings gale winds and a rapid fall in temperature.[143] Since Sydney is downwind of the Great Dividing Range, it occasionally experiences dry, westerly foehn winds typically in winter and early spring (which are the reason for its warm maximum temperatures).[144][145][146] Westerly winds are intense when the Roaring Forties (or the Southern Annular Mode) shift towards southeastern Australia,[147] where they may damage homes and affect flights, in addition to making the temperature seem colder than it actually is.[148][149]

Rainfall has a moderate to low variability and has historically been fairly uniform throughout the year, although in recent years it has been more summer-dominant and erratic.[150][151][152][153] Precipitation is usually higher in summer through to autumn,[124] and lower in late winter to early spring.[127][154][130][155] In late autumn and winter, east coast lows may bring large amounts of rainfall, especially in the CBD.[156] In the warm season black nor'easters are usually the cause of heavy rain events, though other forms of low-pressure areas, including remnants of ex-cyclones, may also bring heavy deluge and afternoon thunderstorms.[157][158] 'Snow' was last alleged in 1836, more than likely a fall of graupel, or soft hail; and in July 2008 the Upper North Shore saw a fall of graupel that was mistaken by many for 'snow'. [159] In 2009, dry conditions brought a severe dust storm towards the city.[160][161]

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Climate data for Sydney (**Observatory Hill**) 1991–2020 averages, 1861–present extremes

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	45.8 (114.4)	42.1 (107.8)	39.8 (103.6)	35.4 (95.7)	30.0 (86.0)	26.9 (80.4)	26.5 (79.7)	31.3 (88.3)	34.6 (94.3)	38.2 (100.8)	41.8 (107.2)	42.2 (108.0)	45.8 (114.4)
Mean maximum °C (°F)	36.8 (98.2)	34.1 (93.4)	32.2 (90.0)	29.7 (85.5)	26.2 (79.2)	22.3 (72.1)	22.9 (73.2)	25.4 (77.7)	29.9 (85.8)	33.6 (92.5)	34.1 (93.4)	34.4 (93.9)	38.8 (101.8)
Mean daily maximum °C (°F)	27.0 (80.6)	26.8 (80.2)	25.7 (78.3)	23.6 (74.5)	20.9 (69.6)	18.3 (64.9)	17.9 (64.2)	19.3 (66.7)	21.6 (70.9)	23.2 (73.8)	24.2 (75.6)	25.7 (78.3)	22.8 (73.0)
Daily mean °C (°F)	23.5 (74.3)	23.4 (74.1)	22.1 (71.8)	19.5 (67.1)	16.6 (61.9)	14.2 (57.6)	13.4 (56.1)	14.5 (58.1)	17.0 (62.6)	18.9 (66.0)	20.4 (68.7)	22.1 (71.8)	18.8 (65.8)
Mean daily minimum °C (°F)	20.0 (68.0)	19.9 (67.8)	18.4 (65.1)	15.3 (59.5)	12.3 (54.1)	10.0 (50.0)	8.9 (48.0)	9.7 (49.5)	12.3 (54.1)	14.6 (58.3)	16.6 (61.9)	18.4 (65.1)	14.7 (58.5)
Mean minimum °C (°F)	16.1 (61.0)	16.1 (61.0)	14.2 (57.6)	11.0 (51.8)	8.3 (46.9)	6.5 (43.7)	5.7 (42.3)	6.1 (43.0)	8.0 (46.4)	9.8 (49.6)	12.0 (53.6)	13.9 (57.0)	5.3 (41.5)
Record low °C (°F)	10.6 (51.1)	9.6 (49.3)	9.3 (48.7)	7.0 (44.6)	4.4 (39.9)	2.1 (35.8)	2.2 (36.0)	2.7 (36.9)	4.9 (40.8)	5.7 (42.3)	7.7 (45.9)	9.1 (48.4)	2.1 (35.8)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	91.1 (3.59)	131.5 (5.18)	117.5 (4.63)	114.1 (4.49)	100.8 (3.97)	142.0 (5.59)	80.3 (3.16)	75.1 (2.96)	63.4 (2.50)	67.7 (2.67)	90.6 (3.57)	73.0 (2.87)	1,149.7 (45.26)
Average rainy days (? 1 mm)	8.2	9.0	10.1	7.9	7.9	9.3	7.2	5.6	5.8	7.6	8.7	7.9	95.2
Average afternoon relative humidity (%)	60	62	59	58	58	56	52	47	49	53	57	58	56
Average dew point °C (°F)	16.5 (61.7)	17.2 (63.0)	15.4 (59.7)	12.7 (54.9)	10.3 (50.5)	7.8 (46.0)	6.1 (43.0)	5.4 (41.7)	7.8 (46.0)	10.2 (50.4)	12.6 (54.7)	14.6 (58.3)	11.4 (52.5)
Mean monthly sunshine hours	232.5	205.9	210.8	213.0	204.6	171.0	207.7	248.0	243.0	244.9	222.0	235.6	2,639

Percentage possible sunshine	53	54	55	63	63	57	66	72	67	61	55	55	60
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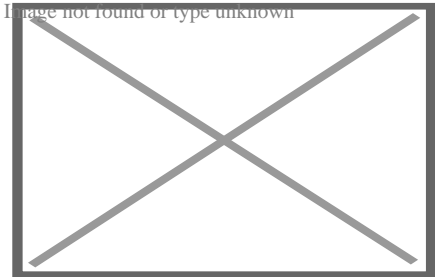
Source 1: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)^[162]^[163]^[164]^[165]

Source 2: [Bureau of Meteorology, Sydney Airport \(sunshine hours\)](#)^[166]

Regions

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Regions of Sydney](#)

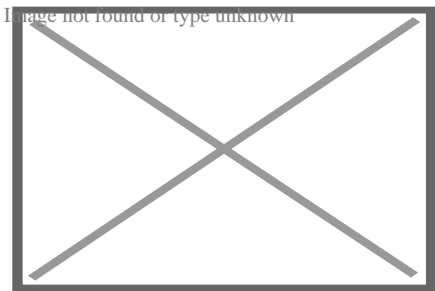


Sydney area at night, facing west. [Wollongong](#) is bottom left, and the [Central Coast](#) is at the far right.

The [Greater Sydney Commission](#) divides Sydney into three "cities" and five "districts" based on the 33 LGAs in the metropolitan area. The "metropolis of three cities" comprises *Eastern Harbour City*, *Central River City* and *Western Parkland City*.^[167] The Australian Bureau of Statistics also includes City of Central Coast (the former Gosford City and Wyong Shire) as part of Greater Sydney for population counts,^[168] adding 330,000 people.^[169]

Inner suburbs

[\[edit\]](#)



Historical buildings in [Millers Point](#), an inner suburb north of the CBD

The [CBD](#) extends about 3 km (1.9 mi) south from [Sydney Cove](#). It is bordered by [Farm Cove](#) within the [Royal Botanic Garden](#) to the east and [Darling Harbour](#) to the west. Suburbs surrounding the CBD include [Woolloomooloo](#) and [Potts Point](#) to the east, [Surry Hills](#) and [Darlinghurst](#) to the south, [Pyrmont](#) and [Ultimo](#) to the west, and [Millers Point](#) and [The Rocks](#) to the north. Most of these suburbs measure less than 1 km² (0.4 sq mi) in area. The Sydney CBD is characterised by narrow streets and thoroughfares, created in its convict beginnings.^[170]

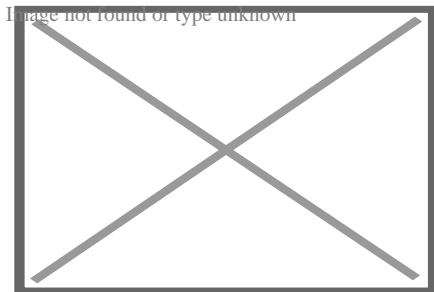
Several localities, distinct from suburbs, exist throughout Sydney's inner reaches. **Central** and **Circular Quay** are transport hubs with ferry, rail, and bus interchanges. **Chinatown**, Darling Harbour, and **Kings Cross** are important locations for culture, tourism, and recreation. The **Strand Arcade**, located between **Pitt Street Mall** and **George Street**, is a historical **Victorian-style shopping arcade**. Opened on 1 April 1892, its shop fronts are an exact replica of the original internal shopping facades.[171] **Westfield Sydney**, located beneath the **Sydney Tower**, is the largest shopping centre by area in Sydney.[172]

Since the late 20th century, there has been a trend of **gentrification** amongst Sydney's inner suburbs. Pyrmont, located on the harbour, was redeveloped from a centre of shipping and international trade to an area of **high density housing**, tourist accommodation, and gambling.[173] Originally located well outside of the city, Darlinghurst is the location of the historic **Darlinghurst Gaol**, manufacturing, and mixed housing. For a period it was known as an area of prostitution. The terrace-style housing has largely been retained and Darlinghurst has undergone significant gentrification since the 1980s.[174][175][176]

Green Square is a former industrial area of **Waterloo** which is undergoing urban renewal worth \$8 billion. On the city harbour edge, the historic suburb and wharves of Millers Point are being built up as the new area of **Barangaroo**. [177][178] The suburb of **Paddington** is known for its restored **terrace houses**, **Victoria Barracks**, and shopping including the weekly Oxford Street markets.[179]

Inner West

[edit]



Newtown, one of the inner-most parts of the Inner West, is one of the most complete **Victorian** and **Edwardian era** commercial precincts in Australia.

The **Inner West** generally includes the **Inner West Council**, **Municipality of Burwood**, **Municipality of Strathfield**, and **City of Canada Bay**. These span up to about 11 km west of the CBD. Historically, especially prior to the building of the Harbour Bridge,[180] the outer suburbs of the Inner West such as **Strathfield** were the location of "country" estates for the colony's elites. By contrast, the inner suburbs in the Inner West, being close to transport and industry, have historically housed working-class industrial workers. These areas have undergone gentrification in the late 20th century, and many parts are now highly valued residential suburbs.[181] As of 2021, an Inner West suburb (Strathfield) remained one of the 20 most expensive postcodes in Australia by median house price (the others were all in metropolitan Sydney, all in Northern Sydney or the Eastern Suburbs).[182] The **University of Sydney** is located in this area, as well as the **University of Technology, Sydney** and a campus of the **Australian Catholic University**. The Anzac Bridge spans Johnstons Bay and

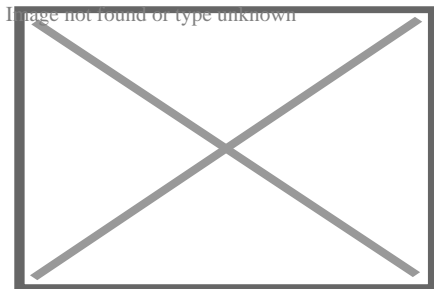
connects [Rozelle](#) to [Pyrmont](#) and the city, forming part of the [Western Distributor](#).

The Inner West is today well known as the location of village commercial centres with cosmopolitan flavours, such as the "Little Italy" commercial centres of Leichardt, Five Dock and Haberfield,[183] "Little Portugal" in Petersham,[184] "Little Korea" in Strathfield[185] or "Little Shanghai" in Ashfield.[186] Large-scale shopping centres in the area include [Westfield Burwood](#), [DFO Homebush](#) and [Birkenhead Point Outlet Centre](#). There is a large cosmopolitan community and nightlife hub on [King Street, Newtown](#).

The area is serviced by [Sydney Trains'](#) [T1](#), [T2](#) and [T3](#) services, including the [Main Suburban Line](#), which was the first to be constructed in New South Wales. [Strathfield railway station](#) is a secondary railway hub within Sydney, and major station on the Suburban and [Northern](#) lines. It was constructed in 1876.[187] The future [Sydney Metro West](#) will also connect this area with the City and Parramatta. The area is also serviced by the [Parramatta River services](#) of [Sydney Ferries](#),[188] numerous bus routes and cycleways.[189]

Eastern suburbs

[[edit](#)]



Residences in [Bellevue Hill](#). Sydney's eastern suburbs are made up of some of the most expensive real estate in the country[190]

The Eastern Suburbs encompass the [Municipality of Woollahra](#), the [City of Randwick](#), the [Waverley Municipal Council](#), and parts of the [Bayside Council](#). They include some of the most affluent and advantaged areas in the country, with some streets being amongst the most expensive in the world. As at 2014, [Wolseley Road](#), [Point Piper](#), had a top price of \$20,900 per square metre, making it the ninth-most expensive street in the world.[191] More than 75% of neighbourhoods in the [Electoral District of Wentworth](#) fall under the top decile of SEIFA advantage, making it the least disadvantaged area in the country.[192] As of 2021, of the 20 most expensive postcodes in Australia by median house price, nine were in the Eastern Suburbs.[182]

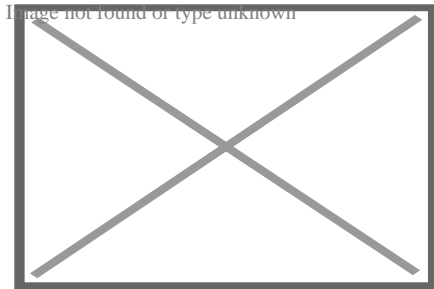
Major landmarks include [Bondi Beach](#), which was added to the [Australian National Heritage List](#) in 2008;[193] and [Bondi Junction](#), featuring a [Westfield shopping centre](#) and an estimated office workforce of 6,400 by 2035,[194] as well as a [railway station](#) on the [T4 Eastern Suburbs Line](#). The suburb of [Randwick](#) contains [Randwick Racecourse](#), the [Royal Hospital for Women](#), the [Prince of Wales Hospital](#), [Sydney Children's Hospital](#), and [University of New South Wales Kensington Campus](#). [195]

Construction of the **CBD and South East Light Rail** was completed in April 2020.^[196] The project aims to provide reliable and high-capacity tram services to residents in the City and South-East.

Major shopping centres in the area include **Westfield Bondi Junction** and **Westfield Eastgardens**.

Southern Sydney

[\[edit\]](#)



Kurnell, **La Perouse**, and **Cronulla**, along with various other suburbs, face Botany Bay.

The Southern district of Sydney includes the suburbs in the **local government areas** of the **Georges River Council** (collectively known as **St George**) and the **Sutherland Shire** (colloquially known as 'The Shire'), on the southern banks of the **Georges River**.

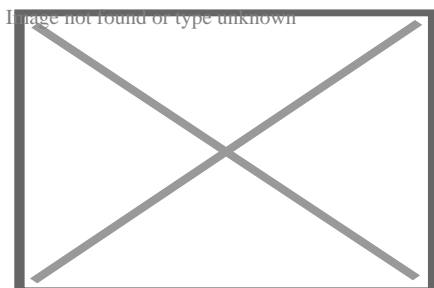
The **Kurnell peninsula**, near **Botany Bay**, is the site of the first landfall on the eastern coastline made by James Cook in 1770. **La Perouse**, a historic suburb named after the French navigator **Jean-François de Galaup, comte de Lapérouse**, is notable for its old military outpost at **Bare Island** and the **Botany Bay National Park**.

The suburb of **Cronulla** in **southern Sydney** is close to Royal National Park, Australia's oldest national park. Hurstville, a large suburb with commercial and high-rise residential buildings dominating the skyline, has become a CBD for the southern suburbs.^[197]

Northern Sydney

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: **Northern Sydney**



Chatswood is a major commercial district.

'Northern Sydney' includes the suburbs in the [Upper North Shore](#), [Lower North Shore](#) and the [Northern Beaches](#).

The Northern Suburbs include several landmarks – [Macquarie University](#), [Gladesville Bridge](#), [Ryde Bridge](#), [Macquarie Centre](#) and Curzon Hall in [Marsfield](#). This area includes suburbs in the [local government areas](#) of [Hornsby Shire](#), [Ku-ring-gai Council](#), [City of Ryde](#), the [Municipality of Hunter's Hill](#) and parts of the [City of Parramatta](#).

The North Shore includes the commercial centres of [North Sydney](#) and Chatswood. North Sydney itself consists of a large commercial centre, which contains the second largest concentration of high-rise buildings in Sydney after the CBD. North Sydney is dominated by advertising, marketing and associated trades, with many large corporations holding offices.

The Northern Beaches area includes [Manly](#), one of Sydney's most popular holiday destinations. The region also features [Sydney Heads](#), a series of [headlands](#) which form the entrance to Sydney Harbour. The Northern Beaches area extends south to the entrance of Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour), west to [Middle Harbour](#) and north to the entrance of [Broken Bay](#).^[198] The 2021 Australian census found the Northern Beaches to have, in comparison with the rest of Sydney, a large British diaspora and high concentration of people with European ancestry.^[199]

As of the end of 2021, half of the 20 most expensive postcodes in Australia (by median house price) were in Northern Sydney, including four on the Northern Beaches, two on the Lower North Shore, three on the Upper North Shore, and one straddling [Hunters Hill](#) and [Woolwich](#).^[182]

Hills district

[\[edit\]](#)

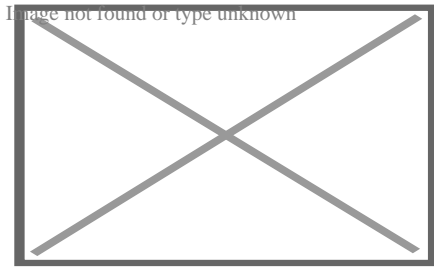
The [Hills district](#) generally refers to the suburbs in north-western Sydney including the local government areas of [The Hills Shire](#), parts of the [City of Parramatta Council](#) and [Hornsby Shire](#). Actual suburbs and localities that are considered to be in the Hills District can be somewhat amorphous. For example, the Hills District Historical Society restricts its definition to the Hills Shire local government area, yet its study area extends from Parramatta to the Hawkesbury. The region is so named for its characteristically comparatively hilly topography as the Cumberland Plain lifts up, joining the Hornsby Plateau. [Windsor](#) and [Old Windsor Roads](#) are the second and third roads, respectively, laid in Australia.^[200]

On 26 May 2019, The [Sydney Metro Northwest](#), which went from Chatswood to Tallawong, opened, with a large portion running through the Hills District, which meant the Hills District, for the first time, started having heavy rail.^[201] Before this, The Hills was served by [Bus Rapid Transit](#).

Western suburbs

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [Greater Western Sydney](#)



Parramatta, a major commercial centre of **Greater Western Sydney**, is often referred to as Sydney's "second **CBD**"

The greater western suburbs encompasses the areas of Parramatta, the sixth largest business district in Australia, settled the same year as the harbour-side colony,[202] **Bankstown**, **Liverpool**, **Penrith**, and **Fairfield**. Covering 5,800 km² (2,200 sq mi) and having an estimated population as at 2017 of 2,288,554, western Sydney has the most **multicultural suburbs** in the country – **Cabramatta** has earned the nickname "**Little Saigon**" due to its **Vietnamese** population, **Fairfield** has been named "**Little Assyria**" for its predominant **Assyrian** population and **Harris Park** is known as "**Little India**" with its plurality of **Indian** and **Hindu population**. [203][204][205][206] The population is predominantly of a **working class** background, with major employment in the **heavy industries** and **vocational** trade. [207] **Toongabbie** is noted for being the third mainland settlement (after Sydney and Parramatta) set up after British colonisation began in 1788, although the site of the settlement is actually in the separate suburb of **Old Toongabbie**. [208]

The western suburb of **Prospect**, in the **City of Blacktown**, is home to **Raging Waters**, a **water park** operated by **Parques Reunidos**. [209] **Auburn Botanic Gardens**, a botanical garden in **Auburn**, attracts thousands of visitors each year, including many from outside Australia. [210] The greater west also includes **Sydney Olympic Park**, a suburb created to host the 2000 Summer Olympics, and **Sydney Motorsport Park**, a **circuit** in **Eastern Creek**. [211] **Prospect Hill**, a historically significant ridge in the west and the only area in Sydney with ancient **volcanic activity**, [212] is also listed on the State Heritage Register. [213]

To the northwest, **Featherdale Wildlife Park**, a zoo in **Doonside**, near **Blacktown**, is a major **tourist attraction**. [214] **Sydney Zoo**, opened in 2019, is another prominent zoo situated in **Bungaribee**. [215] Established in 1799, the **Old Government House**, a **historic house museum** and **tourist spot** in Parramatta, was included in the **Australian National Heritage List** on 1 August 2007 and **World Heritage List** in 2010 (as part of the 11 penal sites constituting the **Australian Convict Sites**), making it the only site in greater western Sydney to be featured in such lists. [216] The house is Australia's oldest surviving public building. [217]

Further to the southwest is the region of Macarthur and the city of **Campbelltown**, a significant population centre until the 1990s considered a region separate to Sydney proper. **Macarthur Square**, a shopping complex in Campbelltown, has become one of the largest shopping complexes in Sydney. [218] The southwest also features **Bankstown Reservoir**, the oldest elevated reservoir constructed in **reinforced concrete** that is still in use and is listed on the State Heritage Register. [219] The southwest is home to one of Sydney's oldest trees, the **Bland Oak**, which was planted in the 1840s by **William Bland** in **Carramar**. [220]

Urban structure

[[edit](#)]

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The [Sydney CBD](#) with the [Opera House](#) and [Harbour Bridge](#). Sydney is home to the most high-rise buildings in the nation.[221]

Architecture

[[edit](#)]

See also: [Architecture of Sydney](#), [List of heritage houses in Sydney](#), and [List of tallest buildings in Sydney](#)

The earliest structures in the colony were built to the bare minimum of standards. Governor Macquarie set ambitious targets for the design of new construction projects. The city now has a world heritage listed building, several national heritage listed buildings, and dozens of Commonwealth heritage listed buildings as evidence of the survival of Macquarie's ideals.[222][223][224]

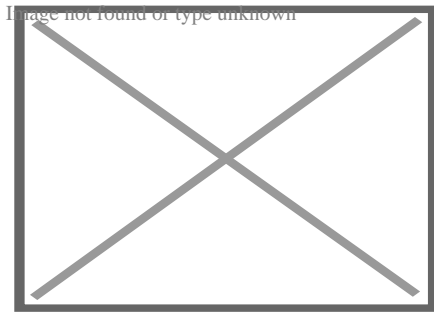
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[York Street](#) is an example of a city street in Sydney with an array of intact Victorian heritage architecture.

