

Sydney Tower, Sydney



The Sydney Tower Eye - often referred to by Sydneysiders as Sydney Tower, Centrepont Tower, AMP Tower, Westfield Centrepont Tower or Sydney Skytower, amongst other names - has been an integral part of the famous Sydney skyline for the past 30 years. Find out more about this iconic Sydney landmark...

Construction of Sydney Tower Centrepont shopping centre began in the late 1970's with the first 52 shops opening in 1972. The office component was completed in 1974 and the final stage of the complex, the Sydney Tower, was opened to the public in August 1981.

Ranked as one of the safest buildings in the world, the striking design has made the tower capable of withstanding earthquakes and extreme wind conditions.

Facts about Sydney Tower

1. The golden turret has a capacity of 960 persons and contains two levels of restaurants, a coffee lounge, an Observation Deck, two telecommunication transmission levels and three plant levels
2. The height of Sydney Tower from the bottom to the very tip of the spire is 309 metres
3. Three double deck lifts provide access to the Sydney Tower Eye Observation Deck and restaurants
4. The 1504 fire-isolated sets of pressurised stairs, closely monitored by security, allow patrons direct access to street level, in case of an emergency.
5. The 420 windows of the tower are cleaned by a semi-automatic window cleaning machine name 'Charlie'. 'Charlie' recycles and filters 50 litres of water and takes two days to clean all the windows
6. A 162,000 litre water tank, the tower's primary damping system also acts as a stabiliser for the tower
7. 56 cables stabilise the tower, and if the strands of these cables were laid end to end, they would reach from Sydney to Alice Springs or from Sydney to New Zealand
8. The spire located above the Tower is used for telecommunications and navigation purposes
9. Contrary to popular belief, Sydney Tower was never officially named Centrepont Tower
10. Sydney Tower is the first to see the Sydney dawn, and the last to see its final dusk
11. Sydney Tower retains its original name today as simply 'Sydney Tower', with the Sydney Tower Eye being the name of the viewing attraction located on the upper level, providing the best views from the highest point in the city
12. The SKYWALK experience was constructed at the top of Sydney Tower in 2005 at a cost of almost \$4 million

Sydney Tower construction

The construction of Sydney Tower is an interesting tale of engineering and quality construction. Pre-made individual barrel units formed the shaft of the tower and the four levels of the turret structure were constructed at the base of the shaft and raised to the top as work progressed. The shaft supporting the turret is made up of 46 barrels units, each weighing 27 tonnes. These were brought on to the site in seven pieces and welded together. Once the first three sections were in place, a gantry crane was erected to hoist the remaining 43 barrel units. Each barrel unit was completed with lift rails, stairwells and hydraulic risers before hoisting. The shaft contains two sets of fire stairs, fire, electrical and plumbing ducts in one half and the lift shafts in the remainder.