In 1814, the Governor called on a convict named [Francis Greenway](#) to design [Macquarie Lighthouse](#). [225] The lighthouse's [Classical](#) design earned Greenway a pardon from Macquarie in 1818 and introduced a culture of refined architecture that remains to this day.[226] Greenway went on to design the [Hyde Park Barracks](#) in 1819 and the [Georgian](#) style [St James's Church](#) in 1824.[

227][228] Gothic-inspired architecture became more popular from the 1830s. John Verge's Elizabeth Bay House and St Philip's Church of 1856 were built in Gothic Revival style along with Edward Blore's Government House of 1845.[229][230] Kirribilli House, completed in 1858, and St Andrew's Cathedral, Australia's oldest cathedral,[231] are rare examples of Victorian Gothic construction.[229][232]

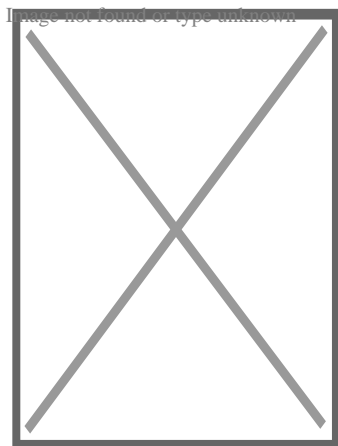


General Post Office

From the late 1850s there was a shift towards Classical architecture. Mortimer Lewis designed the Australian Museum in 1857.[233] The General Post Office, completed in 1891 in Victorian Free Classical style, was designed by James Barnet.[234] Barnet also oversaw the 1883 reconstruction of Greenway's Macquarie Lighthouse.[225][226] Customs House was built in 1844.[235] The neo-Classical and French Second Empire style Town Hall was completed in 1889.[236][237] Romanesque designs gained favour from the early 1890s. Sydney Technical College was completed in 1893 using both Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne approaches.[238] The Queen Victoria Building was designed in Romanesque Revival fashion by George McRae; completed in 1898,[239] it accommodates 200 shops across its three storeys.[240]

As the wealth of the settlement increased and Sydney developed into a metropolis after Federation in 1901, its buildings became taller. Sydney's first tower was Culwulla Chambers which topped out at 50 m (160 ft) making 12 floors. The Commercial Traveller's Club, built in 1908, was of similar height at 10 floors. It was built in a brick stone veneer and demolished in 1972.[241] This heralded a change in Sydney's cityscape and with the lifting of height restrictions in the 1960s there came a surge of high-rise construction.[242]

The Great Depression had a tangible influence on Sydney's architecture. New structures became more restrained with far less ornamentation. The most notable architectural feat of this period is the Harbour Bridge. Its steel arch was designed by John Bradfield and completed in 1932. A total of 39,000 tonnes of structural steel span the 503 m (1,650 ft) between Milsons Point and Dawes Point.[243][244]



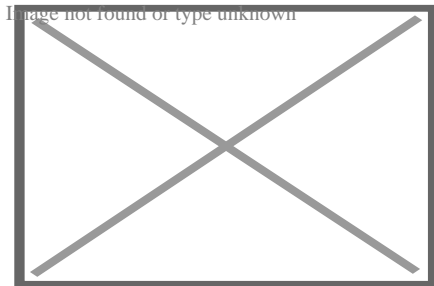
Frank Gehry's Dr Chau Chak Wing Building

Modern and International architecture came to Sydney from the 1940s. Since its completion in 1973 the city's Opera House has become a World Heritage Site and one of the world's most renowned pieces of Modern design. Jørn Utzon was awarded the Pritzker Prize in 2003 for his work on the Opera House.[245] Sydney is home to Australia's first building by renowned Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry, the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building (2015). An entrance from The Goods Line—a pedestrian pathway and former railway line—is located on the eastern border of the site.

Contemporary buildings in the CBD include Citigroup Centre,[246] Aurora Place,[247] Chifley Tower,[248][249] the Reserve Bank building,[250] Deutsche Bank Place,[251] MLC Centre,[252] and Capita Centre.[253] The tallest structure is Sydney Tower, designed by Donald Crone and completed in 1981.[254] Due to the proximity of Sydney Airport, a maximum height restriction was imposed, now sitting at 330 metres (1083 feet).[255] Green bans and heritage overlays have been in place since at least 1977 to protect Sydney's heritage after controversial demolitions in the 1970s.[256]

Housing

[edit]



Terraces in Kirribilli

Sydney surpasses both New York City and Paris real estate prices, having some of the most expensive in the world.[257][258] The city remains Australia's most expensive housing market, with the median house price at \$1,595,310 as of December 2023[259]

There were 1.83 million dwellings in Sydney in 2021 including 900,000 (54%) detached houses, 218,000 (13%) semi-detached terrace houses and 550,000 (33%) units and apartments.[260] Whilst terrace houses are common in the inner city areas, detached houses dominate the landscape in the outer suburbs. Due to environmental and economic pressures, there has been a noted trend towards denser housing, with a 30% increase in the number of apartments between 1996 and 2006.[261] Public housing in Sydney is managed by the Government of New South Wales.[262] Suburbs with large concentrations of public housing include Claymore, Macquarie Fields, Waterloo, and Mount Druitt.

A range of heritage housing styles can be found throughout Sydney. Terrace houses are found in the inner suburbs such as Paddington, The Rocks, Potts Point and Balmain, many of which have

been the subject of [gentrification](#).^[263]^[264] These terraces, particularly those in suburbs such as The Rocks, were historically home to Sydney's miners and labourers. In the present day, terrace houses now make up some of the most valuable real estate in the city.^[265] Surviving large mansions from the Victorian era are mostly found in the oldest suburbs, such as [Double Bay](#), [Darling Point](#), [Rose Bay](#) and [Strathfield](#).^[266]

[Federation](#) homes, constructed around the time of Federation in 1901, are located in a large number of suburbs that developed thanks to the arrival of railways in the late 19th century, such as [Penshurst](#) and [Turramurra](#), and in large-scale planned "garden suburbs" such as [Haberfield](#). Workers cottages are found in [Surry Hills](#), [Redfern](#), and Balmain. [California bungalows](#) are common in [Ashfield](#), [Concord](#), and [Beecroft](#). Larger modern homes are predominantly found in the outer suburbs, such as [Stanhope Gardens](#), [Kellyville Ridge](#), [Bella Vista](#) to the northwest, [Bossley Park](#), [Abbotsbury](#), and [Cecil Hills](#) to the west, and [Hoxton Park](#), [Harrington Park](#), and [Oran Park](#) to the southwest.^[267]

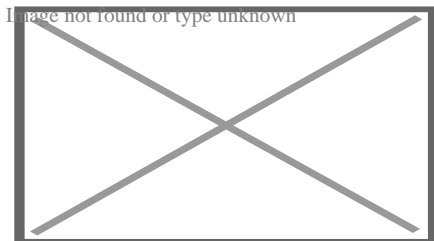
Parks and open spaces

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Parks in Sydney](#)

The [Anzac War Memorial](#) in [Hyde Park](#) is a public memorial dedicated to the [Australian Imperial Force](#) of World War I.

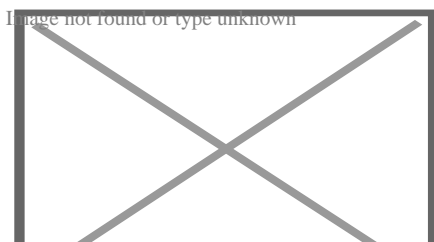
The [Royal Botanic Garden](#) is the most iconic green space in the region, hosting both scientific and leisure activities.^[268] There are 15 separate parks under the City administration.^[269] Parks within the city centre include [Hyde Park](#), [The Domain](#) and Prince Alfred Park.



The [Centennial Parklands](#) is the largest park in the City of Sydney, comprising 189 ha (470 acres).^[270]

The [Centennial Parklands](#) is the largest park in the City of Sydney, comprising 189 ha (470 acres).

The inner suburbs include [Centennial Park](#) and [Moore Park](#) in the east (both within the City of Sydney local government area), while the outer suburbs contain [Sydney Park](#) and Royal National Park in the south, [Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park](#) in the north, and [Western Sydney Parklands](#) in the west, which is [one of the largest urban parks](#) in the world. The Royal National Park was proclaimed in 1879 and with 13,200 ha (51 sq mi) is the second oldest national park in the world.^[271]



The **Anzac War Memorial** in **Hyde Park** is a public memorial dedicated to the achievement of the **Australian Imperial Force** of **World War I**.^[272]

Hyde Park is the oldest parkland in the country.^[273] The largest park in the Sydney metropolitan area is Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, established in 1894 with an area of 15,400 ha (59 sq mi).^[274] It is regarded for its well-preserved records of indigenous habitation – more than 800 rock engravings, cave drawings and middens.^[275]

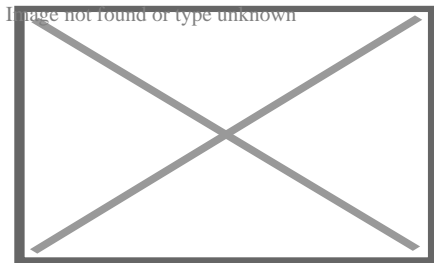
The area now known as The Domain was set aside by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1788 as his private reserve.^[276] Under the orders of Macquarie the land to the immediate north of The Domain became the Royal Botanic Garden in 1816. This makes them the oldest botanic garden in Australia.^[276] The Gardens host scientific research with herbarium collections, a library and laboratories.^[277] The two parks have a total area of 64 ha (0.2 sq mi) with 8,900 individual plant species and receive over 3.5 million annual visits.^[278]

To the south of The Domain is Hyde Park, the oldest public parkland in Australia which measures 16.2 ha (0.1 sq mi).^[279] Its location was used for both relaxation and **grazing** of animals from the earliest days of the colony.^[280] Macquarie dedicated it in 1810 for the "recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of the town" and named it in honour of **Hyde Park** in **London**.

Economy

^[edit]

Main article: **Economy of Sydney**



The **central business district**. Sydney is the financial and economic centre of Australia, having the largest economy and contributing a quarter of Australia's total **GDP**.^[281]

Researchers from **Loughborough University** have ranked Sydney amongst the top ten world cities that are highly integrated into the global economy.^[282] The Global Economic Power Index ranks Sydney eleventh in the world.^[283] The Global Cities Index recognises it as fourteenth in the world based on global engagement.^[284] There is a significant concentration of foreign banks and multinational corporations in Sydney and the city is promoted as Australia's financial capital and one of **Asia Pacific**'s leading financial hubs.^{[285][286]}

The prevailing economic theory during early colonial days was **mercantilism**, as it was throughout most of Western Europe.^[287] The economy struggled at first due to difficulties in cultivating the land and the lack of a stable monetary system. Governor Macquarie created **two coins** from every **Spanish silver dollar** in circulation.^[287] The economy was **capitalist** in nature by the 1840s as the proportion of free settlers increased, the maritime and wool industries flourished, and the powers of

the **East India Company** were curtailed.[287]

Wheat, gold, and other minerals became export industries towards the end of the 1800s.[287] Significant capital began to flow into the city from the 1870s to finance roads, railways, bridges, docks, courthouses, schools and hospitals. **Protectionist** policies after **federation** allowed for the creation of a manufacturing industry which became the city's largest employer by the 1920s.[287] These same policies helped to relieve the effects of the Great Depression during which the unemployment rate in New South Wales reached as high as 32%.[287] From the 1960s onwards Parramatta gained recognition as the city's second CBD and finance and tourism became major industries and sources of employment.[287]

Sydney's nominal gross domestic product was AU\$400.9 billion and AU\$80,000 per capita[288] in 2015.[289][286] Its gross domestic product was AU\$337 billion in 2013, the largest in Australia.[289] The financial and insurance services industry accounts for 18.1% of gross product, ahead of professional services with 9% and manufacturing with 7.2%. The creative and technology sectors are also focus industries for the City of Sydney and represented 9% and 11% of its economic output in 2012.[290][291]

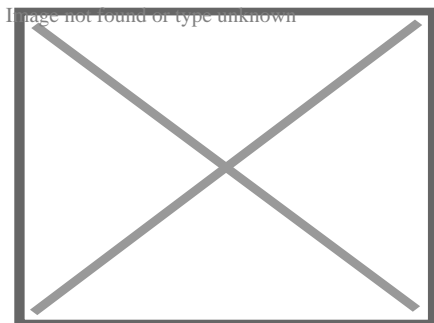
Businesses

[edit]

There were 451,000 businesses based in Sydney in 2011, including 48% of the top 500 companies in Australia and two-thirds of the regional headquarters of multinational corporations.[292] Global companies are attracted to the city in part because its time zone spans the closing of business in North America and the opening of business in Europe. Most foreign companies in Sydney maintain significant sales and service functions but comparably less production, research, and development capabilities.[293] There are 283 multinational companies with regional offices in Sydney.[294]

Domestic economics

[edit]



Pitt Street, a major street in the **CBD**, runs from **Circular Quay** in the north to **Waterloo** in the south, and is home to many large high-end retailers.[295]

Sydney has been ranked between the fifteenth and the fifth most expensive city in the world and is the most expensive city in Australia.[296] Of the 15 categories only measured by UBS in 2012,

workers receive the seventh highest wage levels of 77 cities in the world.[296] Working residents of Sydney work an average of 1,846 hours per annum with 15 days of leave.[296]

The labour force of Greater Sydney Region in 2016 was 2,272,722 with a participation rate of 61.6%.[297] It comprised 61.2% full-time workers, 30.9% part-time workers, and 6.0% unemployed individuals.[260][298] The largest reported occupations are professionals, clerical and administrative workers, managers, technicians and trades workers, and community and personal service workers.[260] The largest industries by employment across Greater Sydney are Health Care and Social Assistance (11.6%), Professional Services (9.8%), Retail Trade (9.3%), Construction (8.2%), Education and Training (8.0%), Accommodation and Food Services (6.7%), and Financial and Insurance Services (6.6%).[2] The Professional Services and Financial and Insurance Services industries account for 25.4% of employment within the City of Sydney.[299]

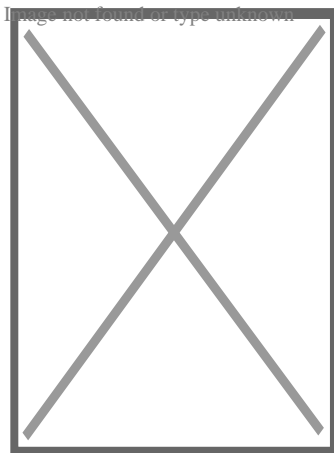
In 2016, 57.6% of working-age residents had a weekly income of less than \$1,000 and 14.4% had a weekly income of \$1,750 or more.[300] The median weekly income for the same period was \$719 for individuals, \$1,988 for families, and \$1,750 for households.[301]

Unemployment in the City of Sydney averaged 4.6% for the decade to 2013, much lower than the current rate of unemployment in Western Sydney of 7.3%.[286][302] Western Sydney continues to struggle to create jobs to meet its population growth despite the development of commercial centres like Parramatta. Each day about 200,000 commuters travel from Western Sydney to the CBD and suburbs in the east and north of the city.[302]

Home ownership in Sydney was less common than renting prior to the Second World War but this trend has since reversed.[261] Median house prices have increased by an average of 8.6% per annum since 1970.[303][304] The median house price in March 2014 was \$630,000.[305] The primary cause of rising prices is the increasing cost of land and scarcity.[306] 31.6% of dwellings in Sydney are rented, 30.4% are owned outright and 34.8% are owned with a mortgage.[260] 11.8% of mortgagees in 2011 had monthly loan repayments of less than \$1,000 and 82.9% had monthly repayments of \$1,000 or more.[2] 44.9% of renters for the same period had weekly rent of less than \$350 whilst 51.7% had weekly rent of \$350 or more. The median weekly rent in Sydney in 2011 was \$450.[2]

Financial services

[[edit](#)]



State Savings Bank

Macquarie gave a charter in 1817 to form the first bank in Australia, the [Bank of New South Wales](#).^[307] New private banks opened throughout the 1800s but the financial system was unstable. Bank collapses were frequent and a crisis point was reached in 1893 when 12 banks failed.^[307]

The Bank of New South Wales exists to this day as [Westpac](#).^[308] The Commonwealth Bank of Australia was formed in Sydney in 1911 and began to issue notes backed by the resources of the nation. It was replaced in this role in 1959 by the [Reserve Bank of Australia](#), also based in Sydney.^[307] The [Australian Securities Exchange](#) began operating in 1987 and with a market capitalisation of \$1.6 trillion is now one of the ten largest exchanges in the world.^[309]

The Financial and Insurance Services industry now constitutes 43% of the economic product of the City of Sydney.^[285] Sydney makes up half of Australia's finance sector and has been promoted by consecutive Commonwealth Governments as [Asia Pacific](#)'s leading financial centre.^{[20][21][310]} In the 2017 [Global Financial Centres Index](#), Sydney was ranked as having the eighth most competitive financial centre in the world.^[311]

In 1985 the Federal Government granted 16 banking licences to foreign banks and now 40 of the 43 foreign banks operating in Australia are based in Sydney, including the [People's Bank of China](#), [Bank of America](#), [Citigroup](#), [UBS](#), [Mizuho Bank](#), [Bank of China](#), [Banco Santander](#), [Credit Suisse](#), [Standard Chartered](#), [State Street](#), [HSBC](#), [Deutsche Bank](#), [Barclays](#), [Royal Bank of Canada](#), [Société Générale](#), [Royal Bank of Scotland](#), [Sumitomo Mitsui](#), [ING Group](#), [BNP Paribas](#), and [Investec](#).^{[285][307][312][313]}

Manufacturing

[\[edit\]](#)

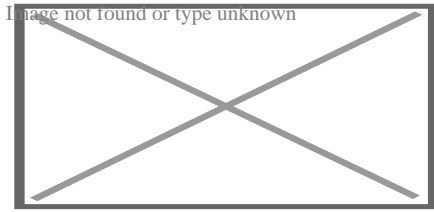
Main article: [Manufacturing in Australia](#)

Sydney has been a manufacturing city since the 1920s. By 1961 the industry accounted for 39% of all employment and by 1970 over 30% of all Australian manufacturing jobs were in Sydney.^[314] Its status has declined in recent decades, making up 12.6% of employment in 2001 and 8.5% in 2011.^{[2][314]} Between 1970 and 1985 there was a loss of 180,000 manufacturing jobs.^[314] Despite this, Sydney still overtook Melbourne as the largest manufacturing centre in Australia in the 2010s,^[315] with a manufacturing output of \$21.7 billion in 2013.^[316] Observers have credited Sydney's focus on the domestic market and high-tech manufacturing for its resilience against the high [Australian dollar](#) of the early 2010s.^[316] The *Smithfield-Wetherill Park Industrial Estate* in [Western Sydney](#) is the largest [industrial estate](#) in the Southern Hemisphere and is the centre of manufacturing and distribution in the region.^[317]

Tourism and international education

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Tourism in Sydney](#)



Darling Harbour is a major entertainment and tourism precinct.

Sydney is a gateway to Australia for many international visitors and ranks among the top sixty most visited cities in the world.^[318] It has hosted over 2.8 million international visitors in 2013, or nearly half of all international visits to Australia. These visitors spent 59 million nights in the city and a total of \$5.9 billion.^[24] The countries of origin in descending order were China, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Germany, Hong Kong, and India.^[319]

The city also received 8.3 million domestic overnight visitors in 2013 who spent a total of \$6 billion.^[319] 26,700 workers in the City of Sydney were directly employed by tourism in 2011.^[320] There were 480,000 visitors and 27,500 people staying overnight each day in 2012.^[320] On average, the tourism industry contributes \$36 million to the city's economy per day.^[320]

Popular destinations include the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, **Watsons Bay**, **The Rocks**, Sydney Tower, **Darling Harbour**, the Royal Botanic Garden, the **Australian Museum**, the **Museum of Contemporary Art**, the **Art Gallery of New South Wales**, the **Queen Victoria Building**, **Sea Life Sydney Aquarium**, **Taronga Zoo**, **Bondi Beach**, **Luna Park** and **Sydney Olympic Park**.^[321]

Major developmental projects designed to increase Sydney's tourism sector include a **casino and hotel** at Barangaroo and the redevelopment of **East Darling Harbour**, which involves a new **exhibition and convention centre**, now Australia's largest.^{[322][323][324]}

Sydney is the highest-ranking city in the world for international students. More than 50,000 international students study at the city's universities and a further 50,000 study at its **vocational** and English language schools.^{[284][325]} International education contributes \$1.6 billion to the local economy and creates demand for 4,000 local jobs each year.^[326]

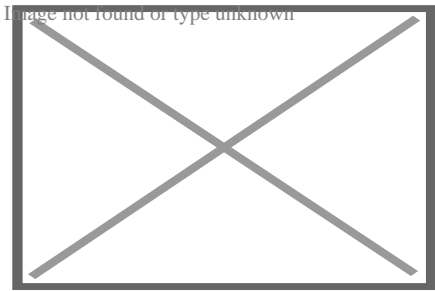
Housing affordability

^[edit]

In 2023, Sydney was ranked the least affordable city to buy a house in Australia and the second least affordable city in the world, after Hong Kong.^[327] with the average Sydney house price in late 2023 costing A\$1.59 million, and the average unit price costing A\$795,000.^[328] As of early 2024, Sydney is often described in the media as having a housing shortage, or suffering a housing crisis.^{[329][330]}

Demographics

^[edit]



[Chinese New Year](#) celebrations in [Chinatown](#). Sydney is home to the nation's largest population of [Chinese Australians](#).^[331]

The population of Sydney in 1788 was less than 1,000.^[332] With convict transportation it almost tripled in ten years to 2,953.^[333] For each decade since 1961 the population has increased by more than 250,000.^[334] The 2021 census recorded the population of Greater Sydney as 5,231,150.^[1] The Australian Treasury expects the population will grow to 6.5 million in 2033–34.^[335] The four most densely populated suburbs in Australia are located in Sydney with each having more than 13,000 residents per square kilometre (33,700 residents per square mile).^[336] Between 1971 and 2018, Sydney experienced a net loss of 716,832 people to the rest of Australia, but its population grew due to overseas arrivals and a healthy birth rate.^[337]

The median age of Sydney residents is 37 and 14.8% of people are 65 or older.^[260] 48.6% of Sydney's population is married whilst 36.7% have never been married.^[260] 49.0% of families are couples with children, 34.4% are couples without children, and 14.8% are single-parent families.^[260]

Ancestry and immigration

[\[edit\]](#)

Country of birth (2021)^[11]

Birthplace ^[N 1]	Population
Australia	2,970,737
Mainland China	238,316
India	187,810
England	153,052
Vietnam	93,778
Philippines	91,339
New Zealand	85,493
Lebanon	61,620
Nepal	59,055
Iraq	52,604
South Korea	50,702
Hong Kong SAR	46,182
South Africa	39,564

At the 2021 census, the most common ancestries were:[11]

- English (21.8%)
- Australian (20.4%)[N 2]
- Chinese (11.6%)
- Irish (7.2%)
- Scottish (5.6%)
- Indian (4.9%)
- Italian (4.3%)
- Lebanese (3.5%)
- Filipino (2.7%)
- Greek (2.6%)
- Vietnamese (2.5%)
- German (2.2%)
- Korean (1.4%)
- Nepalese (1.4%)
- Australian Aboriginal (1.4%)[339]
- Maltese (1.1%)

Italy	38,762
Indonesia	35,413
Malaysia	35,002
Fiji	34,197
Pakistan	31,025

At the 2021 census, 40.5% of Sydney's population was born overseas. Foreign countries of birth with the greatest representation are mainland China, India, England, Vietnam, Philippines and New Zealand.[11]

At the 2021 census, 1.7% of Sydney's population identified as being Indigenous — Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders.[N 3][340]

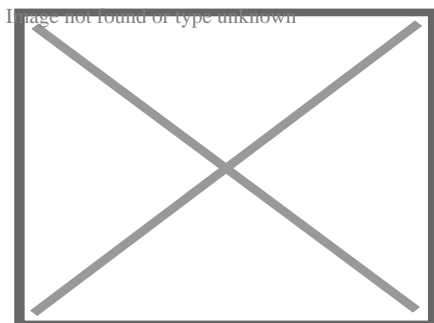
Language

[edit]

42% of households in Sydney use a language other than English, with the most common being Mandarin (5%), Arabic (4.2%), Cantonese (2.8%), Vietnamese (2.2%) and Hindi (1.5%).[340]

Religion

[edit]



St Mary's Cathedral is the **cathedral** church of the **Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney**.

In 2021, **Christianity** was the largest religious affiliation at 46%, the largest denominations of which were **Catholicism** at 23.1% and **Anglicanism** at 9.2%. 30.3% of Sydney residents identified as having no religion. The most common non-Christian religious affiliations were **Islam** (6.3%), **Hinduism** (4.8%), **Buddhism** (3.8%), **Sikhism** (0.7%), and **Judaism** (0.7%). About 500 people identified with traditional Aboriginal religions.^[11]

The **Church of England** was the only recognised church before Governor Macquarie appointed official Catholic chaplains in 1820.^[341] Macquarie also ordered the construction of **churches** such as St Matthew's, St Luke's, St James's, and St Andrew's. Religious groups, alongside secular institutions, have played a significant role in education, health and charitable services throughout Sydney's history.^[342]

Crime

^[edit]

Main article: **Crime in Sydney**

Crime in Sydney is low, with ***The Independent*** ranking Sydney as the fifth safest city in the world in 2019.^[343] However, drug use is a significant problem. Methamphetamine is heavily consumed compared to other countries, while heroin is less common.^[344] One of the biggest crime-related issues in recent times was the introduction of **lockout laws** in February 2014,^[345] in an attempt to curb alcohol-fuelled violence. Patrons could not enter clubs or bars in the inner-city after 1:30am, and last drinks were called at 3am. The lockout laws were removed in January 2020.^[346]

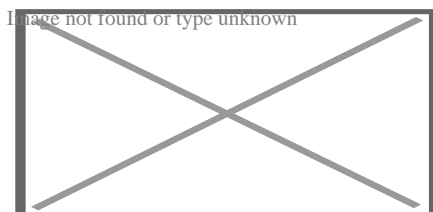
Culture

^[edit]

Main article: **Culture of Sydney**

Science, art, and history

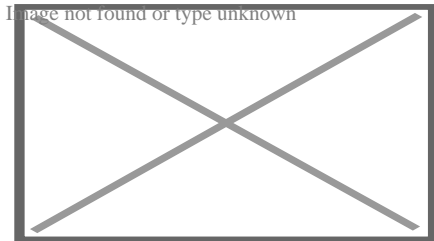
^[edit]



The **Art Gallery of New South Wales**, located in **The Domain**, is the fourth largest public gallery in Australia.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is rich in **Indigenous Australian** heritage, containing around 1,500 pieces of **Aboriginal rock art** – the largest cluster of Indigenous sites in Australia. The park's

indigenous sites include [petroglyphs](#), art sites, [burial sites](#), [caves](#), marriage areas, birthing areas, [midden](#) sites, and tool manufacturing locations, which are dated to be around 5,000 years old. The inhabitants of the area were the [Garigal](#) people.^{[347][348]} Other [rock art sites](#) exist in the Sydney region, such as in [Terrey Hills](#) and [Bondi](#), although the locations of most are not publicised to prevent damage by vandalism, and to retain their quality, as they are still regarded as sacred sites by Indigenous Australians.^[349]



The [State Library of New South Wales](#) holds the oldest library collections in Australia.

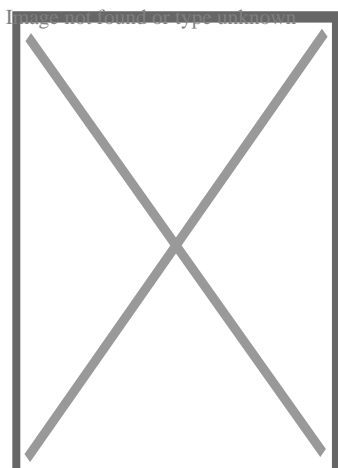
The [Australian Museum](#) opened in Sydney in 1827 with the purpose of collecting and displaying the natural wealth of the colony.^[350] It remains Australia's oldest natural history museum. In 1995 the [Museum of Sydney](#) opened on the site of the first [Government House](#). It recounts the story of the city's development.^[351] Other museums include the [Powerhouse Museum](#) and the [Australian National Maritime Museum](#).^{[352][353]}

The [State Library of New South Wales](#) holds the oldest library collections in Australia, being established as the [Australian Subscription Library](#) in 1826.^[354] The [Royal Society of New South Wales](#), formed in 1866, encourages "studies and investigations in science, art, literature, and philosophy". It is based in a terrace house in [Darlington](#) owned by the [University of Sydney](#).^[355] The [Sydney Observatory](#) building was constructed in 1859 and used for astronomy and meteorology research until 1982 before being converted into a museum.^[356]

The [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) was opened in 1991 and occupies an [Art Deco](#) building in [Circular Quay](#). Its collection was founded in the 1940s by artist and art collector John Power and has been maintained by the University of Sydney.^[357] Sydney's other significant art institution is the [Art Gallery of New South Wales](#) which coordinates the [Archibald Prize](#) for portraiture.^[358] Sydney is also home to contemporary art gallery [Artspace](#), housed in the historic [Gunnery Building](#) in [Woolloomooloo](#), fronting [Sydney Harbour](#).^[359]

Entertainment

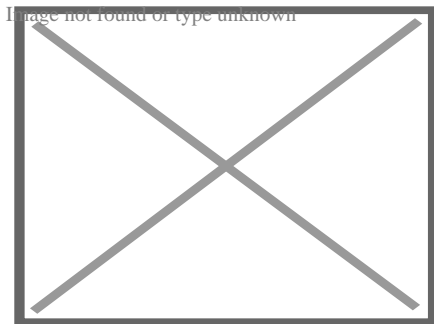
[\[edit\]](#)



The **State Theatre** on **Market Street** was opened in 1929.

Sydney's first commercial theatre opened in 1832 and nine more had commenced performances by the late 1920s. The live medium lost much of its popularity to the cinema during the Great Depression before experiencing a revival after World War II.[360] Prominent theatres in the city today include **State Theatre**, **Theatre Royal**, **Sydney Theatre**, **The Wharf Theatre**, and **Capitol Theatre**. **Sydney Theatre Company** maintains a roster of local, classical, and international plays. It occasionally features Australian theatre icons such as **David Williamson**, **Hugo Weaving**, and **Geoffrey Rush**. The city's other prominent theatre companies are **New Theatre**, **Belvoir**, and **Griffin Theatre Company**. Sydney is also home to **Event Cinemas**' first theatre, which opened on **George St** in 1913, under its former Greater Union brand; the theatre currently operates, and is regarded as one of Australia's busiest cinema locations.

The Sydney Opera House is the home of **Opera Australia** and **Sydney Symphony**. It has staged over 100,000 performances and received 100 million visitors since opening in 1973.[245] Two other important performance venues in Sydney are **Town Hall** and the **City Recital Hall**. The **Sydney Conservatorium of Music** is located adjacent to the Royal Botanic Garden and serves the Australian music community through education and its biannual **Australian Music Examinations Board** exams.[361]



A concert at the **Sydney Opera House**

Many writers have originated in and set their work in Sydney. Others have visited the city and commented on it. Some of them are commemorated in the **Sydney Writers Walk** at Circular Quay. The city was the headquarters for Australia's first published newspaper, the **Sydney Gazette**. [362] Watkin Tench's *A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay* (1789) and *A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson in New South Wales* (1793) have remained the best-known accounts of life in early Sydney. [363] Since the infancy of the establishment, much of the literature set in Sydney were concerned with life in the city's slums and working-class communities, notably **William Lane**'s *The Working Man's Paradise* (1892), **Christina Stead**'s *Seven Poor Men of Sydney* (1934) and **Ruth Park**'s *The Harp in the South* (1948). [364] The first Australian-born female novelist, **Louisa Atkinson**, set several novels in Sydney. [365] Contemporary writers, such as **Elizabeth Harrower**, were born in the city and set most of their work there—Harrower's debut novel *Down in the City* (1957) was mostly set in a **King's Cross** apartment. [366][367][368] Well known contemporary novels set in the city include **Melina Marchetta**'s *Looking for Alibrandi* (1992), **Peter Carey**'s *30 Days in Sydney: A Wildly Distorted Account* (1999), **J. M. Coetzee**'s *Diary of a Bad Year* (2007) and **Kate Grenville**'s *The Secret River* (2010). The **Sydney Writers' Festival** is held annually between April and May. [369]

Filmmaking in Sydney was prolific until the 1920s when spoken films were introduced and American productions gained dominance.[370] The **Australian New Wave** saw a resurgence in film production, with many notable features shot in the city between the 1970s and 80s, helmed by directors such as **Bruce Beresford**, **Peter Weir** and **Gillian Armstrong**. [371] **Fox Studios Australia** commenced production in Sydney in 1998. Successful films shot in Sydney since then include *The Matrix*, *Lantana*, *Mission: Impossible 2*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones*, *Australia*, *Superman Returns*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Anyone but You*. The **National Institute of Dramatic Art** is based in Sydney and has several famous alumni such as **Mel Gibson**, **Judy Davis**, **Baz Luhrmann**, **Cate Blanchett**, **Hugo Weaving** and **Jacqueline Mckenzie**. [372]

Sydney hosts several festivals throughout the year. The city's **New Year's Eve** celebrations are the largest in Australia. [373] The **Royal Easter Show** is held every year at Sydney Olympic Park. **Sydney Festival** is Australia's largest arts festival. [374] The travelling rock music festival **Big Day Out** originated in Sydney. The city's two largest film festivals are **Sydney Film Festival** and **Tropfest**. **Vivid Sydney** is an annual outdoor exhibition of art installations, light projections, and music. In 2015, Sydney was ranked the 13th top **fashion capital** in the world. [375] It hosts the **Australian Fashion Week** in autumn. **Sydney Mardi Gras** has commenced each February since 1979.

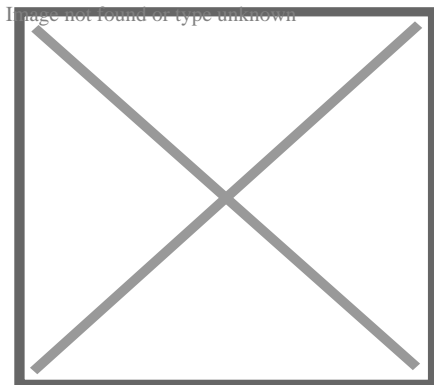
Sydney's **Chinatown** has had numerous locations since the 1850s. It moved from **George Street** to Campbell Street to its current setting in Dixon Street in 1980. [376] Little Italy is located in Stanley Street. [287]

Restaurants, bars and nightclubs can be found in the entertainment hubs in the Sydney CBD (**Darling Harbour**, **Barangaroo**, **The Rocks** and **George Street**), **Oxford Street**, **Surry Hills**, **Newtown** and **Parramatta**. [377] [378] **Kings Cross** was previously considered the red-light district. **The Star** is the city's casino and is situated next to **Darling Harbour** while the new **Crown Sydney** resort is in nearby **Barangaroo**. [379]

Media

[edit]

Main article: **Media in Sydney**



Australia's national broadcaster, the **ABC**, is headquartered in **Ultimo**.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* is Australia's oldest newspaper still in print; it has been published continuously since 1831.[380] Its competitor is *The Daily Telegraph*, in print since 1879.[381] Both papers have Sunday tabloid editions called *The Sun-Herald* and *The Sunday Telegraph* respectively. *The Bulletin* was founded in Sydney in 1880 and became Australia's longest running magazine. It closed after 128 years of continuous publication.[382] Sydney heralded Australia's first newspaper, the *Sydney Gazette*, published until 1842.

Each of Australia's three commercial television networks and two public broadcasters is headquartered in Sydney. **Nine's** offices and news studios are in **North Sydney**, **Ten** is based in **Pymont**, and **Seven** is based in **South Eveleigh** in **Redfern**. [383][384][385][386] The **Australian Broadcasting Corporation** is located in **Ultimo**, [387] and the **Special Broadcasting Service** is based in **Artarmon**. [388] Multiple digital channels have been provided by all five networks since 2000. **Foxtel** is based in **North Ryde** and sells subscription cable television to most of the urban area. [389] Sydney's first **radio stations** commenced broadcasting in the 1920s. Radio has managed to survive despite the introduction of television and the Internet. [390] **2UE** was founded in 1925 and under the ownership of Nine Entertainment is the oldest station still broadcasting. [390] Competing stations include the more popular **2GB**, **ABC Radio Sydney**, **KIIS 106.5**, **Triple M**, **Nova 96.9** and **2Day FM**. [391]

Sport and outdoor activities

[edit]

Main article: **Sport in Sydney**

Sydney's earliest migrants brought with them a passion for sport but were restricted by the lack of facilities and equipment. The first organised sports were **boxing**, **wrestling**, and horse racing from 1810 in **Hyde Park**. [392] Horse racing remains popular and events such as the **Golden Slipper Stakes** attract widespread attention. The first cricket club was formed in 1826 and matches were played within Hyde Park throughout the 1830s and 1840s. [392] Cricket is a favoured sport in summer and big matches have been held at the **Sydney Cricket Ground** since 1878. The **New South Wales Blues** compete in the **Sheffield Shield** league and the **Sydney Sixers** and **Sydney Thunder** contest the national **Big Bash** Twenty20 competition.

First played in Sydney in 1865, rugby grew to be the city's most popular football code by the 1880s. One-tenth of the state's population attended a New South Wales versus New Zealand rugby match in 1907. [392] Rugby league separated from rugby union in 1908. The **New South Wales Waratahs** contest the **Super Rugby** competition, while the **Sydney Rays** represent the city in the **National Rugby Championship**. The national **Wallabies** rugby union team competes in Sydney in international matches such as the **Bledisloe Cup**, **Rugby Championship**, and **World Cup**. Sydney is home to nine of the seventeen teams in the **National Rugby League** competition: **Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs**, **Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks**, **Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles**, **Penrith Panthers**, **Parramatta Eels**, **South Sydney Rabbitohs**, **St George Illawarra Dragons**, **Sydney Roosters**, and **Wests Tigers**. **New South Wales** contests the annual **State of Origin** series against **Queensland**.

Sydney FC and the **Western Sydney Wanderers** compete in the **A-League Men** and **A-League Women** competitions. The **Sydney Swans** and **Greater Western Sydney Giants** are local **Australian**

rules football clubs that play in the Australian Football League and the AFL Women's. The Sydney Kings compete in the National Basketball League. The Sydney Uni Flames play in the Women's National Basketball League. The Sydney Blue Sox contest the Australian Baseball League. The NSW Pride are a member of the Hockey One League. The Sydney Bears and Sydney Ice Dogs play in the Australian Ice Hockey League. The Swifts are competitors in the national women's netball league.

Major sporting venues

[edit]

Stadium Australia

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Stadium Australia
Sydney Cricket Ground

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Sydney Cricket Ground
Western Sydney Stadium

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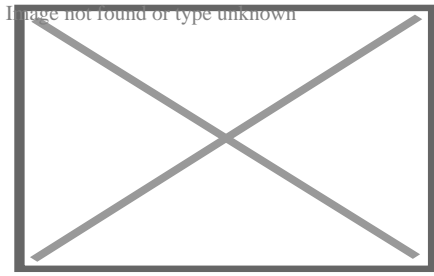
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Western Sydney Stadium
Sydney Football Stadium

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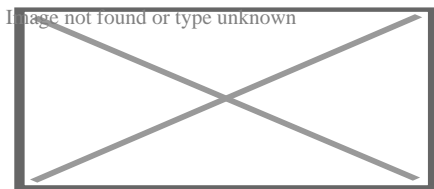
Sydney Football Stadium



Sailing on **Sydney Harbour**

Women were first allowed to participate in recreational swimming when separate baths were opened at **Woolloomooloo Bay** in the 1830s. From being illegal at the beginning of the century, sea bathing gained immense popularity during the early 1900s and the first **surf lifesaving** club was established at **Bondi Beach**.^{[392][393]} **Disputes about appropriate clothing** for surf bathing surfaced occasionally and concerned men as well as women. The **City2Surf** is an annual 14 km (8.7 mi) running race from the CBD to Bondi Beach and has been held since 1971. In 2010, 80,000 runners participated which made it the largest run of its kind in the world.^[394]

Sailing races have been held on **Sydney Harbour** since 1827.^[395] Yachting has been popular amongst wealthier residents since the 1840s and the **Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron** was founded in 1862. The **Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** is a 1,170 km (727 mi) event that starts from Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day.^[396] Since its inception in 1945 it has been recognised as one of the most difficult yacht races in the world.^[397] Six sailors died and 71 vessels of 115 failed to finish in the 1998 edition.^[398]



Sydney Olympic Park was built for the **2000 Olympics** and has become a major sporting and recreational precinct.

The **Royal Sydney Golf Club** is based in **Rose Bay** and since its opening in 1893 has hosted the **Australian Open** on 13 occasions.^[392] **Royal Randwick Racecourse** opened in 1833 and holds several major cups throughout the year.^[399]

Sydney benefitted from the construction of significant sporting infrastructure in preparation for its hosting of the 2000 Summer Olympics. The Sydney Olympic Park accommodates athletics, aquatics, tennis, hockey, archery, baseball, cycling, equestrian, and rowing facilities. It also includes the high capacity **Stadium Australia** used for rugby, soccer, and Australian rules football. The **Sydney Football Stadium** was completed in 1988 and was used for rugby and soccer matches. Sydney Cricket Ground was opened in 1878 and is used for both cricket and Australian rules football fixtures.^[392]

Sydney was one of the host cities during the **2023 FIFA Women's World Cup**. Sydney Football Stadium and Stadium Australia were selected as venues, with the later hosting the **final**.^[400]

The **Sydney International** tennis tournament is held here at the beginning of each year as the warm-up for **the Grand Slam in Melbourne**. Two of the most successful **tennis** players in history (**Ken Rosewall** and **Todd Woodbridge**) were born in and live in the city.

Sydney co-hosted the **FIBA Oceania Championship** in 1979, 1985, 1989, 1995, 2007, 2009 and 2011.

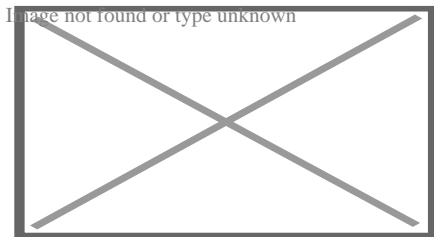
Government

[[edit](#)]

See also: **Local government areas of New South Wales**

Historical governance

[[edit](#)]



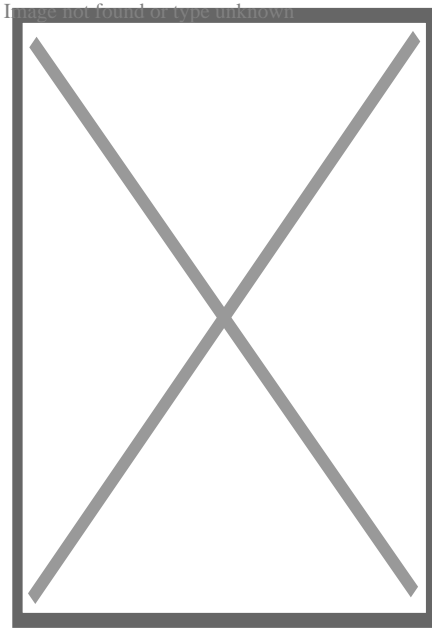
Parliament House holds the **Government of New South Wales** and is the oldest public building in Australia.

The first five governors had near autocratic power in the colony of New South Wales, subject only to the laws of England and the supervision of the Colonial Office in London. Sydney was the seat of government for the colony which encompassed over half the Australian continent.^[401] The first Legislative Council met in 1826,^[402] and in 1842, the imperial parliament expanded and reformed the council, making it partly elected.^[403] In the same year, the town of Sydney officially became a city and an elected municipal council was established.^{[404][405]} The council had limited powers, mostly relating to services such as street lighting and drainage.^[406] Its boundaries were restricted to an area of 11.6 square kilometres, taking in the city centre and the modern suburbs of **Woolloomooloo**, **Surry Hills**, **Chippendale**, and **Pymont**.^[63] As Sydney grew, other municipal councils were formed to provide local administration.^[407]

In 1856, New South Wales achieved responsible government with the introduction of a bicameral parliament, based in Sydney, comprising a directly elected **Legislative Assembly** and a nominated **Legislative Council**.^[408] With the federation of the Australian colonies in 1901, Sydney became the capital of the state of New South Wales and its administration was divided between the Commonwealth, State and constituent local governments.^[408]

Government in the present

[[edit](#)]

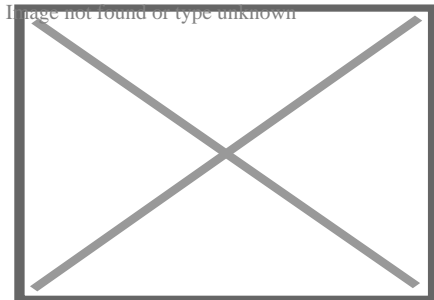


The **Sydney Town Hall** is the seat of the **City of Sydney**; the oldest **local government** in the city

In common with other Australian capital cities, Sydney has no single local government covering its whole area. **Local government areas** have responsibilities such as local roads, libraries, child care, community services and waste collection, whereas the state government retains responsibility for main roads, traffic control, public transport, policing, education, and major infrastructure project.[409] There are 33 local government areas which are wholly or mostly within Greater Sydney as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard.[96][410]

- **Bayside**
- **Canterbury-Bankstown**
- **Blacktown**
- **Blue Mountains**
- **Burwood**
- **Camden**
- **Campbelltown**
- **Canada Bay**
- **Central Coast**
- **Cumberland**
- **Fairfield**
- **Georges River**
- **Hawkesbury**
- **The Hills**
- **Hornsby**
- **Hunter's Hill**
- **Inner West**
- **Ku-ring-gai**
- **Lane Cove**

- Liverpool
- Mosman
- North Sydney
- Northern Beaches
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Randwick
- Ryde
- Strathfield
- Sutherland
- Sydney
- Waverley
- Willoughby
- Wollondilly
- Woollahra



Government House is the official residence of the **Governor of New South Wales**

Sydney is the location of the secondary official residences of the **Governor-General** and **Prime Minister** – **Admiralty House** and **Kirribilli House** respectively.[411] The **Parliament of New South Wales** sits in **Parliament House** on **Macquarie Street**. This building was completed in 1816 and first served as a hospital. The Legislative Council moved into its northern wing in 1829 and by 1852 had entirely supplanted the surgeons from their quarters.[412] Several additions have been made as the Parliament has expanded, but it retains its original **Georgian** façade.[413] **Government House** was completed in 1845 and has served as the home of 25 Governors and 5 Governors-General.[414] The **Cabinet of Australia** also **meets** in Sydney when needed.

The highest court in the state is the Supreme Court of New South Wales, located in Queen's Square.[415] The city is also the home of numerous branches of the intermediate **District Court of New South Wales** and the lower **Local Court of New South Wales**.[416]

In the past, the state has tended to resist amalgamating Sydney's more populated local government areas as merged councils could pose a threat to its governmental power.[417] Established in 1842, the City of Sydney is one such local government area and includes the CBD and some adjoining inner suburbs.[418] It is responsible for fostering development in the local area, providing local services (waste collection and recycling, libraries, parks, sporting facilities), promoting the interests of residents, supporting organisations that target the local community, and attracting and providing infrastructure for commerce, tourism, and industry.[419] The City of Sydney is led by an elected Council and **Lord Mayor**.[420]

In federal politics, Sydney was initially considered as a possibility for Australia's capital city; the newly created city of Canberra ultimately filled this role.^[421] Seven Australian Prime Ministers have been born in Sydney, more than any other city, including first Prime Minister Edmund Barton and current Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Essential public emergency services are provided and managed by the State Government. Greater Sydney is served by:

- New South Wales Police Force
- New South Wales Ambulance
- Fire and Rescue NSW

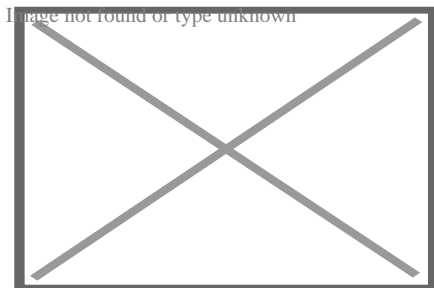
Infrastructure

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Education

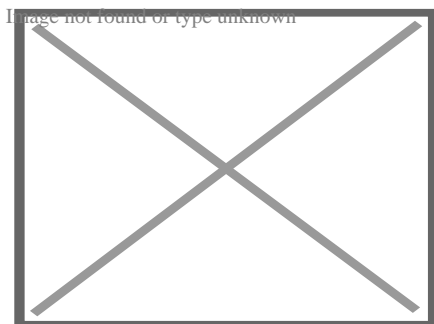
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Main article: [Education in Sydney](#)



The [University of Sydney](#)

Education became a focus for the colony from the 1870s when public schools began to form and schooling became compulsory.^[422] By 2011, 90% of working age residents had completed some schooling and 57% had completed the highest level of school.^[2] 1,390,703 people were enrolled in an educational institution in 2011 with 45.1% of these attending school and 16.5% studying at a university.^[260] Undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications are held by 22.5% of working age Sydney residents and 40.2% of working age residents of the City of Sydney.^{[2][423]} The most common fields of tertiary qualification are commerce (22.8%), engineering (13.4%), society and culture (10.8%), health (7.8%), and education (6.6%).^[2]



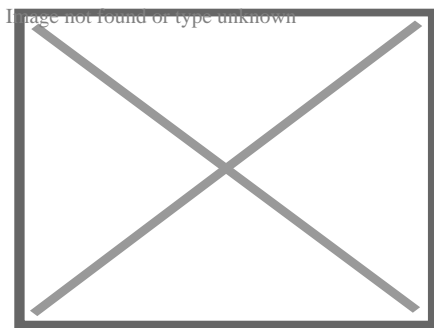
The University of Technology Sydney

There are six public universities based in Sydney: The University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Technology Sydney, Macquarie University, Western Sydney University, and Australian Catholic University. Five public universities maintain secondary campuses in the city: the University of Notre Dame Australia, Central Queensland University, Victoria University, University of Wollongong, and University of Newcastle. Charles Sturt University and Southern Cross University operate secondary campuses only designated for international students. In addition, four public universities offer programs in Sydney through third-party providers: University of the Sunshine Coast, La Trobe University, Federation University Australia and Charles Darwin University. 5.2% of residents of Sydney are attending a university.[424] The University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney are ranked equal 19th in the world,[425] the University of Technology Sydney is ranked in the top 100,[425] while Macquarie University is ranked 237, and Western Sydney University is ranked 474.[426] Sydney has public, denominational, and independent schools. 7.8% of Sydney residents are attending primary school and 6.4% are enrolled in secondary school.[424] There are 935 public preschool, primary, and secondary schools in Sydney that are administered by the New South Wales Department of Education.[427] 14 of the 17 selective secondary schools in New South Wales are based in Sydney.[428]

Public vocational education and training in Sydney are run by TAFE New South Wales and began with the opening of the Sydney Technical College in 1878.[238] The college became the Sydney Institute in 1992 and now operates alongside its sister TAFE facilities across the Sydney metropolitan area, namely the Northern Sydney Institute, the Western Sydney Institute, and the South Western Sydney Institute. At the 2011 census, 2.4% of Sydney residents are enrolled in a TAFE course.[424]

Health

[edit]



The Sydney Hospital, completed in 1816

The first hospital in the new colony was a collection of tents at The Rocks. Many of the convicts that survived the trip suffered from dysentery, smallpox, scurvy, and typhoid. Healthcare facilities remained inadequate despite the arrival of a prefabricated hospital with the Second Fleet and the construction of new hospitals at Parramatta, Windsor, and Liverpool in the 1790s.[429]

Governor Macquarie arranged for the construction of [Sydney Hospital](#), completed in 1816.^[429] Parts of the facility have been repurposed for use as [Parliament House](#) but the hospital itself still operates. The city's first emergency department was established at Sydney Hospital in 1870. Demand for emergency medical care increased from 1895 with the introduction of an ambulance service.^[429] The Sydney Hospital also housed Australia's first teaching facility for nurses, the Nightingale Wing, established with the input of [Florence Nightingale](#) in 1868.^[430]

Healthcare was recognised as a right in the early 1900s and Sydney's public hospitals came under the oversight of the Government of New South Wales.^[429] The administration of healthcare across Sydney is handled by eight local health districts: Central Coast, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains, Northern Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, South Western Sydney, and Western Sydney.^[431] The [Prince of Wales Hospital](#) was established in 1852 and became the first of several major hospitals to be opened.^[432] [St Vincent's Hospital](#) was founded in 1857,^[176] followed by [Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children](#) in 1880,^[433] the [Prince Henry Hospital](#) in 1881,^[434] the [Royal Prince Alfred Hospital](#) in 1882,^[435] the [Royal North Shore Hospital](#) in 1885,^[436] the [St George Hospital](#) in 1894,^[437] and the [Nepean Hospital](#) in 1895.^[438] [Westmead Hospital](#) in 1978 was the last major facility to open.^[439]

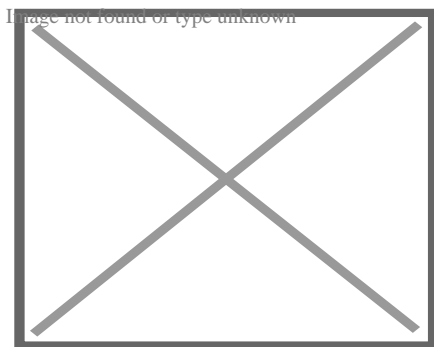
Transport

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Transport in Sydney](#)

Roads

[\[edit\]](#)



[Light Horse Interchange](#), the largest of its kind in Australia

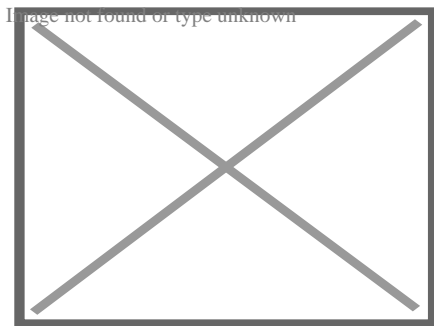
The motor vehicle, more than any other factor, has determined the pattern of Sydney's urban development since [World War II](#).^[440] The growth of low-density housing in the city's outer suburbs has made car ownership necessary for hundreds of thousands of households. The percentage of trips taken by car has increased from 13% in 1947 to 50% in 1960 and 70% in 1971.^[440] The most important roads in Sydney were the nine [Metroads](#), including the 110 km (68 mi) [Sydney Orbital Network](#). Sydney's reliance on motor vehicles and its sprawling road network has been criticised by proponents of mass public transport and high-density housing.^{[441][442][443]} The [Light Horse Interchange](#) in western Sydney is the largest in the southern hemisphere.^[444]

There can be up to 350,000 cars using Sydney's roads simultaneously during peak hour, leading to significant traffic congestion.[440] 84.9% of Sydney households own a motor vehicle and 46.5% own two or more.[260] With a rate of 26.3% in 2014, Sydney has the highest utilisation of public transport for travel to work of any Australian capital.[445] In contrast, in 2014 only 25.2% of working residents in the City of Sydney use a car, whilst 15.8% take a train, 13.3% use a bus, and 25.3% walk.[446] Several significant infrastructure projects have been completed since. The CBD features a **series of alleyways and lanes** that provide **off-street** vehicular access to city buildings and as well as pedestrian routes through city buildings.[447]

Suburban trains

[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Sydney Trains](#)



Central station is the busiest railway station in Australia, and the city's main public transport hub.

Established in 1906, **Central station** is the largest and busiest railway station in the state and is the main hub of the city's **rail network**.^[448] **Sydney Trains** is the **suburban rail** service. Its tracks form part of the New South Wales railway network. It serves 168 stations across the city and had an annual ridership of 302 million passenger journeys in 2023–24.^[449] Sydney's railway was first constructed in 1854 with progressive extension to the network to serve both freight and passengers. The main station is the **Central railway station** in the southern part of the CBD. In the 1850s and 1860s, the railway reached areas that are now outer suburbs of Sydney.^[440]

Metro

[[edit](#)]

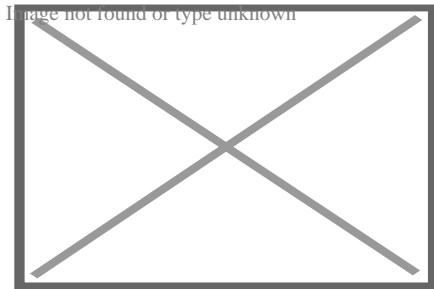
Main article: [Sydney Metro](#)

Sydney Metro, a driverless **rapid transit** system separate from the suburban commuter network, commenced operation in May 2019 and was extended through the city to Sydenham on 19 August 2024. This line will be extended to Bankstown in 2025 and a new line through the inner west to Parramatta is planned to be built by 2030.^{[450][451]} It currently serves 21 stations. A line to serve the greater west is planned for 2026 and will include a station for the **second international airport**.

Light rail

[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Light rail in Sydney](#)



The [CBD and South East Light Rail](#) connects Sydney's CBD with the Eastern Suburbs.

Sydney once had one of the [largest tram networks](#) in the British Empire after London.^[452] It served routes covering 291 km (181 mi). The internal combustion engine made buses more flexible than trams and consequently more popular, leading to the progressive closure of the network with the final tram operating in 1961.^[440] From 1930 there were 612 buses across Sydney carrying 90 million passengers per annum.^[453]

In 1997, the [Inner West Light Rail](#) opened between Central station and [Wentworth Park](#). It was extended to [Lilyfield](#) in 2000 and then [Dulwich Hill](#) in 2014. It links the [Inner West](#) and [Darling Harbour](#) with [Central station](#) and facilitated 9.1 million journeys in the 2016–17 financial year.^[454] A second, the [CBD and South East Light Rail](#) 12 km (7.5 mi) line serving the CBD and Eastern Suburbs opened in 2019–2020.^[455] A [light rail line](#) serving Western Sydney opened in 2024.

Buses

[[edit](#)]

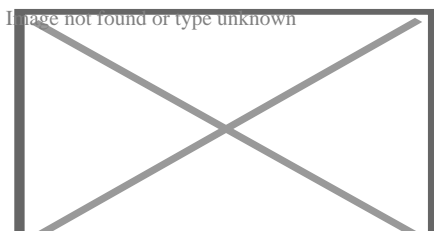
Main article: [Buses in Sydney](#)

Bus services are conducted by private operators under contract to [Transport for NSW](#). Integrated tickets called [Opal cards](#) operate on bus routes. In total, nearly 225 million boardings were recorded across the bus network.^[456] [NightRide](#) is a nightly bus service that operate between midnight and 5am.

Ferries

[[edit](#)]

Main articles: [Sydney Ferries](#), [List of Sydney Harbour ferries](#), and [Timeline of Sydney Harbour ferries](#)



A **Freshwater-class ferry** Departing **Circular Quay** to Manly

At the time the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened in 1932, the city's **ferry service** was the largest in the world.[457] Patronage declined from 37 million passengers in 1945 to 11 million in 1963 but has recovered somewhat in recent years.[440] From its hub at **Circular Quay**, the **ferry network** extends from **Manly** to **Parramatta**.^[457] Ferries in Sydney are operated by **Transdev Sydney Ferries** and operates 10 routes.

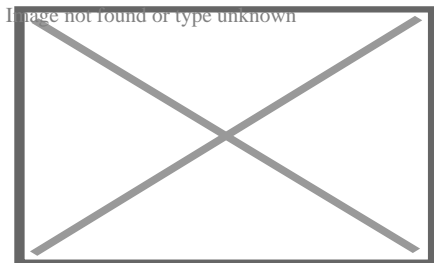
Airports

[[edit](#)]

Sydney Airport, officially "Sydney Kingsford-Smith Airport", is located in **Mascot**. It services 46 international and 23 domestic destinations.^[26] As the busiest airport in Australia, it handled 37.9 million passengers in 2013 and 530,000 tonnes of freight in 2011.^[26] A second airport, **Western Sydney Airport**, is under construction at **Badgerys Creek** and will open in late 2026,^[458] at a cost of \$2.5 billion.^[459] Notably, it will not feature a **curfew**, unlike Sydney Kingsford-Smith Airport, which imposes a suspension of all aircraft operations between 11 pm and 6 am. **Bankstown Airport** is Sydney's second busiest airport, and serves general aviation, charter and some scheduled cargo flights. Bankstown is also the fourth busiest airport in Australia by number of aircraft movements.^[460] **Port Botany** has surpassed Port Jackson as the city's major shipping port. Cruise ship terminals are located at **Sydney Cove** and **White Bay**.

Utilities

[[edit](#)]



Warragamba Dam is Sydney's largest water supply dam.

Obtaining sufficient fresh water was difficult during early colonial times. A catchment called the **Tank Stream** sourced water from what is now the CBD but was little more than an open sewer by the end of the 1700s.^[461] The Botany Swamps Scheme was one of several ventures during the mid-1800s that saw the construction of wells, tunnels, steam pumping stations, and small dams to service Sydney's growing population.^[461]

The **Upper Nepean Scheme** came into operation in 1886. It transports water 100 km (62 mi) from the **Nepean**, **Cataract**, and **Cordeaux** rivers and continues to service about 15% of Sydney's water needs.^[461] Dams were built on these three rivers between 1907 and 1935.^[461] In 1977 the **Shoalhaven Scheme** brought several more dams into service.^[462]

The state-owned corporation [WaterNSW](#) now manages eleven major dams: [Warragamba](#), one of the largest domestic water supply dams in the world,^[463] [Woronora](#), [Cataract](#), [Cordeaux](#), [Nepean](#), [Avon](#), [Wingecarribee Reservoir](#), [Fitzroy Falls Reservoir](#), [Tallowa](#), the [Blue Mountains Dams](#), and [Prospect Reservoir](#).^[464] Water is collected from five catchment areas covering 16,000 km² (6,178 sq mi) and total storage amounts to 2.6 TL (0.6 cu mi).^[464] The [Sydney Desalination Plant](#) came into operation in 2010.^[461] WaterNSW supplies bulk water to [Sydney Water](#), a state-owned corporation that operates water distribution, sewerage and storm water management services.

Sydney's electricity infrastructure is maintained by [Ausgrid](#) and [Endeavour Energy](#).^[465]^[466] Their combined networks include over 815,000 poles and 83,000 km (52,000 mi) of cables. [Submarine communications cable](#) systems in Sydney include the [Australia–Japan Cable](#), [Telstra Endeavour](#) and the [Southern Cross Cable](#), which link Australia and countries in the Pacific.^[467]^[468]^[469]

Environmental issues and pollution reduction

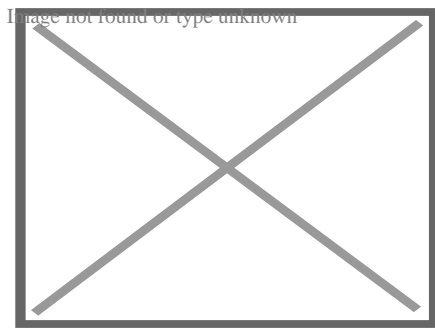
[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Environmental issues in Australia](#)

Further information: [Climate change in Australia](#) and [Renewable energy in Australia](#)

Air quality

[\[edit\]](#)



[George Street](#) and bushfire smoke in December 2019

As [climate change](#), [greenhouse gas emissions](#) and pollution have become a major issue for Australia, Sydney has in the past been criticised for its lack of focus on reducing pollution and emissions and maintaining [water quality](#).^[470] The release of the Metropolitan Air Quality Scheme (MAQS) led to a broader understanding of the causation of pollution in Sydney, allowing the government to form appropriate responses.^[471]

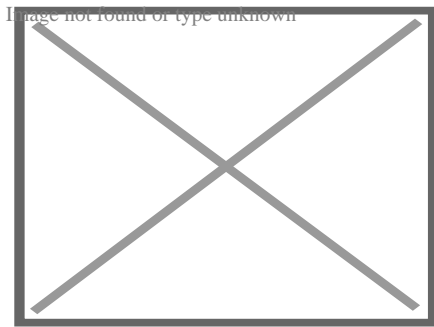
The [2019–20 Australian bushfire season](#) significantly impacted outer Sydney and dramatically reduced air quality, leading to a smoky haze that lingered for days. The [air quality](#) was 11 times the [hazardous](#) level in some days,^[472]^[473] worse than [New Delhi's](#);^[474] it was compared to "smoking 32 cigarettes" by Brian Oliver, a respiratory diseases scientist at the [University of Technology Sydney](#).^[475] Since Sydney is surrounded by bushland and forest,^[476] bushfires can ring the region in a [natural phenomena](#) that is labelled "ring of fire".^[477]^[478]^[479]^[480]^[481]

The City of Sydney became the first council in Australia to achieve formal certification as **carbon-neutral** in 2008.[482][483] The city has reduced its 2007 carbon emissions by 6% and since 2006 has reduced carbon emissions from city buildings by up to 20%.[484][485] The *Sustainable Sydney 2030* program presented a guide to reducing energy in homes and offices by 30%.[484][486] Reductions in energy consumption have slashed energy bills by \$30 million a year.[487] **Solar panels** have been established on many CBD buildings to minimise carbon pollution by around 3,000 tonnes a year.[488]

The city also has an "**urban forest** growth strategy", in which it aims to regularly increase the **tree coverage** in the city by frequently planting trees with strong leaf density and **vegetation** to provide cleaner air and create moisture during hot weather, thus lowering city temperatures.[489] Sydney has also become a leader in the development of **green office buildings** and enforcing the requirement of all building proposals to be energy-efficient. The **One Central Park** development, completed in 2013, is an example of this implementation.[490][491][492][493]

Car-dependency

[[edit](#)]



Traffic congestion on the **Warringah Freeway**, **Milsons Point**

Australian cities are some of the most **car-dependent** cities in the world,[494] especially by world city standards, although Sydney's is the lowest of Australia's major cities at 66%.[495] Sydney also has the **highest usage of public transport** in an Australian city, at 27%—comparable with New York City, Shanghai and Berlin. Despite its high ranking for an Australian city, Sydney has a low level of mass-transit services, with a historically low-density layout and significant **urban sprawl**, thus increasing the likelihood of car dependency.[496][497]

Strategies have been implemented to reduce private **vehicle pollution** by encouraging **mass** and **public transit**,[498] initiating the development of high density housing and introducing a fleet of 10 new **electric cars**, the largest order of the pollution-free vehicle in Australia.[499] Electric cars do not produce carbon monoxide and **nitrous oxide**, which contribute to climate change.[500][501] **Cycling trips** increased by 113% across Sydney's inner-city from 2010 to 2015, at which point about 2,000 bikes were passing through top peak-hour intersections on an average weekday.[484] Transport developments in the **north-west** and east of the city have been designed to encourage use of the expanding public transportation system.

Sister cities

[[edit](#)]

Sister cities of Sydney include:

- [San Francisco, United States of America](#)
- [Wellington, New Zealand](#)
- [Florence, Italy](#)
- [Nagoya, Japan](#)
- [Portsmouth, United Kingdom](#)

See also

[[edit](#)]

- [flag !\[\]\(4e333a6106fc298d0ae6dff272a736ef_img.jpg\) New South Wales portal](#)
- [List of museums in Sydney](#)
- [List of people from Sydney](#)
- [List of public art in the City of Sydney](#)
- [List of songs about Sydney](#)
- [Outline of Sydney](#)

Notes

[[edit](#)]

- [^] In accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics source, [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Mainland China](#) and the Special Administrative Regions of [Hong Kong](#) and [Macau](#) are listed separately.
- [^] The Australian Bureau of Statistics has stated that most who nominate "Australian" as their ancestry are part of the [Anglo-Celtic](#) group.^[338]
- [^] Indigenous identification is separate to the ancestry question on the Australian Census and persons identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander may identify any ancestry.

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[[edit](#)]

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- [^] **[a](#)** **[b](#)** **[c](#)** **[d](#)** **[e](#)** **[f](#)** **[g](#)** **[h](#)** *"Greater Sydney: Basic Community Profile". 2011 Census Community Profiles. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 28 March 2013. Archived from the original (xls) on 7 November 2022. Retrieved 9 April 2014.*
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External links

[[edit](#)]

- [Official Sydney, NSW government site](#)
- [Official Sydney tourism site](#)
- [Historical film clips of Sydney on the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia's \[australianscreen online\]\(#\)](#)
- [Qantas Farewell Flight B747-400 Queen of the Skies – Sydney Final Flight QF747 on YouTube](#) – includes a low-level joyflight around Sydney showing various aspects of the city on 13 July 2020 (starts at 05:20)

- o  Geographic data related to **Sydney** at **OpenStreetMap**
- o **Dictionary of Sydney – the history of Sydney** (Archived 24 March 2019 at the **Wayback Machine**)
- o **Sydney Official History Archives**
- o **State Records New South Wales**
- o **National Archives of Australia**
- o **Understanding Society Through its Records – John Curtin Library**
- o **Directory of Archives in Australia**

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Sydney

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- Northern Beaches
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- St George

Local government areas of Sydney

- Bayside
- Blacktown
- Burwood
- Camden
- Canterbury Bankstown
- Canada Bay
- Cumberland
- Fairfield
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- Lane Cove
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- Sutherland
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- Waverley
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List of Sydney suburbs

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Sydney landmarks

Buildings / structures

- Admiralty House
- Archibald Fountain
- Australia Square
- Bankstown Reservoir
- Boothtown Aqueduct
- Cadmans Cottage
- Campbell's Stores
- The Cenotaph
- Central station
- Chifley Tower
- Citigroup Centre
- International Convention Centre
- Deutsche Bank Place
- Dr Chau Chak Wing Building
- El Alamein Fountain
- Finger Wharf
- General Post Office (No. 1 Martin Place)
- Government House
- Governor Phillip Tower
- Hong Kong House
- Hyde Park Barracks
- King Street Wharf
- Kirribilli House
- Long Bay
- Macquarie Lighthouse
- Mint
- Observatory
- Old Government House
- Old Mining Museum Building
- Opera House
- Overseas Passenger Terminal
- Parliament House
- Parramatta Gaol
- Regimental Square
- The Ribbon
 - IMAX Sydney
- Queen Victoria Building
- St Andrew's Cathedral
- St Mary's Cathedral
- Sydney Airport
- Sydney Tower
- The Toaster
- Town Hall
- War Memorial
- Warragamba Dam
- White Bay Cruise Terminal
- World Square
- World Tower

Bridges

- Anzac
- Captain Cook
- Gladesville
- *Glebe Island* (disused)
- Harbour
- Pyrmont
- Roseville
- Spit
- Tom Uglys

Major centres and localities

- Central Business District
- Chatswood
- Chinatown
- Kings Cross
- North Sydney
- Parramatta
- Pitt Street Mall
- The Rocks

Urban renewal projects

- Barangaroo
- Bays Precinct
- Central Park
- Darling Harbour
- Green Square
- Sydney Olympic Park
- Waterloo

Parks and nature

- Auburn Botanic Gardens
- Balaka Falls
- Balls Head Reserve
- Bents Basin
- Berowra Valley National Park
- Bicentennial Park
- Bland Oak
- Blue Mountains National Park
- Centennial Parklands
- Central Gardens Nature Reserve
- Chinese Garden of Friendship
- Cronulla sand dunes
- Cumberland State Forest
- Farm Cove
- Featherdale Wildlife Park
- Garigal National Park
- Garawarra Conservation Area
- Georges River National Park
- Heathcote National Park
- Hyde Park
- Kamay Botany Bay National Park
- Ku-ring-gai Chase
- Lane Cove National Park
- Macquarie Place
- Paddington Reservoir
- Parramatta Park
- Prospect dolerite intrusion
- Prospect Hill
- Prospect Nature Reserve
- Royal Botanic Garden
- Royal National Park
- Sydney Harbour National Park
- Sydney Park
- The Domain
- Western Sydney Parklands
 - Western Sydney Regional Park

Cultural institutions

- Art Gallery of New South Wales
- Australian Museum
- Australian National Maritime Museum
- Chau Chak Wing Museum
- Harry's Cafe de Wheels
- Manly Art Gallery and Museum
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Museum of Sydney
- Justice and Police Museum
- Powerhouse Museum
- Sea Life Sydney Aquarium
- State Library
- Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- Sydney Zoo
- Taronga Zoo

Sport

- Australian Golf Club
- Canterbury Park Racecourse
- Dunc Gray Velodrome
- Lakes Golf Club
- Macquarie Ice Rink
- Randwick Racecourse
- Rosehill Gardens Racecourse
- Royal Sydney Golf Club
- Stadium Australia
- State Sports Centre
- Sydney Cricket Ground
- Sydney Football Stadium
- Sydney International Regatta Centre
- Sydney Motorsport Park
- Sydney Olympic Park
 - Athletic Centre
 - Aquatic Centre
 - Hockey Centre
 - Tennis Centre
 - Sydney Showground Stadium
- Warwick Farm Racecourse
- Wentworth Park
- Western Sydney International Dragway
- Western Sydney Stadium

Entertainment

- Capitol Theatre
- Crown Sydney
- Disney Studios Australia
- Entertainment Quarter
- Luna Park
- Lyric Theatre
- Plaza Theatre
- Raging Waters
- Roslyn Packer Theatre
- The Star
- State Theatre
- Sydney SuperDome
- Theatre Royal

Beaches

- Bondi
- Cronulla
- Manly
- Palm

Islands

- Bare
- Clark
- Cockatoo
- Fort Denison
- Garden
- Goat
- Rodd
- Shark
- Snapper
- Spectacle

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Theatre in Sydney

Central Sydney

- Belvoir Street Theatre
 - Belvoir
- Capitol Theatre
- Genesian Theatre
- Roslyn Packer Theatre
- Seymour Centre
- State Theatre
- Sydney Lyric
 - Foundry Theatre
- Sydney Opera House
- Theatre Royal
- Wharf Theatre

Inner West

- Carriageworks
- New Theatre
- PACT Theatre

Western Suburbs

- Riverside Theatres Parramatta
- Sydney Coliseum Theatre

North Shore

- Ensemble Theatre
- Independent Theatre
- Marian Street Theatre
- The Concourse, Chatswood

Northern Beaches

- Glen Street Theatre

Eastern Suburbs

- Darlinghurst Theatre
- Hayes Theatre
- Old Fitz Theatre
- Parade Theatre
- Stables Theatre (Griffin Theatre Company)

Former theatres

- Criterion Theatre
- Garrick Theatre
- Her Majesty's Theatre
- Minerva Theatre
- Palace Theatre
- Paris Theatre
- Phillip Street Theatre
- Plaza Theatre
- Regent Theatre
- Tivoli Theatre

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Sports teams based in **Sydney**

Australian rules football

- AFL**
 - Sydney Swans
 - Greater Western Sydney Giants
- AFLW**
 - Sydney Swans
 - Greater Western Sydney Giants

Baseball

- ABL**
 - Sydney Blue Sox
- Claxton Shield**
 - New South Wales Patriots

Basketball

- NBL**
 - Sydney Kings
- WNBL**
 - Sydney Flames

Cricket	Sheffield Shield	
	Matador BBQs One Day Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New South Wales Blues
	WNCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New South Wales Breakers
	Big Bash League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sydney Sixers ○ Sydney Thunder
Field hockey	Women's Big Bash League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sydney Sixers ○ Sydney Thunder
	AHL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New South Wales Waratahs
	WAHL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New South Wales Arrows
	Hockey One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSW Pride
Futsal (F-League)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dural Warriors ○ East Coast Heat F.C. ○ Sydney Scorpions
Handball		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sydney University Handball Club
Ice hockey	AIHL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sydney Bears ○ Sydney Ice Dogs
	AWIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sydney Sirens

Netball	SSN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giants Netball NSW Swifts
	ANL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giants Netball Academy NNSW Waratahs
Rugby league	NRL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks Manly Warringah Sea Eagles Parramatta Eels Penrith Panthers St. George Illawarra Dragons South Sydney Rabbitohs Sydney Roosters Wests Tigers
	NRLW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks Parramatta Eels St. George Illawarra Dragons Sydney Roosters Wests Tigers
Rugby union	Super Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New South Wales Waratahs
	Super W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New South Wales Waratahs
	NRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Sydney Rams Sydney Rays

Soccer

A-League Men

- Macarthur FC
- Sydney FC
- Western Sydney Wanderers

A-League Women

- Sydney FC
- Western Sydney Wanderers

Water polo (ANWPL)

- Balmain Water Polo Club
- Cronulla Sharks Water Polo Club
- Drummoyne Devils
- Sydney Uni Water Polo Club
- UNSW Wests Magpies

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New South Wales

General

- Economy
- Energy
- Flag
- Geography
- Geology
- Government
- History
- Local Government
- Parliament
- Police
- Politics
- People
- Rail transport
- Regions
- Sport
 - Australian rules football
 - Cricket
 - Rugby league
 - Rugby union
 - Soccer
- Symbols

New South Wales

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Sydney

- Canterbury-Bankstown
- Central Business District
- Eastern Suburbs
- Forest District
- Greater Western Sydney
- Hills District
- Inner West
- Macarthur
- Northern Beaches
- Northern Sydney
- North Shore
- Southern Sydney
- South Western Sydney
- St George

Regions

- Central Coast
- Central Tablelands
- Central West
- Far West
- Greater Blue Mountains
- Hunter
- Illawarra
- Mid North Coast
- Monaro
- New England
- North West Slopes
- Northern Rivers
- Northern Tablelands
- Orana
- Riverina
- South Coast
- South Western Slopes
- Southern Highlands
- Southern Tablelands
- Upper Hunter

Rest of state

Cities

- Sydney
- Albury
- Armidale
- Bathurst
- Blue Mountains
- Broken Hill
- Cessnock
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Goulburn
- Grafton
- Griffith
- Hawkesbury
- Lake Macquarie
- Lismore
- Lithgow
- Maitland
- Newcastle
- Orange
- Queanbeyan
- Shellharbour
- Shoalhaven
- Tamworth
- Taree
- Wagga Wagga
- Wollongong

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New South Wales portal

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Capital cities of Australia

National and ACT
Canberra

NSW
Sydney

NT
Darwin

Br

List of cities in Australia

- v
- t

- **e**

Cities of Australia

Australian Capital Territory Canberra (*national capital*)

- Albury
- Armidale
- Bathurst
- Broken Hill
- Cessnock
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Goulburn
- Grafton
- Griffith
- Lake Macquarie
- Lismore
- Lithgow
- Maitland
- Newcastle
- Orange
- Port Macquarie
- Queanbeyan
- **Sydney**
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wollongong

New South Wales

Northern Territory

- **Darwin**
- Palmerston

Queensland

- **Brisbane**
- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Caloundra
- Gladstone
- Gold Coast
- Gympie
- Hervey Bay
- Ipswich
- Mackay
- Maryborough
- Mount Isa
- Rockhampton
- Sunshine Coast
- Toowoomba
- Townsville

South Australia

- **Adelaide**
- Mount Gambier
- Murray Bridge
- Port Augusta
- Port Lincoln
- Port Pirie
- Victor Harbor
- Whyalla

Tasmania

- Burnie
- Devonport
- **Hobart**
- Launceston

Victoria

- Ararat
- Bairnsdale
- Ballarat
- Benalla
- Bendigo
- Castlemaine
- Colac
- Geelong
- Hamilton
- Horsham
- **Melbourne**
- Mildura
- Moe
- Morwell
- Portland
- Sale
- Seymour
- Shepparton
- Stawell
- Swan Hill
- Traralgon
- Wangaratta
- Warragul
- Warrnambool
- Wodonga

Western Australia

- Albany
- Bunbury
- Busselton
- Geraldton
- Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Mandurah
- **Perth**

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Summer Olympic Games host cities

- 1896: ~~Greece Athens~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1900: ~~France Paris~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1904: ~~United States St. Louis~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1908: ~~United Kingdom London~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1912: ~~Sweden Stockholm~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1916: ~~None~~ ^[c1]
- 1920: ~~Belgium Antwerp~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1924: ~~France Paris~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1928: ~~Netherlands Amsterdam~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1932: ~~United States Los Angeles~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1936: ~~Germany Berlin~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1940: ~~None~~ ^[c2]
- 1944: ~~None~~ ^[c2]
- 1948: ~~United Kingdom London~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1952: ~~Finland Helsinki~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1956: ~~Australia Melbourne~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1960: ~~Italy Rome~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1964: ~~Japan Tokyo~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1968: ~~Mexico Mexico City~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1972: ~~West Germany Munich~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1976: ~~Canada Montreal~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1980: ~~Soviet Union Moscow~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1984: ~~United States Los Angeles~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1988: ~~South Korea Seoul~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1992: ~~Spain Barcelona~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 1996: ~~United States Atlanta~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2000: ~~Australia Sydney~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2004: ~~Greece Athens~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2008: ~~China Beijing~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2012: ~~United Kingdom London~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2016: ~~Brazil Rio de Janeiro~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2020: ~~Japan Tokyo~~ ^[c3] Image not found or type unknown
- 2024: ~~France Paris~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2028: ~~United States Los Angeles~~ Image not found or type unknown
- 2032: ~~Australia Brisbane~~ Image not found or type unknown




[c1] Cancelled due to World War I; [c2] Cancelled due to World War II; [c3] Postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Summer Paralympic Games host cities

- **1960:** **Italy****Rome** 
- **1964:** **Japan****Tokyo** 
- **1968:** **Israel****Tel Aviv** 
- **1972:** **West Germany****Gelsenberg** 
- **1976:** **Canada****Toronto** 
- **1980:** **Netherlands****Amsterdam** 
- **1984:** **United States****Los Angeles** 
- **1988:** **South Korea****Seoul** 
- **1992:** **Spain****Barcelona** 
- **1996:** **United States****Atlanta** 
- **2000:** **Australia****Sydney** 
- **2004:** **Greece****Athens** 
- **2008:** **China****Beijing** 
- **2012:** **United Kingdom****London** 

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Commonwealth Games host cities

- **1930:** **Canada****Hamilton** 
- **1934:** **England****London** 
- **1938:** **Australia****Sydney** 
- **1950:** **New Zealand****Dunedin** 
- **1954:** **Canada****Ottawa** 
- **1958:** **Wales****Guildford** 
- **1962:** **Australia****Brisbane** 
- **1966:** **Jamaica****Kingston** 
- **1970:** **Scotland****Glasgow** 
- **1974:** **New Zealand****Christchurch** 
- **1978:** **Canada****Ottawa** 
- **1982:** **Australia****Brisbane** 
- **1986:** **Scotland****Glasgow** 
- **1990:** **New Zealand****Dunedin** 
- **1994:** **Canada****Calgary** 
- **1998:** **Malaysia****Kuala Lumpur**
- **2002:** **England****Manchester**
- **2006:** **Australia****Melbourne**
- **2010:** **India****Delhi**
- **2014:** **Scotland****Glasgow**

Portals:

-  **New South Wales**
-  **Australia**

Sydney at Wikipedia's sister projects:

-  **Definitions** from Wiktionary
-  **Media** from Commons
-  **News** from Wikinews
-  **Quotations** from Wikiquote
-  **Texts** from Wikisource
-  **Textbooks** from Wikibooks
-  **Resources** from Wikiversity
-  **Travel guides** from Wikivoyage
-  **Data** from Wikidata

Authority control databases

International

- **VIAF**
- **FAST**
- **WorldCat**

National

- Germany
- United States
- France
- BnF data
- Japan
- Czech Republic
- Spain
- Croatia
- Sweden
- Israel
- Catalonia


Geographic

- MusicBrainz area

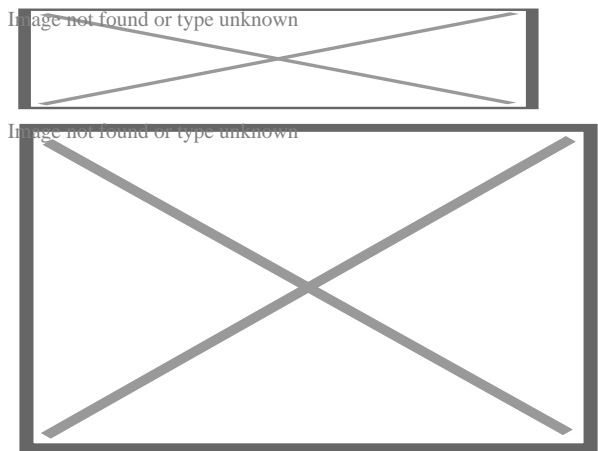
Other

- IdRef
- NARA

About Google Maps

This article's "**criticism**" or "**controversy**" section may compromise the article's **neutrality**. Please help rewrite or integrate negative information to other sections **through discussion** on the **talk page**. *(June 2024)*

Google Maps



Screenshot of Google Maps in a web browser

Type of site

Web mapping

Available in

74 languages

List of languages

Afrikaans, Azerbaijani, Indonesian, Malay, Bosnian, Catalan, Czech, Danish, German (Germany), Estonian, English (United States), Spanish (Spain), Spanish (Latin America), Basque, Filipino, French (France), Galician, Croatian, Zulu, Icelandic, Italian, Swahili, Latvian, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Dutch, Norwegian, Uzbek, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Albanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish, Vietnamese, Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Macedonian, Mongolian, Russian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Armenian, Hebrew, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Amharic, Nepali, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Sinhala, Thai, Lao, Burmese, Khmer, Korean, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese

Owner

Google

URL

google.com/maps  Edit this at Wikidata

Commercial

Yes

Registration

Optional, included with a Google Account

Launched

February 8, 2005; 20 years ago

Current status

Active

Written in

C++ (back-end), JavaScript, XML, Ajax (UI)

Google Maps is a web mapping platform and consumer application offered by Google. It offers satellite imagery, aerial photography, street maps, 360° interactive panoramic views of streets (Street View), real-time traffic conditions, and route planning for traveling by foot, car, bike, air (in beta) and public transportation. As of 2020, Google Maps was being used by over one billion people every month around the world.[1]

Google Maps began as a C++ desktop program developed by brothers Lars and Jens Rasmussen in Australia at Where 2 Technologies. In October 2004, the company was acquired by Google, which converted it into a web application. After additional acquisitions of a geospatial data visualization company and a real-time traffic analyzer, Google Maps was launched in February 2005.[2] The service's front end utilizes JavaScript, XML, and Ajax. Google Maps offers an API that allows maps to be embedded on third-party websites,[3] and offers a locator for businesses and other organizations in numerous countries around the world. Google Map Maker allowed users to collaboratively expand and update the service's mapping worldwide but was discontinued from March 2017. However, crowdsourced contributions to Google Maps were not discontinued as the company announced those features would be transferred to the Google Local Guides program,[4] although users that are not Local Guides can still contribute.

Google Maps' satellite view is a "top-down" or bird's-eye view; most of the high-resolution imagery of cities is aerial photography taken from aircraft flying at 800 to 1,500 feet (240 to 460 m), while most other imagery is from satellites.[5] Much of the available satellite imagery is no more than three years old and is updated on a regular basis, according to a 2011 report.[6] Google Maps previously used a variant of the Mercator projection, and therefore could not accurately show areas around the poles.[7] In August 2018, the desktop version of Google Maps was updated to show a

3D globe. It is still possible to switch back to the 2D map in the settings.

Google Maps for mobile devices was first released in 2006; the latest versions feature **GPS turn-by-turn navigation** along with dedicated **parking** assistance features. By 2013, it was found to be the world's most popular **smartphone** app, with over 54% of global smartphone owners using it.[8] In 2017, the app was reported to have two billion users on Android, along with several other Google services including **YouTube**, **Chrome**, **Gmail**, **Search**, and **Google Play**.

History

[[edit](#)]

Acquisitions

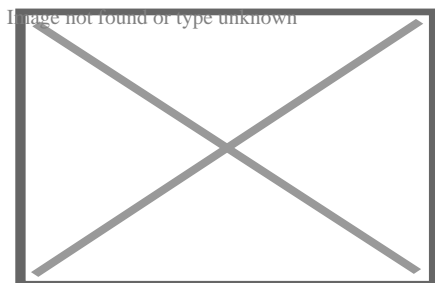
[[edit](#)]

Google Maps first started as a **C++** program designed by two Danish brothers, **Lars** and **Jens Eilstrup Rasmussen**, and Noel Gordon and Stephen Ma, at the Sydney-based company Where 2 Technologies, which was founded in early 2003. The program was initially designed to be separately downloaded by users, but the company later pitched the idea for a purely Web-based product to Google management, changing the method of distribution.[9] In October 2004, the company was acquired by Google Inc.[10] where it transformed into the web application Google Maps. The Rasmussen brothers, Gordon and Ma joined Google at that time.

In the same month, Google acquired **Keyhole**, a geospatial data visualization company (with investment from the **CIA**), whose marquee application suite, Earth Viewer, emerged as the **Google Earth** application in 2005 while other aspects of its core technology were integrated into Google Maps.[11] In September 2004, Google acquired ZipDash, a company that provided real-time traffic analysis.[12]

2005–2010

[[edit](#)]

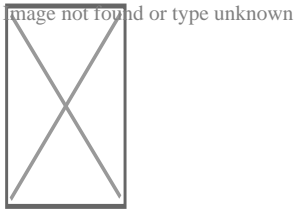


Google Maps Beta in 2005

The launch of Google Maps was first announced on the Google Blog on February 8, 2005.[13]

In September 2005, in the aftermath of **Hurricane Katrina**, Google Maps quickly updated its satellite imagery of **New Orleans** to allow users to view the extent of the flooding in various parts of that city.
[14][15]

As of 2007, Google Maps was equipped with a miniature view with a draggable rectangle that denotes the area shown in the main viewport, and "Info windows" for previewing details about locations on maps.[16] As of 2024, this feature had been removed (likely several years prior).



Original Google Maps icon

On November 28, 2007, Google Maps for Mobile 2.0 was released.[17][18][19] It featured a **beta version** of a "My Location" feature, which uses the GPS / **Assisted GPS** location of the mobile device, if available, supplemented by determining the nearest **wireless networks** and **cell sites**. [18][19] The software looks up the location of the cell site using a database of known wireless networks and sites.[20][21] By **triangulating** the different signal strengths from cell transmitters and then using their location property (retrieved from the database), My Location determines the user's current location.[22]

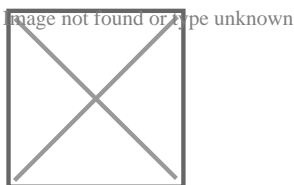
On September 23, 2008, coinciding with the announcement of the **first commercial Android device**, Google announced that a Google Maps app had been released for its Android operating system.[23][24]

In October 2009, Google replaced **Tele Atlas** as their primary supplier of geospatial data in the US version of Maps and used their own data.[25]

2011–2015

[**edit**]

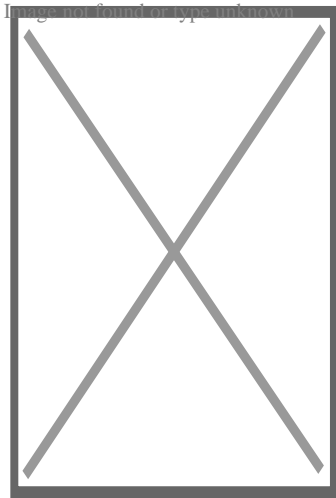
On April 19, 2011, Map Maker was added to the American version of Google Maps, allowing any viewer to edit and add changes to Google Maps. This provides Google with local map updates almost in real-time instead of waiting for digital map data companies to release more infrequent updates.



Icon used from 2015 to 2020

On January 31, 2012, Google, due to offering its Maps for free, was found guilty of abusing the dominant position of its Google Maps application and ordered by a court to pay a fine and damages to Bottin Cartographer, a French mapping company.[26] This ruling was overturned on appeal.[27]

In June 2012, Google started mapping the UK's rivers and canals in partnership with the **Canal and River Trust**. The company has stated that "it would update the program during the year to allow users to plan trips which include locks, bridges and towpaths along the 2,000 miles of river paths in the UK." [28]



A monument in the shape of a **Google Maps pin** in the center of the city of **Szczecin**, Poland

In December 2012, the Google Maps application was separately made available in the App Store, after Apple removed it from its default installation of the mobile operating system version **iOS 6** in September 2012.[29]

On January 29, 2013, Google Maps was updated to include a map of **North Korea**. [30] As of May 3, 2013, Google Maps recognizes **Palestine** as a country, instead of redirecting to the **Palestinian territories**. [31]

In August 2013, Google Maps removed the Wikipedia Layer, which provided links to Wikipedia content about locations shown in Google Maps using **Wikipedia geocodes**. [32]

On April 12, 2014, Google Maps was updated to reflect the **annexation of Ukrainian Crimea by Russia**. Crimea is shown as the **Republic of Crimea** in Russia and as the **Autonomous Republic of Crimea** in Ukraine. All other versions show a dotted disputed border. [33]

In April 2015, on a map near the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, the imagery of the Android logo urinating on the Apple logo was added via Map Maker and appeared on Google Maps. The **vandalism** was soon removed and Google publicly apologized. [34] However, as a result, Google disabled user moderation on Map Maker, and on May 12, disabled editing worldwide until it could devise a new policy for approving edits and avoiding vandalism. [35]

On April 29, 2015, users of the classic Google Maps were forwarded to the new Google Maps with the option to be removed from the interface. [36]

On July 14, 2015, the Chinese name for [Scarborough Shoal](#) was removed after a petition from the [Philippines](#) was posted on [Change.org](#).^[37]

2016–2018

[\[edit\]](#)

On June 27, 2016, Google rolled out new satellite imagery worldwide sourced from [Landsat 8](#), comprising over 700 trillion pixels of new data.^[38] In September 2016, Google Maps acquired mapping analytics startup Urban Engines.^[39]

In 2016, the Government of South Korea offered Google conditional access to the country's geographic database – access that already allows indigenous Korean mapping providers high-detail maps. Google declined the offer, as it was unwilling to accept restrictions on reducing the quality around locations the South Korean Government felt were sensitive (see [restrictions on geographic data in South Korea](#)).^[40]

On October 16, 2017, Google Maps was updated with accessible imagery of several planets and moons such as [Titan](#), [Mercury](#), and [Venus](#), as well as direct access to imagery of the [Moon](#) and [Mars](#).^{[41][42]}

In May 2018, Google announced major changes to the API structure starting June 11, 2018. This change consolidated the 18 different endpoints into three services and merged the basic and premium plans into one pay-as-you-go plan.^[43] This meant a 1400% price raise for users on the basic plan, with only six weeks of notice. This caused a harsh reaction within the developers community.^[44] In June, Google postponed the change date to July 16, 2018.

In August 2018, Google Maps designed its overall view (when zoomed out completely) into a [3D](#) globe dropping the [Mercator projection](#) that projected the planet onto a flat surface.^[45]

2019–present

[\[edit\]](#)

[Google Maps icon 2020](#)

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2020 icon redesign

In January 2019, Google Maps added speed trap and [speed camera](#) alerts as reported by other users.^{[46][47]}

On October 17, 2019, Google Maps was updated to include incident reporting, resembling a functionality in [Waze](#) which was acquired by Google in 2013.^[48]

In December 2019, Incognito mode was added, allowing users to enter destinations without saving entries to their Google accounts.[49]

In February 2020, Maps received a 15th anniversary redesign.[50] It notably added a brand-new app icon, which now resembles the original icon in 2005.

On September 23, 2020, Google announced a COVID-19 Layer update for Google maps, which is designed to offer a seven-day average data of the total COVID-19-positive cases per 100,000 people in the area selected on the map. It also features a label indicating the rise and fall in the number of cases.[51]

In January 2021, Google announced that it would be launching a new feature displaying COVID-19 vaccination sites.[52]

In January 2021, Google announced updates to the route planner that would accommodate drivers of electric vehicles. Routing would take into account the type of vehicle, vehicle status including current charge, and the locations of charging stations.[53]

In June 2022, Google Maps added a layer displaying air quality for certain countries.[54]

In September 2022, Google removed the COVID-19 Layer from Google Maps due to lack of usage of the feature.[55]

Functionality

[edit]

Directions and transit

[edit]

Google Maps provides a **route planner**,[56] allowing users to find available directions through driving, public transportation, walking, or biking.[57] Google has partnered globally with over 800 public transportation providers to adopt **GTFS** (General Transit Feed Specification), making the data available to third parties.[58][59] The app can indicate users' transit route, thanks to an October 2019 update. The incognito mode, eyes-free walking navigation features were released earlier.[60] A July 2020 update provided bike share routes.[61]

In February 2024, Google Maps started rolling out glanceable directions for its Android and iOS apps. The feature allows users to track their journey from their device's **lock screen**. [62][63]

Traffic conditions

[edit]

Screenshot of Google Maps with traffic option enabled

Screenshot of Google Maps with traffic option enabled

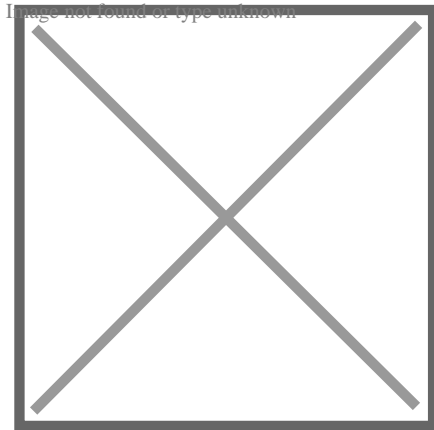
In 2007, Google began offering traffic data as a colored overlay on top of roads and motorways to represent the speed of vehicles on particular roads. **Crowdsourcing** is used to obtain the GPS-determined locations of a large number of cellphone users, from which live traffic maps are produced.^{[64][65][66]}

Google has stated that the speed and location information it collects to calculate traffic conditions is anonymous.^[67] Options available in each phone's settings allow users not to share information about their location with Google Maps.^[68] Google stated, "Once you disable or opt out of My Location, Maps will not continue to send radio information back to Google servers to determine your handset's approximate location".^[69]^{*[failed verification]*}

Street View

^[edit]

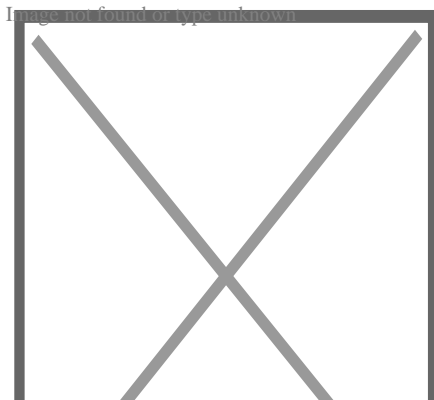
Main article: **Google Street View**



A Google Maps car at **Googleplex**, **Mountain View**

On May 25, 2007, Google released **Google Street View**, a feature of Google Maps providing **360°** panoramic street-level views of various locations. On the date of release, the feature only included five cities in the U.S. It has since expanded to thousands of locations around the world. In July 2009, Google began mapping college campuses and surrounding paths and **trails**.

Street View garnered much controversy after its release because of **privacy concerns** about the uncensored nature of the panoramic photographs, although the views are only taken on public streets.^{[70][71]} Since then, Google has blurred faces and license plates through automated **facial recognition**.^{[72][73][74]}



Google Maps Street View Trekker backpack being implemented on the sidewalk of the Hudson River Greenway in New York City

In late 2014, Google launched Google Underwater Street View, including 2,300 kilometres (1,400 mi) of the Australian **Great Barrier Reef** in 3D. The images are taken by special cameras which turn 360 degrees and take shots every 3 seconds.^[75]

In 2017, in both Google Maps and Google Earth, Street View navigation of the **International Space Station** interior spaces became available.

3D imagery

^[edit]

Main article: **Google Earth § 3D imagery**

Google Maps has incorporated^[*when?*] 3D models of hundreds of cities in over 40 countries from Google Earth into its satellite view. The models were developed using aerial **photogrammetry** techniques.^{[76][77]}

Immersive View

^[edit]

At the **I/O 2022** event, Google announced Immersive View, a feature of Google Maps which would involve composite 3D images generated from **Street View** and aerial images of locations using AI, complete with synchronous information. It was to be initially in five cities worldwide, with plans to add it to other cities later on.^[78] The feature was previewed in September 2022 with 250 photorealistic aerial 3D images of landmarks,^[79] and was full launched in February 2023.^[80] An expansion of Immersive View to routes was announced at Google I/O 2023,^[81] and was launched in October 2023 for 15 cities globally.^[82]

The feature uses **predictive modelling** and **neural radiance fields** to scan Street View and aerial images to generate composite 3D imagery of locations, including both exteriors and interiors, and routes, including driving, walking or cycling, as well as generate synchronous information and forecasts up to a month ahead from historical and environmental data about both such as weather, traffic and busyness.

Immersive View has been available in the following locations:^[*citation needed*]

Locations with Immersive View

Country	Locations
 Argentina	Buenos Aires
 Australia	Melbourne, Sydney
 Austria	Vienna
 Belgium	Brussels
 Brazil	Brasília, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo

	Canada	Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver
	Chile	Santiago
	Czech Republic	Prague
	France	Nice, Paris
	Germany	Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Munich
	Greece	Athens
	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
	Hungary	Budapest
	Italy	Florence, Milan, Rome, Venice
	Japan	Kyoto, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo
	Mexico	Guadalajara, Mexico City
	Netherlands	Amsterdam
	Norway	Oslo
	Poland	Warsaw
	Portugal	Lisbon, Porto
	Romania	Bucharest
	Singapore	Singapore
	South Africa	Cape Town, Johannesburg
	Spain	Barcelona, Madrid
	Sweden	Stockholm
	Switzerland	Zurich
	Taiwan	Taichung, Taipei
	United Kingdom	Edinburgh, London
	United States	Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle
	Vatican City	Vatican City

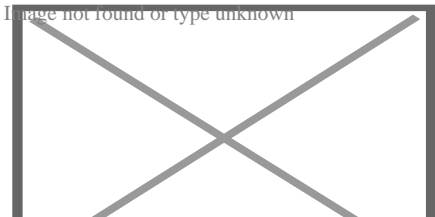
Landmark Icons

[[edit](#)]

Google added icons of city attractions, in a similar style to [Apple Maps](#), on October 3, 2019. In the first stage, such icons were added to 9 cities.^{[\[83\]](#)}

45° imagery

[[edit](#)]



An example of the **Leaning Tower of Pisa** in the 45° view

In December 2009, Google introduced a new view consisting of 45° angle aerial imagery, offering a "bird's-eye view" of cities. The first cities available were **San Jose** and San Diego. This feature was initially available only to developers via the Google Maps API.^[84] In February 2010, it was introduced as an experimental feature in Google Maps Labs.^[85] In July 2010, 45° imagery was made available in Google Maps in select cities in South Africa, the United States, Germany and Italy.^[86]

Weather

[\[edit\]](#)

In February 2024, Google Maps incorporated a small weather icon on the top left corner of the Android and iOS mobile apps, giving access to weather and **air quality index** details.^[87]

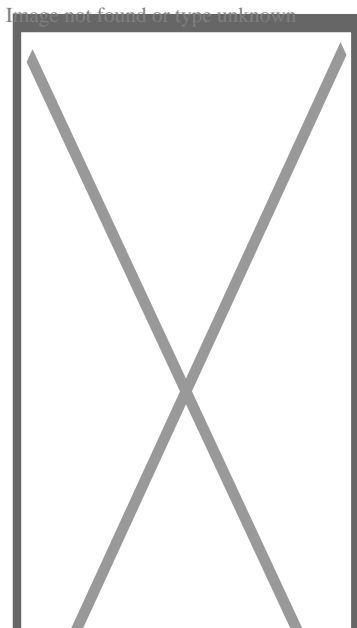
Lens in Maps

[\[edit\]](#)

Previously called Search with Live View, Lens In Maps identifies shops, restaurants, transit stations and other street features with a phone's camera and places relevant information and a category pin on top, like closing/opening times, current busyness, pricing and reviews using AI and **augmented reality**. The feature, if available on the device, can be accessed through tapping the Lens icon in the search bar. It was expanded to 50 new cities in October 2023 in its biggest expansion yet, after initially being released in late 2022 in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, London, and Paris.^{[88][89]} Lens in Maps shares features with Live View, which also displays information relating to street features while guiding a user to a selected destination with virtual arrows, signs and guidance.^[90]

Business listings

[\[edit\]](#)



A business listing in Google Maps showing opening times, reviews and photos. This screenshot is from the Android mobile app.

Google collates business listings from multiple on-line and off-line sources. To reduce duplication in the index, Google's algorithm combines listings automatically based on address, phone number, or geocode,[91] but sometimes information for separate businesses will be inadvertently merged with each other, resulting in listings inaccurately incorporating elements from multiple businesses.[92] Google allows business owners to create and verify their own business data through *Google Business Profile* (GBP), formerly *Google My Business* (GMB).[93] Owners are encouraged to provide Google with business information including address, phone number, business category, and photos.[94] Google has staff in India who check and correct listings remotely as well as support businesses with issues.[95] Google also has teams on the ground in most countries that validate physical addresses in person.[96] In May 2024, Google announced it would discontinue the chat feature in Google Business Profile. Starting July 15, 2024, new chat conversations would be disabled, and by July 31, 2024, all chat functionalities would end.[97]

Google Maps can be manipulated by businesses that are not physically located in the area in which they record a listing. There are cases of people abusing Google Maps to overtake their competition by placing unverified listings on online directory sites, knowing the information will roll across to Google (duplicate sites). The people who update these listings do not use a registered business name. They place keywords and location details on their Google Maps business title, which can overtake credible business listings. In Australia in particular, genuine companies and businesses are noticing a trend of fake business listings in a variety of industries.[98]

Genuine business owners can also optimize their business listings to gain greater visibility in Google Maps, through a type of search engine marketing called **local search engine optimization**. [99]

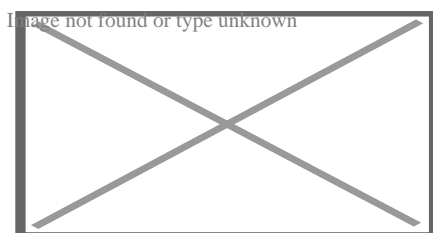
Indoor maps

[edit]

In March 2011, indoor maps were added to Google Maps, giving users the ability to navigate themselves within buildings such as **airports**, **museums**, shopping malls, **big-box stores**, universities, **transit stations**, and other public spaces (including underground facilities). Google encourages owners of public facilities to submit floor plans of their buildings in order to add them to the service.[100] Map users can view different floors of a building or **subway station** by clicking on a level selector that is displayed near any structures which are mapped on multiple levels.

My Maps

[edit]



Google My Maps

My Maps is a feature in Google Maps launched in April 2007 that enables users to create custom maps for personal use or sharing. Users can add points, lines, shapes, notes and images on top of Google Maps using a [WYSIWYG](#) editor.^[101] An Android app for My Maps, initially released in March 2013 under the name Google Maps Engine Lite, was available until its removal from the [Play Store](#) in October 2021.^{[102][103][104]}

Google Local Guides

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Local Guides is a volunteer program launched by Google Maps^[105] to enable users to contribute to Google Maps when registered. It sometimes provides them additional perks and benefits for their collaboration. Users can achieve Level 1 to 10, and be awarded with badges. The program is partially a successor to [Google Map Maker](#) as features from the former program became integrated into the website and app.^[106]

The program consists of adding reviews, photos, basic information, and videos; and correcting information such as [wheelchair accessibility](#).^{[107][108]} Adding reviews, photos, videos, new places, new roads or providing useful information gives points to the users.^[109] The level of users is upgraded when they get a certain amount of points.^{[110][111]} Starting with Level 4, a star is shown near the avatar of the user.^[111]

Timelapse

[\[edit\]](#)

Earth Timelapse, released in April 2021, is a program in which users can see how the earth has been changed in the last 37 years. They combined the 15 million satellite images (roughly ten quadrillion [pixels](#)) to create the 35 global cloud-free Images for this program.^[112]

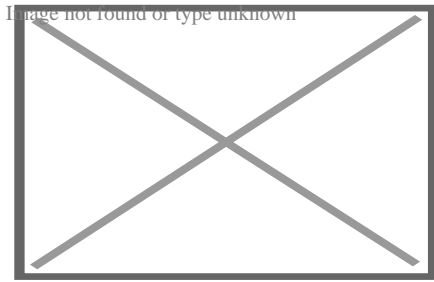
Timeline

[\[edit\]](#)

If a user shares their location with Google, Timeline summarises this location for each day on a [Timeline map](#).^[113] Timeline estimates the mode of travel used to move between places and will also show photos taken at that location. In June 2024, Google started progressively removing access to the timeline on web browsers, with the information instead being stored on a local device.^{[114][115]}

Implementation

[\[edit\]](#)



A split-view screenshot of Google Maps. In the bottom half *Street Maps* is shown, while in the top half *Street View* is shown. A user can zoom in and out of either of them independently of the zoom level of each.

As the user drags the map, the grid squares are downloaded from the server and inserted into the page. When a user searches for a business, the results are downloaded in the background for insertion into the side panel and map; the page is not reloaded. A hidden [iframe](#) with form submission is used because it preserves browser history. Like many other Google web applications, Google Maps uses [JavaScript](#) extensively.^[116] The site also uses protocol buffers for data transfer rather than [JSON](#), for performance reasons.

The version of [Google Street View](#) for classic Google Maps required [Adobe Flash](#).^[117] In October 2011, Google announced MapsGL, a [WebGL](#) version of Maps with better renderings and smoother transitions.^[118] Indoor maps use JPG, .PNG, .PDF, .BMP, or .GIF, for [floor plans](#).^[119]

Users who are logged into a [Google Account](#) can save locations so that they are overlaid on the map with various colored "pins" whenever they browse the application. These "Saved places" can be organized into default groups or user named groups and shared with other users. "Starred places" is one default group example. It previously automatically created a record within the now-discontinued product [Google Bookmarks](#).

Map data and imagery

[\[edit\]](#)

See also: [List of satellite map images with missing or unclear data](#)

The Google Maps terms and conditions^[120] state that usage of material from Google Maps is regulated by Google Terms of Service^[121] and some additional restrictions. Google has either purchased local map data from established companies, or has entered into lease agreements to use copyrighted map data.^[122] The owner of the copyright is listed at the bottom of zoomed maps. For example, street maps in Japan are leased from [Zenrin](#). Street maps in China are leased from [AutoNavi](#).^[123] Russian street maps are leased from Geocentre Consulting and [Tele Atlas](#). Data for [North Korea](#) is sourced from the companion project [Google Map Maker](#).

Street map overlays, in some areas, may not match up precisely with the corresponding satellite images. The street data may be entirely erroneous, or simply out of date: "The biggest challenge is the currency of data, the authenticity of data," said Google Earth representative [Brian McClendon](#). As a result, in March 2008 Google added a feature to edit the locations of houses and businesses.^{[124][125]}

Restrictions have been placed on Google Maps through the apparent censoring of locations deemed potential security threats. In some cases the area of redaction is for specific buildings, but in other cases, such as Washington, D.C.,[\[126\]](#) the restriction is to use outdated imagery.

Google Maps API

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Maps API, now called Google Maps Platform, hosts about 17 different [APIs](#), which are themed under the following categories: Maps, Places and Routes.[\[127\]](#)

After the success of reverse-engineered mashups such as [chicagocrime.org](#) and [housingmaps.com](#), Google launched the Google Maps API in June 2005[\[128\]](#) to allow developers to integrate Google Maps into their websites. It was a free service that did not require an [API key](#) until June 2018 (changes went into effect on July 16), when it was announced that an API key linked to a Google Cloud account with billing enabled would be required to access the API.[\[129\]](#) The API currently does not contain ads, but Google states in their terms of use that they reserve the right to display ads in the future.[\[130\]](#)

By using the Google Maps [API](#), it is possible to embed Google Maps into an external website, onto which site-specific data can be overlaid.[\[131\]](#) Although initially only a [JavaScript](#) API, the Maps API was expanded to include an API for [Adobe Flash](#) applications (but this has been deprecated), a service for retrieving static map images, and [web services](#) for performing [geocoding](#), generating driving directions, and obtaining elevation profiles. Over 1,000,000[\[132\]](#) web sites use the Google Maps API, making it the most heavily used web application development API.[\[133\]](#) In September 2011, Google announced it would deprecate the Google Maps API for Flash.[\[134\]](#)

The Google Maps API was free for commercial use, provided that the site on which it is being used is publicly accessible and did not charge for access, and was not generating more than 25,000 map accesses a day.[\[135\]](#)[\[136\]](#) Sites that did not meet these requirements could purchase the Google Maps API for Business.[\[137\]](#)

As of June 21, 2018, Google increased the prices of the Maps API and requires a billing profile.[\[138\]](#)

Google Maps in China

[\[edit\]](#)

Due to [restrictions on geographic data in China](#), Google Maps must partner with a Chinese digital map provider in order to legally show Chinese map data. Since 2006, this partner has been [AutoNavi](#).[\[123\]](#)

Within China, the State Council mandates that all maps of China use the [GCJ-02](#) coordinate system, which is offset from the [WGS-84](#) system used in most of the world. [google.cn/maps](#) (formerly Google Ditu) uses the GCJ-02 system for both its street maps[\[139\]](#) and satellite imagery.[\[](#)

^[140] google.com/maps also uses GCJ-02 data for the street map, but uses WGS-84 coordinates for satellite imagery,^[141] causing the so-called **China GPS shift problem**.

Frontier alignments also present some differences between google.cn/maps and google.com/maps. On the latter, sections of the Chinese border with India and Pakistan are shown with dotted lines, indicating areas or frontiers in dispute. However, google.cn shows the Chinese frontier strictly according to Chinese claims with no dotted lines indicating the border with India and Pakistan. For example, the **South Tibet** region claimed by China but administered by India as a large part of **Arunachal Pradesh** is shown inside the Chinese frontier by google.cn, with Indian highways ending abruptly at the Chinese claim line. Google.cn also shows Taiwan and the **South China Sea Islands** as part of China. Google Ditu's street map coverage of Taiwan no longer omits major state organs, such as the Presidential Palace, the **five Yuans**, and the Supreme Court.^[142]^[additional citation(s) needed]

Feature-wise, google.cn/maps does not feature My Maps. On the other hand, while google.cn displays virtually all text in Chinese, google.com/maps displays most text (user-selectable real text as well as those on map) in English.^[citation needed] This behavior of displaying English text is not consistent but intermittent – sometimes it is in English, sometimes it is in Chinese. The criteria for choosing which language is displayed are not known publicly.^[citation needed]

Criticism and controversies

^[edit]

Incorrect location naming

^[edit]

There are cases where Google Maps had added out-of-date neighborhood monikers. Thus, in Los Angeles, the name "Brooklyn Heights" was revived from its 1870s usage^[143] and "Silver Lake Heights" from its 1920s usage,^[144] or mistakenly renamed areas (in Detroit, the neighborhood "Fiskhorn" became "Fishkorn").^[145] Because many companies utilize Google Maps data, these previously obscure or incorrect names then gain traction; the names are often used by **realtors**, hotels, **food delivery** sites, **dating sites**, and **news organizations**.

Google has said it created its maps from third-party data, public sources, satellites, and users, but many names used have not been connected to any official record.^[143]^[145] According to a former Google Maps employee (who was not authorized to speak publicly), users can submit changes to Google Maps, but some submissions are ruled upon by people with little local knowledge of a place, such as contractors in India. Critics maintain that names like "BoCoCa" (for the area in Brooklyn between Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens), are "just plain puzzling" or simply made up.^[145] Some names used by Google have been traced to non-professionally made maps with typographical errors that survived on Google Maps.^[145]

Potential misuse

^[edit]

See also: [Google Street View privacy concerns](#) and [List of satellite map images with missing or unclear data](#)

In 2005 the [Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation](#) (ANSTO) complained about the potential for terrorists to use the satellite images in planning attacks, with specific reference to the [Lucas Heights nuclear reactor](#); however, the Australian Federal government did not support the organization's concern. At the time of the ANSTO complaint, Google had colored over some areas for security (mostly in the U.S.), such as the rooftop of the [White House](#) and several other Washington, D.C. buildings.^{[146][147][148]}

In October 2010, Nicaraguan military commander [Edén Pastora](#) stationed [Nicaraguan troops](#) on the [Isla Calero](#) (in the delta of the [San Juan River](#)), justifying his action on the border delineation given by Google Maps. Google has since updated its data which it found to be incorrect.^[149]

On January 27, 2014, documents leaked by [Edward Snowden](#) revealed that the [NSA](#) and the [GCHQ](#) intercepted Google Maps queries made on smartphones, and used them to locate the users making these queries. One leaked document, dating to 2008, stated that "[i]t effectively means that anyone using Google Maps on a smartphone is working in support of a GCHQ system."^[150]

In May 2015, searches on Google Maps for offensive racial epithets for African Americans such as "[nigger](#)", "nigger king", and "nigger house" pointed the user to the [White House](#); Google apologized for the incident.^{[151][152]}

In December 2015, 3 Japanese [netizens](#) were charged with vandalism after they were found to have added an unrelated law firm's name as well as indecent names to locations such as "[Nuclear test site](#)" to the [Atomic Bomb Dome](#) and "Izumo [Satya](#)" to the [Izumo Taisha](#).^{[153][154]}

In February 2020, the artist Simon Weckert^[155] used 99 cell phones to fake a Google Maps traffic jam.^[156]

In September 2024, several schools in Taiwan and Hong Kong were altered to incorrect labels, such as "[psychiatric hospitals](#)" or "[prisons](#)". Initially, it was believed to be the result of hacker attacks. However, police later revealed that local students had carried out the prank. Google quickly corrected the mislabeled entries. Education officials in Taiwan and Hong Kong expressed concern over the incident.^{[157][158][159]}

Misdirection incidents

[\[edit\]](#)

Australia

[\[edit\]](#)

In August 2023, a woman driving from [Alice Springs](#) to the Harts Range Racecourse was stranded in the Central Australian desert for a night after following directions provided by Google Maps.^{[160][161]} She later discovered that Google Maps was providing directions for the actual [Harts Range](#)

instead of the rodeo. Google said it was looking into the naming of the two locations and consulting with "local and authoritative sources" to solve the issue.[160]

In February 2024, two German tourists were stranded for a week after Google Maps directed them to follow a dirt track through [Oyala Thumotang National Park](#) and their vehicle became trapped in mud.[162][163] [Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service](#) ranger Roger James said, "People should not trust Google Maps when they're travelling in remote regions of [Queensland](#), and they need to follow the signs, use official maps or other navigational devices." [162]

North America

[edit]

In June 2019, Google Maps provided nearly 100 [Colorado](#) drivers an alternative route that led to a dirt road after a crash occurred on [Peña Boulevard](#). The road had been turned to mud by rain, resulting in nearly 100 vehicles being trapped.[164][161] Google said in a statement, "While we always work to provide the best directions, issues can arise due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather. We encourage all drivers to follow local laws, stay attentive, and use their best judgment while driving." [164]

In September 2023, Google was sued by a [North Carolina](#) resident who alleged that Google Maps had directed her husband over the Snow Creek Bridge in [Hickory](#) the year prior, resulting in him drowning. According to the lawsuit, multiple people had notified Google about the state of the bridge, which collapsed in 2013, but Google had not updated the route information and continued to direct users over the bridge.[165][166][161] At the time of the man's death, the barriers placed to block access to the bridge had been vandalized.[167][168]

In November 2023, a hiker was rescued by helicopter on the backside of [Mount Fromme](#) in [Vancouver](#). [North Shore Rescue](#) stated on its Facebook page that the hiker had followed a non-existent hiking trail on Google Maps. This was also the second hiker in two months to require rescuing after following the same trail. The fake trail has since been removed from the app.[169][170]

Also in November 2023, Google apologized after users were directed through desert roads after parts of [Interstate 15](#) were closed due to a [dust storm](#). [171] Drivers became stranded after following the suggested detour route, which was a "bumpy dirt trail". [172] Following the incident, Google stated that Google Maps would "no longer route drivers traveling between [Las Vegas](#) and [Barstow](#) down through those roads." [171]

Russia

[edit]

In 2020, a teenage motorist was found frozen to death while his passenger was still alive but suffered from severe [frostbite](#) after using Google Maps, which had led them to a shorter but

abandoned section of the [R504 Kolyma Highway](#), where their [Toyota Chaser](#) became disabled.^[173]

India

^{[[edit](#)]}

In 2024, three men from [Uttar Pradesh](#) died after their car fell from an under-construction bridge. They were using Google Maps for driving which misdirected them and the car fell into the [Ramganga](#) river.^{[174][175]}

Renaming of the Gulf of Mexico

^{[[edit](#)]}

In February 2025, as a response to Donald Trump's [Executive Order 14172](#), the [Gulf of Mexico](#) was renamed to "Gulf of America" for US users and "Gulf of Mexico (Gulf of America)" elsewhere, except for Mexico itself where it remained the Gulf of Mexico. The decision received criticism, with Mexican president [Claudia Sheinbaum](#) asking Google to reconsider its decision.^[176] Google subsequently blocked and deleted negative reviews of the gulf after the name change occurred.^{[177][178]}

Discontinued features

^{[[edit](#)]}

Google Latitude

^{[[edit](#)]}

Main article: [Google Latitude](#)

Google Latitude was a feature that let users share their physical locations with other people. This service was based on Google Maps, specifically on mobile devices. There was an iGoogle widget for desktops and laptops as well.^[179] Some concerns were expressed about the privacy issues raised by the use of the service.^[180] On August 9, 2013, this service was discontinued,^[181] and on March 22, 2017, Google incorporated the features from Latitude into the Google Maps app.^[182]

Google Map Maker

^{[[edit](#)]}

Main article: [Google Map Maker](#)

In areas where Google Map Maker was available, for example, much of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe as well as the United States and Canada, anyone who logged into their Google account could directly improve the map by fixing incorrect driving directions, adding biking trails, or

adding a missing building or road. General map errors in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States could be reported using the Report a Problem link in Google Maps and would be updated by Google.^[183] For areas where Google used Tele Atlas data, map errors could be reported using Tele Atlas map insight.^[184]

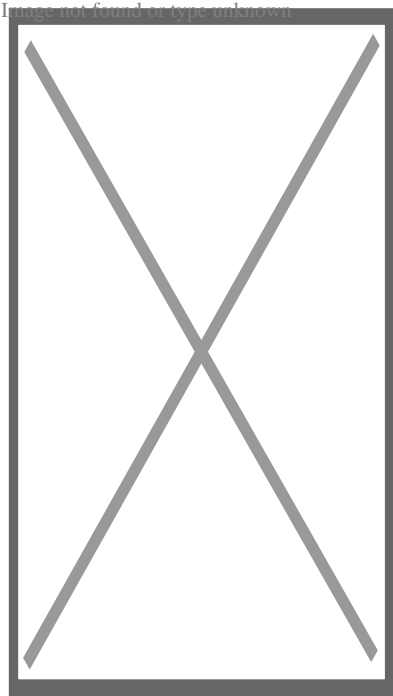
If imagery was missing, outdated, misaligned, or generally incorrect, one could notify Google through their contact request form.^[185]

In November 2016, Google announced the discontinuation of Google Map Maker as of March 2017.^[186]

Mobile app

[\[edit\]](#)

Screenshot



Screenshot of Google Maps on **Android 14**
25.10.04 (Build 732665141) / 7 March 2025; 10 days ago^[187]^[188]
25.09.00 (Build 730474011) / 25 February 2025; 20 days ago^[187]^[189]
iOS 25.10.02 / 7 March 2025; 10 days ago^[190]
Android Go,^[a] discontinued 161.1 / 13 October 2023; 17 months ago^[191]^[192]
Android (Beta) 11.143.0303 / 20 August 2024; 6 months ago^[193]
Google Maps

Original author(s) Google

Initial release 2006; 19 years ago

Stable release(s) [±]

Preview release(s) [±]

- Android
- iOS

Operating system ○ KaiOS Wear OS WatchOS Web Fitbit OS

Formerly: Java ME, Symbian, Windows Mobile

Google Maps is available as a **mobile app** for the **Android** and **iOS** mobile operating systems. The first mobile version of Google Maps (then known as Google Local for Mobile) was launched in beta in November 2005 for mobile platforms supporting **J2ME**.^{[194][195][196]} It was released as Google Maps for Mobile in 2006.^[197] In 2007 it came preloaded on the **first iPhone** in a deal with Apple.^[198] A version specifically for **Windows Mobile** was released in February 2007^[199] and the **Symbian** app was released in November 2007.^[200]

Version 2.0 of Google Maps Mobile was announced at the end of 2007, with a stand out *My Location* feature to find the user's location using the cell towers, without needing **GPS**.^{[201][202][203]} In September 2008, Google Maps was released for and preloaded on Google's own new platform Android.^{[204][205]}

Up until **iOS 6**, the built-in maps application on the **iOS** operating system was powered by Google Maps. However, with the announcement of iOS 6 in June 2012, **Apple** announced that they had created their own **Apple Maps** mapping service,^[206] which officially replaced Google Maps when iOS 6 was released on September 19, 2012.^[207] However, at launch, Apple Maps received significant criticism from users due to inaccuracies, errors and **bugs**.^{[208][209]} One day later, *The Guardian* reported that Google was preparing its own Google Maps app,^[210] which was released on December 12, 2012.^{[211][212]} Within two days, the application had been downloaded over ten million times.^[213]

Features

[edit]

The Google Maps apps for iOS and Android have many of the same features, including **turn-by-turn navigation**, **street view**, and public transit information.^{[214][215]} Turn-by-turn navigation was

originally announced by Google as a separate beta testing app exclusive to Android 2.0 devices in October 2009.[216][217] The original standalone iOS version did not support the iPad,[215] but tablet support was added with version 2.0 in July 2013.[218] An update in June 2012 for Android devices added support for offline access to downloaded maps of certain regions,[219][220] a feature that was eventually released for iOS devices, and made more robust on Android, in May 2014.[221][222]

At the end of 2015 Google Maps announced its new offline functionality,[223] but with various limitations – downloaded area cannot exceed 120,000 square kilometers[224][225] and require a considerable amount of storage space.[226] In January 2017, Google added a feature exclusively to Android that will, in some U.S. cities, indicate the level of difficulty in finding available parking spots,[227] and on both Android and iOS, the app can, as of an April 2017 update, remember where users parked.[228][229] In August 2017, Google Maps for Android was updated with new functionality to actively help the user in finding parking lots and garages close to a destination.[230] In December 2017, Google added a new two-wheeler mode to its Android app, designed for users in India, allowing for more accessibility in traffic conditions.[231][232] In 2019 the Android version introduced the new feature called live view that allows to view directions directly on the road thanks to **augmented reality**.^[233] Google Maps won the 2020 Webby Award for Best User Interface in the category Apps, Mobile & Voice.^[234] In March 2021, Google added a feature in which users can draw missing roads.^[235] In June 2022, Google implemented support for toll calculation. Both iOS and Android apps report how much the user has to pay in tolls when a route that includes toll roads is input. The feature is available for roads in the US, India, Japan and Indonesia with further expansion planned. As per reports the total number of toll roads covered in this phase is around 2000.^[236]

Reception

[[edit](#)]

USA Today welcomed the application back to iOS, saying: "The reemergence in the middle of the night of a Google Maps app for the iPhone is like the return of an old friend. Only your friend, who'd gone missing for three months, comes back looking better than ever."^[237] Jason Parker of *CNET*, calling it "the king of maps", said, "With its iOS Maps app, Google sets the standard for what mobile navigation should be and more."^[238] Bree Fowler of the *Associated Press* compared Google's and Apple's map applications, saying: "The one clear advantage that Apple has is style. Like Apple devices, the maps are clean and clear and have a fun, pretty element to them, especially in 3-D. But when it comes down to depth and information, Google still reigns superior and will no doubt be welcomed back by its fans."^[239] *Gizmodo* gave it a ranking of 4.5 stars, stating: "Maps Done Right".^[240] According to *The New York Times*, Google "admits that it's [iOS app is] even better than Google Maps for Android phones, which has accommodated its evolving feature set mainly by piling on menus".^[241]

Google Maps' **location tracking** is regarded by some as a threat to users' privacy, with Dylan Tweney of *VentureBeat* writing in August 2014 that "Google is probably logging your location, step by step, via Google Maps", and linked users to Google's location history map, which "lets you see the path you've traced for any given day that your smartphone has been running Google Maps".

Tweney then provided instructions on how to disable location history.^[242] The history tracking was also noticed, and recommended disabled, by editors at *CNET*^[243] and *TechCrunch*.^[244] Additionally, *Quartz* reported in April 2014 that a "sneaky new privacy change" would have an effect on the majority of iOS users. The privacy change, an update to the *Gmail* iOS app that "now supports sign-in across Google iOS apps, including Maps, *Drive*, YouTube and *Chrome*", meant that Google would be able to identify users' actions across its different apps.^[245]

The Android version of the app surpassed five billion installations in March 2019.^[246] By November 2021, the Android app had surpassed 10 billion installations.^[247]

Go version

[\[edit\]](#)

Google Maps Go, a version of the app designed for **lower-end devices**, was released in beta in January 2018.^[248] By September 2018, the app had over 10 million installations.^[249]

Artistic and literary uses

[\[edit\]](#)

The German "geo-novel" *Senghor on the Rocks* (2008) presents its story as a series of spreads showing a Google Maps location on the left and the story's text on the right. Annika Richterich explains that the "satellite pictures in *Senghor on the Rocks* illustrate the main character's travel through the West-African state of **Senegal**".^[250]

Artists have used Google Street View in a range of ways. **Emilio Vavarella's** *The Google Trilogy* includes glitchy images and unintended portraits of the drivers of the Street View cars.^[251] The Japanese band **group inou** used Google Street View backgrounds to make a music video for their song EYE.^[252] The Canadian band **Arcade Fire** made a customized music video that used Street View to show the viewer their own childhood home.^{[253][254]}

See also

[\[edit\]](#)

- icon**

Internet portal

Image not found or broken link known
- Azure Maps**
 - Apple Maps**
 - Bing Maps**
 - Comparison of web map services**
 - GeoGuessr**
 - Google Earth**
 - Google Maps Road Trip***, live-streaming documentary
 - Here WeGo**

- [MapQuest](#)
- [OpenStreetMap](#)
- [Terravision](#) (computer program)
- [Wikiloc](#), a mashup that shows trails and waypoints on Google Maps
- [Wikimapia](#), a mashup combining Google Maps and a [wiki](#) aimed at "describing the whole planet earth"
- [Yandex Maps](#), popular in Russia and [CIS](#)

Notes

[[edit](#)]

1. [^] Lite version for Android

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[[edit](#)]

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- North America
 - Canada
 - United States
- Oceania
- South America

Italics denote discontinued products.

-  Category
-  Outline

- **v**
- **t**
- **e**

Alphabet Inc.



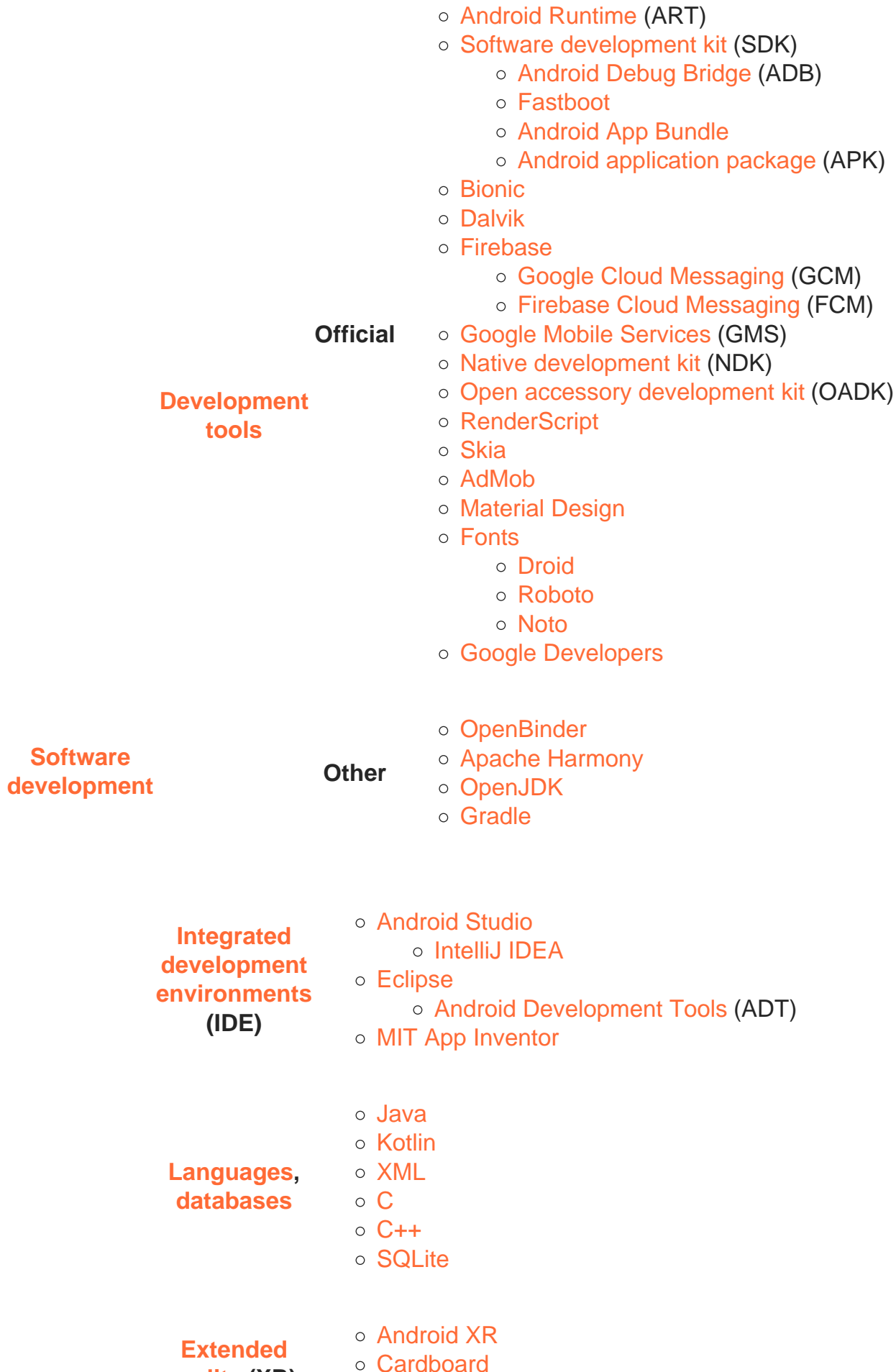
People	Executives	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sundar Pichai (CEO) ○ Ruth Porat (president and CIO) ○ Anat Ashkenazi (CFO)
		Former	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Larry Page (CEO) ○ Sergey Brin (President) ○ David Drummond (CLO)
	Board of directors	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frances Arnold ○ Sergey Brin ○ R. Martin Chavez ○ John Doerr ○ John L. Hennessy ○ Ann Mather ○ Larry Page ○ Sundar Pichai ○ Ram Shriram ○ Roger W. Ferguson Jr.
		Former	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diane Greene ○ Alan Mulally ○ Eric Schmidt
	Others		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrew Conrad ○ Tony Fadell ○ Arthur D. Levinson ○ David Krane ○ Astro Teller

-  Category
-  Companies portal
-  Internet portal

- **v**
- **t**
- **e**

Android

- Android Go
 - Comparison of products



Releases

- Cupcake (1.5)
- Donut (1.6)
- Eclair (2.0–2.1)
- Froyo (2.2)
- Gingerbread (2.3)
- Honeycomb (3.x)
- Ice Cream Sandwich (4.0)
- Jelly Bean (4.1–4.3)
- KitKat (4.4)
- Lollipop (5.x)
- Marshmallow (6.0)
- Nougat (7.x)
- Oreo (8.x)
- Pie (9)
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16

Derivatives

- Android Automotive
- Android Things
- TV
 - devices
- Android XR
- Wear OS

Devices

Pixel

- C
- Pixel & Pixel XL
- 2 & 2 XL
- 3 & 3 XL
 - 3a & 3a XL
- 4 & 4 XL
 - 4a & 4a (5G)
- 5
 - 5a
- 6 & 6 Pro
 - 6a
- 7 & 7 Pro
 - 7a
- Fold
- Tablet
- 8 & 8 Pro
 - 8a
- 9, 9 Pro & 9 Pro XL
 - 9 Pro Fold

Nexus

- One
- S
- Galaxy Nexus
- 4
- 10
- Q
- 5
 - 5X
- 6
 - 6P
- 7
 - 2012
 - 2013
- 9
- Player

Play edition

- HTC One (M7)
- HTC One (M8)
- LG G Pad 8.3
- Moto G
- Samsung Galaxy S4
- Sony Xperia Z Ultra

- Android One
- other smartphones

Custom distributions

- AliOS
- Android-x86
 - Remix OS
- AOKP
- Baidu Yi
- Barnes & Noble Nook
- CalyxOS
- ColorOS
 - realme UI
- CopperheadOS
- EMUI
 - Magic UI
- Fire OS
- Flyme OS
- GrapheneOS
- Xiaomi HyperOS
 - MIUI
 - MIUI for Poco
- LeWa OS
- LineageOS
 - /e/
 - CrDroid
 - CyanogenMod
 - DivestOS
 - iodéOS
 - Kali NetHunter
- LiteOS
- Meta Horizon OS
- MicroG
- Nokia X software platform
- OmniROM
- OPhone
- OxygenOS
- PixelExperience
- Pixel UI
- Replicant
- Resurrection Remix OS
- SlimRoms
- TCL UI
- Ubuntu for Android
- XobotOS
- ZUI

Booting and recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Booting process○ Recovery mode<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TWRP○ ClockworkMod○ Fastboot
APIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Google Maps○ Google Play Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ SafetyNet○ Google Search
Alternative UIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Asus ZenFone○ Cherry OS○ ColorOS○ EMUI○ Funtouch OS○ Flyme OS○ HiOS○ Hive UI (XOLO Hive)○ HTC Sense○ LG UX<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Optimus UI○ Motoblur○ One UI○ Origin OS<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Experience○ TouchWiz○ OxygenOS○ Pixel UI○ XOS○ Xperia UI
Rooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ SuperSU○ Magisk○ Kingo Root
Lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Custom distributions○ Features○ Free and open-source applications○ Google apps○ Launchers

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 - [Google v. Oracle](#)
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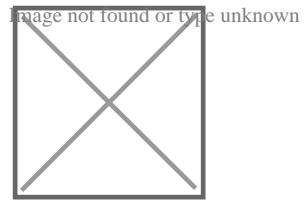
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Software	Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o iD o JOSM o KartaView o Mapillary o OpenDroneMap o Potlatch o StreetComplete
	Visualisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Leaflet o Mapnik o Marble o OpenLayers o OpenRailwayMap o OpenSeaMap
	Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o GNOME Maps o GraphHopper o Karta GPS o Komoot o Locus Map o Maps.me o Navit o Neshan o Open Source Routing Machine o Organic Maps o OsmAnd o Wheelmap.org
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a content agency in Sydney?

A content agency in Sydney focuses on creating high-quality, SEO-optimized content that resonates with your target audience. Their services typically include blog writing, website copy, video production, and other forms of media designed to attract traffic and improve search rankings.

Why should I consider SEO packages in Australia?

SEO packages in Australia typically bundle essential optimization services such as keyword research, technical audits, content creation, and link building at a set price. They are designed to simplify the process, provide consistent results, and help businesses of all sizes improve their online visibility.

What is involved in SEO consulting?

SEO consulting involves analyzing a website's current performance, identifying areas for improvement, and recommending strategies to boost search rankings. Consultants provide insights on keyword selection, on-page and technical optimization, content development, and link-building tactics.

What are the benefits of working with an SEO consultant in Sydney?

An SEO consultant in Sydney can provide tailored advice and strategies that align with your business's goals and local market conditions. They bring expertise in keyword selection, content optimization, technical SEO, and performance monitoring, helping you achieve better search rankings and more organic traffic.

What role do SEO consultants play in a digital marketing strategy?

SEO consultants are responsible for improving your website's visibility and performance in search engines. By analyzing data, refining keyword strategies, and optimizing site elements, they enhance your overall digital marketing efforts, leading to more traffic, better user engagement, and higher conversions.

What are local SEO services in Sydney?

Local SEO services in Sydney focus on optimizing a business's online presence to attract local customers. This includes claiming local business listings, optimizing Google My Business profiles, using location-specific keywords, and ensuring consistent NAP (Name, Address, Phone) information across the web.

search engine optimisation Sydney

SEO Sydney

Phone : 1300 684 339

City : Sydney

State : NSW

Zip : 2000

[Google Business Profile](#)

[Google Business Website](#)

Company Website : <https://sydney.website/seo-sydney/>

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